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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, in a ceremony during a November 17<sup>th</sup> Gulf Coast Regional Leadership Conference, recognized OPICO for export achievement in their ongoing efforts to open international markets for US made agricultural implements. Bill Oppenheimer, Executive VP, was on hand to accept the award from Secretary Evans. During its 57 year history, OPICO has been at the forefront of introducing new farming practices to the world's farmers.

Amongst the innovations that OPICO has introduced to world markets: mechanized peanut harvesting, TMR mixing, rotary cutters, grain drying, mechanized transplanting of vegetables and tobacco, roller (structure) mills for swine and cattle feed.

OPICO carefully researches markets and sets up distribution appropriate to the market in question, keeping in mind the legal and cultural differences of specific markets. OPICO personnel travel regularly in market to serve their customers needs. Additionally, OPICO are in daily contact, by use of the latest in communications and information technology.