



ABIOVE NEWSLETTER ON SOYBEAN SUSTAINABILITY

1st ROUND TABLE ON RESPONSIBLE SOY

The Brazilian vegetable oil industry and soy growers have actively taken part in the meetings and the General Assembly of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) held from May 07 to May 09 in São Paulo. The entity has 51 members distributed into 3 constituencies: a) Rural Production; b) Industry, Trade and Finance; and c) Civil Society.

The Swiss Ambassador, Rudolf Baerfuss, opened the meeting and renewed Switzerland's government support to the initiative. Fourteen members of the executive board were elected, and Christopher Wells of ABN Amro was appointed president. Carlo Lovatelli – ABIOVE, Ocimar Villela – Grupo Amaggi, Bella Rosher – WWF and Guillermo Terol – DAP were elected vice-presidents. The following were elected directors: Marcos da Rosa – Aprosoja, Dario Hiromoto - Fundação MT, Jan Kees Vis – Unilever, Jan Nicolai – Nutreco, Brigit Hofer – Coop, Jeroen Douglas – Solidaridad, Daniel Nepstad – IPAM, Alberto Yanosky – Guyra, and Juan Diaz – Fundapaz.

The immediate task of the organization will be to develop globally applicable criteria to responsible soy, which should take approximately 18 months. The consulting company Proforest, of the United Kingdom, was chosen to coordinate the Principles, Criteria and Verification Development Group, which will be formed by up to 20 members, representatives of all links of the soy value chain and of civil society. Those present at the meeting agreed that the provisional principles discussed in the second round table, held in Asuncion, constitute the starting point of this work. The principles include themes such as biodiversity protection, better agricultural practices and compliance to labor regulations.

The absence of China was noted – the world main consuming country of soy and its by-products - consuming 47 million tons in 2006/07 – and which is also the fourth world producer. Another heavy weight, the United States restricted their position to mere observers, in spite of having harvested 83 million tons of soy in 2006, leading the production of soy worldwide, which totaled 230 million tons. It is indispensable that the large market participants also become part of this responsibility effort. For more information visit the RTRS website: www.responsiblesoy.org



RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION IN SOY AGRIBUSINESS

This is the title of a publication that has been recently published by ABIOVE and discussing important topics: Responsible Production in Soy Agribusiness, Round Table on Responsible Soy, Soy Moratorium, Legal Amazon what is it?, Amazon Biome, Soy Production in Brazil, Deforestation, Environmental Conservation Policy, Land Occupation, Illegal Deforestation, Ecological Economic Zoning, Economic Instruments for Conservation, Diversification and Value Adding, Protectionism and Sustainability, Integration of Crops and Animal Farming, Biodiesel and Sustainability and the Significant Numbers of the Soy Complex.

For the complete report, please visit ABIOVE's website copying the following link:

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http://www.abiove.com.br/palestras/sustenta_agronegocio_soja_br.pdf

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