



**ABIOVE NEWSLETTER ON SOYBEAN SUSTAINABILITY
05/24/2007**

**GTS AND GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH A JOINT AGENDA
FOR THE SOYBEAN MORATORIUM**

In a meeting held on May 16, Greenpeace, WWF-Brasil, and ABIOVE representing the Soybean Working Group (GTS) discussed the Soybean Moratorium and the building of governance mechanisms for the Amazon Biome with representatives of the President's Office, Ministry of the Environment, INCRA, IBGE, INPE, EMBRAPA and Censipam.

The first more extensive meeting was coordinated by Johanness Eck - deputy sub-head of governmental policy analysis and monitoring of the President's Office. The receptivity of the Brazilian government members to GTS's proposal was good.

The private sector and the civil society groups presented the Moratorium process and stressed the strategic importance of the government as the Amazon public policy-maker and executor (see presentation attached). They invited the government to take part in this joint effort of governance; and indicated the priorities - to provide satellite images, to regularize the ownership of the land, and to rule the use of the soil by dividing into zones.

It was requested that the President's Office coordinates specific actions: a) to speed up the availability of the Biome maps in an appropriate scale; b) to have INCRA register the rural properties (Instruction 10), c) to encourage the implementation of environmental licensing (SLAPR), d) to speed up the plans to use the degraded areas, e) to indicate interlocutors, f) to provide resources to INPE, g) to intensify actions to prevent and control deforestation, and h) to implement the ecological and economic zoning.

The technicians of the government mentioned the efforts developed in favor of the Biome sustainability, especially actions related to mapping and monitoring, land regularization, environmental preservation and technological development.

It was confirmed that part of GTS demands are well equated. It was agreed that GTS should hold meetings with the specific bodies to deepen the discussion. INPE offered the satellite images for monitoring. IBGE, the Ministry of the Environment and Censipam will expedite the Biome maps preparation in an appropriate scale. INCRA is working in the rural cadastral surveys. EMBRAPA is willing to collaborate in preparing the good agricultural practices booklet. The President's Office will coordinate the government actions and scheduled a general meeting for July 10.

GTS thanked the government for its support and signaled with the need to avoid bottlenecks in the remote sensing, rural producers cadastral surveys and land registration. Brazil has been the target of international questioning because of its strong export performance and has to develop a monitoring system that is recognized by the world at large.

"ZERO TOLERANCE" FOR SLAVE LABOR

On May 17, ABIOVE took part in the National Seminar "Two Years of the National Agreement to Eradicate Slave Labor", organized by Instituto Ethos, Reporter Brasil and the International Labor Organization - ILO. Present at the event, which had the ABIOVE's support, were the signatories of the Agreement (companies, private entities, national association and organizations of the civil society) to discuss the results reached up to now and to reaffirm the commitment to prohibit products resulting from work similar to slave work in the whole productive chain.

ABIOVE made a presentation about the sector, and talked about the economic and social importance of soy culture in the country, also stressing its production characteristics based on high investments in agricultural machines, human capital, technology, logistics and working capital. Therefore, soy culture is not compatible with low qualified labor, typical of activities that use slave labor.

Furthermore, actions of the sector were highlighted in relation to Environmental Sustainability and Social Responsibility represented by the Soy Moratorium, which when it inhibits deforestation contributes to reduce the use of Slave Labor (usually associated to the clearing of virgin forests), and by ABIOVE signing the National Agreement for Slave Work Eradication.

In addition, it was reiterated that the soy production chain adopted a "Zero Tolerance" policy against Slave Labor, incorporating in its soy purchasing contracts a termination clause if the presence of work similar to slave work is determined. The sector is also a member of the Responsible Soy Round Table - RTRS, which encourages compliance to ILO's rules and regulations.

ABIOVE - Brazilian Vegetable Oil Industries www.abiove.com.br