



ABIOVE – Brazilian Vegetable Oil Industries Association
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ABIOVE and APROSOJA/MT (Mato Grosso State Soybean & Corn Producers Association) sign a partnership agreement with China Soybean Industry Association (CSIA)

China recognizes the Soja Plus Program as the main initiative to expand sustainable soy production in Mato Grosso State.

São Paulo, April 8, 2016 – CSIA, the association which represents the soy industry in China, is the newest partner of the Soy Plus Program for the economic, social and environmental management of Brazilian soybeans. This strategic step occurred today, in Beijing, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by ABIOVE, APROSOJA/MT and CSIA. Attached to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, CSIA has 700 members, including rural producers, processors and traders.

See the photograph below

The document, which outlines the cooperation between the three entities and the promotion of the Soja Plus Program, was signed by Fabio Trigueirinho, ABIOVE's Secretary General, Endrigo Dalcin, APROSOJA/MT's President, and Denggao Liu, CSIA's Executive Vice President.

Trigueirinho said that the Soja Plus Program adds environmental services to soy production and trains the producers, thus contributing to the strengthening of Brazil's environmental governance.

Rose Niu, of the Paulson Institute, and representing the civil societies involved in sustainable soy activities, opened the signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding, highlighting the importance of the

Soja Plus Program. Overall, the Program was praised for its strategic role in soy production.

China is the main importer of soy from Mato Grosso, Brazil's largest producer state, with 28 million tons. APROSOJA/MT's membership includes over 4,000 soy and corn producers. ABIOVE has twelve member companies who are responsible for soy processing and trading.

The Memorandum of Understanding mentions that Mato Grosso state has, since 2006, reduced its deforestation rate by 75% and has avoided the emission of two billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in the period 2006 to 2014.

The Chinese want to ensure that Mato Grosso production is increasingly sustainable and that the Soja Plus Program is strengthened. CSIA recognizes the innovative nature of the Program that contributes to improved farm management through talks, courses, field days, technical visits, the supply of items such as orientation signs, and application of a checklist of socio-environmental indicators. The Program trains producers how to put into practice the strict Brazilian legislations on the environment (Forest Code) and labor health and safety.

Collaboration – According to the signed document, the Soja Plus Program and China will collaborate to develop a “fair incentive system” to support the landowners who are moving towards more sustainable soy production.

Responsibility – China will encourage its businessmen to develop and implement policies to supply sustainable soy in the context of the Soja Plus Program. Other commitments assumed by the Chinese include publishing in China and internationally the objectives of the Brazilian program for soy production management; supporting Soja Plus actions in Mato Grosso state; facilitating communication and collaboration among the governmental agencies of both countries to promote sustainable soy production.

First step – The document signed today is the first step taken for the appreciation of the Soja Plus Program by our Chinese partners. According to Trigueirinho, the plan is to seek financial support from international funds and Chinese companies to expand and strengthen the Program.

Chinese visit in December 2015 – The Memorandum of Understanding is the result of a Chinese business mission to Brazil last December. Thirteen executives, among them members of CSIA, received an explanation of sustainability actions in Brazilian soy production. The Chinese businessmen visited ABIOVE and APROSOJA/MT. The visit was organized by the NGOs TNC, Solidaridad and WWF-USA and by the Paulson Institute. During their visit, the Chinese were taken to soy farms in Mato Grosso state and were very impressed with the training that the Soja Plus Program provides the producers.

Participation in Beijing – In addition to CSIA, the Paulson Institute, ABIOVE and APROSOJA/MT, the following entities took part today in a seminar on sustainable soy trading between Brazil and China: the Brazilian embassy in the Chinese capital, Hopeful Group, Ideas Centre Geneva, Earth Innovation Institute, Sinograin North Grain Company, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Forest-Trends and Solidaridad China.



Source: ABIOVE Communications Department
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