

NEW CARBON PROJECTS IN BRAZIL

This year has started with new carbon credit business activities involving Brazilian companies and European buyers. BrasCarbon has just signed two new agreements with Luso Carbon Fund, a Portuguese carbon investment fund, to capture 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂ equivalent) per year created by pig farming. Gas capture will require investment worth three million euro, 50 percent of which has been put in by the Portuguese fund for project implementation, and the rest will be financed by Banco Real. The duration of these projects is seven years, which may be renewed twice more, totaling 21 years. There are six projects altogether, all in validation stage. Another twelve projects are expected to be signed with the Portuguese fund within a year to avoid the emission of 18.9 million tons of carbon per year. The company is now working in 81 farms in Sao Paulo, Santa Catarina and Minas Gerais state, which total 1.44 million animals. Reported by newspaper Valor Economico.

CLUSTER DE BIOENERGIA TO INVEST 3 BILLION REAIS IN MATO GROSSO

A sugarcane mill will be built in Barra do Garças (509km from Cuiaba) in the Vale do Araguaia region to produce ethanol, bioenergy and livestock supplements. The Cluster de Bioenergia project involves the construction of three distilleries, due to start operations in 2012, 2014 and 2016. Investment will reach three billion reais and total cultivated area is estimated at 180,000 hectares. Investors thus expect 2,400 jobs to be created in each facility. Total production capacity will amount to 1.1 billion liters de ethanol per year and power generation will reach 1,200 GWh per year. Reported by Mato Grosso state's Secretariat of Rural Development.

ADECO GROUP TO RAISE FUNDS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Farming company Adeco Agropecuaria is raising funds for its sugar and ethanol projects in Brazil. The operation will involve the company's stakeholders, and nearly US\$100 million will be raised. With an operating mill in southern Minas Gerais state, Adeco has a project to build three facilities in Mato Grosso do Sul state, which is considered a new sugarcane frontier. One of them is being built in the city of Angelica, and the other two in the municipality of Ivinhema. The Angelica plant is more advanced than those in Ivinhema, which will have to be postponed for a year. The Argentine group's debut in the sugar/ethanol market was in 2006. In Argentina, the group is a major grain producer and is involved in dairy farming. Reported by newspaper Valor Economico.

MINERVA TO BORROW 21 MILLION REAIS FROM BNDES

On Friday, meatpacker Minerva said it has approved a BNDES loan of 121,859 million. This amount will be used to make up for the amount invested in projects, already operating, to increase slaughter capacity and improve facilities. The main project is a new cattle slaughterhouse in the city of Redencao (Para state), in construction stage, which is due to start operations in July 2009. In addition, there is investment to expand the facilities in Jose Bonifacio (Sao Paulo state) and Goianesia (Goias state) and to improve the plants in Barretos (Sao Paulo) and Palmeiras de Goias (Goias). A Banco da Amazonia loan of 97 million reais has also been approved. These funds will be used to set up a new cattle slaughterhouse in Rolim de Moura (Rondonia) and to increase slaughter capacity (from 700 to 800 head/day) and incorporate boning in Araguaina (Tocantins state). The slaughter capacity of the facilities in Redencao and Rolim de Moura (which is due to start operations in February) together will reach 3,000 head per day. Reported by newspaper Valor Economico.

VILMA ALIMENTOS ENTERS THE CLEANING PRODUCTS MARKET

A traditional pasta producer, Minas Gerais-based Vilma Alimentos has started investment in new markets in 2009. The company has recently signed an agreement with Proling, under which it will be responsible for the production and marketing of Super Globo brand products. Although the firm produces only domestic water, it intends to make disinfectants, detergents and fabric conditioners this year as well. The production capacity of the facility, located in Contagem, is one million liters of domestic water per month. Vilma is due to start managing the plant using 30 percent of such amount. Vilma expects domestic water sales to reach 10 million reais this year. The food producer's turnover in 2008 was 415 million reais, 15 percent higher than the year before. Reported by newspaper Gazeta Mercantil.