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TANGARÁ FOODS seeks partners to boost growth

Espírito Santo-based Tangará Foods, which closed 2009 with a gross turnover of 740 million reais, is negotiating an 100 and 200 million real injection with private equity funds, according to the vice president of operations of the company, José Aloízio Teixeira de Souza Júnior. "The objective is to boost operation growth", he states. The plan, with an eventual partner joining, is to set up a platform to make the firm a consolidation company. Tangará focuses on companies producing ingredients for the food industry. He said talks are underway with three Brazilian funds, but he did not reveal the names of the entities. Tangará is better known for its dairy operations –it supplied the São Paulo-run Leite Leite program with milk powder four years ago. [...] **Source: Valor Econômico (para assinantes) (3/4/2010)**

Nestlé plans milk powder facility in Carazinho for export

Acquired from Parmalat in July last year, Nestlé's facility in Carazinho, 300 km from Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul state), will also serve as a milk powder export platform, said Ivan Zurita CEO Nestlé, Brasil). He added that the strategy will require setting up milk drying equipment in the unit (the multinational's thirtieth facility in the country), but the date of start of operations and the additional investments needed have not yet been disclosed. According to the executive, Nestlé plans to invest a total of 350 million dollars in Brazil this year, mostly in the South and Northeast regions, where the company operates. [...] **Source: Valor Econômico (3/3/2010).**

Marambaia wants J. Pessoa mills and looks at Africa

Marambaia Energia Renovável, a company created to invest in agro-energy companies, yesterday announced its plans to take over J. Pessoa's five mills, which has been in judicial recovery since last year. The company will also hold a minority stake in a sugar refinery in Algeria, which is expected to enter into operation as from 2012. Controlled by banker Luiz César Fernandes (former Pactual and Garantia partner), with a 51% stake, and by businessmen Marcelo Bastos (former BRJ partner) and Fernando Ribeiro (former Unica [Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association] partner), with 42%, the company was set up to invest in sugar and ethanol projects in Brazil and abroad. Bastos and Ribeiro control Metynis Participações, which is involved in Marambaia's expansion negotiations. [...] **Source: Valor Econômico (3/2/2010).**

FIAT opens CNH facility for agricultural machinery production

This morning (3/2) Fiat is opening the new Case New Holland (CNH) industrial complex in Latin America, in Sorocaba, in southwest São Paulo state. The factory will produce 8000 agricultural and construction machines per year, in a 160,000 square meter area. On the same site, Fiat set up CNH's largest part distribution center in Latin America. The group invested 1 billion reais, which is, according to the company, the industry's biggest single time investment in the country's history. The unit has started operations and now has 800 workers. The company expects to reach 2000 direct employees when the facility reaches full production capacity within two years. In addition, up to 6000 indirect jobs should be created in the region. CNH has units in Curitiba, Piracicaba, in the interior of São Paulo, and Contagem, in central Minas Gerais state. [...] **Source: Agência Estado (3/2/2010).**

Syngenta seeks leadership in soybean market

French-Swiss multinational Syngenta believes it is likely to increase seed market share with the growth of GM crops in Brasil. The company's goal is to become soybean market leader and increase its share in the corn market to 15% within two years. Brazil is a strategic market, of significance in Latin America and with great growth potential, said Gilson Moleiro, Director of Syngenta Seeds in Brazil, during an interview with Agência Estado. Today the company, based in Basel, Switzerland), is the global leader in the agricultural chemical segment and the third in the seed market. In only three years, Syngenta reached a 10% share with sales GM soybeans in Brazil. [...] **Source: Agência Estado (3/1/2010)**

PGG confirms interest in Rio Grande do Sul

The Rio Grande do Sul state mission that visited New Zealand last week is happy with the outcome. New Zealand company PGG Feeds confirmed it will invest in the state. According to the coordinator of Frenteagro, Representative Jerônimo Goergen, technicians from the company will come to explore a site to set up the unit, which should be in the Passo Fundo region. PGG specializes in pasture improvement technologies focused on milk production. **Source: Correio do Povo (3/1/2010)**