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Kepler Weber announces sale of Brazil's biggest silo

Kepler Weber, leader in the grain storage segment, has recently sold two 18,000 ton silos to NovaAgri, an agricultural storage and marketing company providing services to producers, trading companies and cooperatives. The unit is located in Pirapora (Minas Gerais state), one of the biggest corridors for marketing Brazil's crop. It is estimated that more than 2 million tons of grain per year will go through the municipality as from 2013. The two silos will be the biggest built in Brazil and will include a grain drier and a pre-cleaning machine, as well as high-speed transporters for bulk movement. Works will be completed by late March. This information comes from the company's press department. **Source: [AgroLink](#) (3/11/2010)**

BNDES changes old debt payment system

Not knowing the exact amount of rural producers' debt in credit lines for investment, the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) has decided to adopt a unilateral statement system to speed up the clearing of old debts and granting of new loans to the sector. Under the new model, producers can submit their own debt estimate, which would help resume late payments and reduce payment default by 20% of the 18 billion real portfolio. **Source: [Valor Econômico](#) (3/10/2010).**

Growing food industry encourages Cargill investment

Agribusiness giant Cargill yesterday gave signs of its bet on the growing Brazilian domestic market. After last year's sale of the Seara meat division, foreign market-oriented, the US company yesterday launched the expansion of its corn-based starch and sweetener factory in Uberlândia (Minas Gerais). "Nearly 90% of production is intended for the domestic market", said Cargill Brazil's CEO, Marcelo Martins. A traditional agricultural commodity trading company, Cargill invested 112 million reais to expand the line, which produces ingredients for processed food. At the same time, meat packer Marfrig, which acquired Seara, is now working to boost the brand in the domestic market. **Source: [Brasil Econômico](#) (3/9/2010).**

New GLOBOAVES perch

GLOBOAVES, based in Cascavel (Paraná state), will spread its wings in Brazil's northeast. The poultry company plans to set up a large industry in Piauí state, with capacity to slaughter 100,000 chickens per day. The investment is estimated at 80-100 million reais, with the creation of 1,500 jobs. The facility will focus on exports. **Source: [Brasil Econômico](#) (3/9/2010).**

IAC-Syngenta partnership fosters new technologies

The boost in the sugar and ethanol sector will speed up the development of new technologies in this agricultural segment. Innovation projects for sugarcane cultivation will be developed by the Agronomical Institute of Campinas (IAC) in partnership with Syngenta, one of the world's leading companies in the development of scientific activities focused on crop productivity increase and environmental protection. The mutual assistance agreement will bring together the technologies developed by the company and by the state research agency, opening up new crop quality improvement possibilities. In the last 12 years, 54 sugarcane varieties were launched in Brazil focusing on early or late maturity, the high sucrose content and pest/disease resistance. With this, sugarcane cultivation is possible all the year, with early, mid and late cycle varieties. **Source: [Correio Popular](#) (3/8/2010).**

Mercedes-Benz to use loan to expand production in Brazil

Mercedes-Benz's Brazilian subsidiary plans to use a 1.2 billion reais (\$674.1 million) loan to expand capacity at a production facility near Sao Paulo. The loan deal was signed on Friday by the president of Mercedes-Benz do Brasil, Jurgen Ziegler, and the head of Brazil's BNDES state development bank, Luciano Coutinho, the lender said in a statement. The funds will be invested in Mercedes-Benz's plant in Sao Bernardo do Campo – where trucks, bus chassis, engines, transmissions, and axles are produced – and enable the automaker to expand capacity from 65,000 to 75,000 units annually. The loan also will allow Mercedes to develop new models of trucks and engines that meet the requirements of Brazilian environmental authorities. "The development of new truck models by local engineers will provide a boost to local engineering," BNDES's statement said, adding that "the company's new diesel engine will meet the demands of the country's Motor Vehicle Air Pollution Control Program, which will go into effect in 2012." According to BNDES, the project to expand capacity and modernize the automaker's infrastructure at the Sao Bernardo do Campo plant calls for purchases of Brazilian-made machinery and equipment. **Source: [Latin American Tribune](#) (3/6/2010).**