

**I FÓRUM RPCA - RESPONSABILIDADE PRODUTIVA  
NA CADEIA ALIMENTÍCIA 2009.**

**Saudação de abertura do Presidente**

**da ABIA, Dr. Edmundo Klotz.**

**São Paulo, Capital, 30 de junho de 2009.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the first Forum RPCA – (Responsabilidade Produtiva na Cadeia Alimentícia).

We would like to thank the presence of all of you, to the lecturers, to all the participants of our program panels which are due.

We also thank the FIESP (Federação das Industrias do Estado de Sao Paulo) for assigning us the Sesi Teatre for holding this event.

ABIA – Associação Brasileira das Industrias da Alimentação – (The Brazilian food and industry association), has long been worried with the productive responsibility. The corporation has founded the International Alliance of Food Products Association, and has also taken an active participation of Grocery Manufacture Association.

We are deeply focused on a crucial community debate: food safeness, the productive production and the conscious consume of it.

The size of this challenge shall not intimidate us; on the other hand, it should rather stimulate us for reaching its solution.

However, up to 2012 the earth inhabitant number will increase from 6 to 7 billion, it will nearly be another India in population.

As far as 2050, it should be 9 billion in the whole world. We are dealing with an increasing number, related to 2008 it is equivalent to twice as much as China inhabitants.

Such statement is found in the recent report called “ Revisao das Perspectivas Para a Populacao Mundial de 2008” from UN department for Economic and Social Matters.

In resume, it will be needed to find solutions for feeding, dressing up, habitation guarantees, health and education for the new generation. Within those items, food feeding comes as priority once it is the essential presupposed for life maintenance.

And all is to be done without any environmental damages, ceasing the release of greenhouse gas effect and adequately manage the natural resources exploration.

To take its part of this scenery as well as guarantee the internal supply and the exceed exportation, for the next two decades Brazil needs to have a 25%-increase on its food production and 50% up to the middle of this century.

The food industry has got a huge responsibility in this process. Because of that, together with the whole society, we need to conceive viable alternatives in order to feasible the expansion of food offer.

It is with this aim that we perceive the first RPCA Forum. Here we shall deepen the discussions of the World Economic Forum on Latin America held last April in Rio de Janeiro.

With the invitation of the Davos World Economic Forum organization, ABIA has had an outstanding presentation at this event, which was held in the Fluminense capital, and its thematic was “A Sustentabilidade do Consumo”

We are now to continue the searching for alternatives. We do have to have the best choice as to guarantee the future.

To increase the food production it is needed to expand the agricultural areas and the industrial parks.

It is also needed to increase productive gains feasible by technology.

Happily we are well advanced within the biotechnology area, which when applied with valid scientific rules; it supplies bigger crop and better products.

For instance: Biotechnology allows us to significantly reduce the use of pesticides and agricultural defenses. That preserves the

food quality as much as it avoids the degrees of soil contamination and the water which runs through it.

Enough to say that biotechnology reduces the need to plough the cultivated areas thus reducing the risk of erosion. As it is known, the erosion slowly eliminates the land's natural nutrients.

If the technological equation is in perfect equation, the same cannot be said of some barriers. The main one of them is the lack of clear definition on the preservation of the environmental areas.

This matter needs to be targeted well. We need to have an evolution from the speech to the practice of it, defining what, where and how to plant in a safe and sustainable way for the environment.

The good news is that, according to FAO (Organizações para Nacoes Unidas para Agricultura e Alimentação), Brazil is the country with the largest availability of sustainable agricultural land. In another words, we don't have real problem of cultivating areas. It is needed to inform that to the ones who still insist to blind it!

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Brazilian food industry has got full consciousness of its function on this process.

Our country, as a great food producer, is a decisive and strategic world supplier. Therefore its responsibility as a nation is also important, starting from the internal supply.

In 2008, we exported 33.3 billion dollars of processed food. In 2009, due to the world financial crisis, the external sales shall be around 30 billion of dollars. That means 23% out of the total of all Brazilian industries.

Those figures and its meaning for our trade balance: the jobs creation and income generation, intrinsically justify the importance of this Forum.

However, the main target of it all is to feasible the future. And that means: delegate to the henceforth generations a country able to offer social justice, life with quality, health and education. And those citizens' basic rights, my friends, are under conditions of food safeness premise.

I am sure that the high level of the participants of this event, shall not leave any doubts on our capability of overcoming the instigate challenge of sustainability.

Thank you very much.

