

2006

The MAIN Link



Société de coopération
pour le développement
international

SOCODEVI

WINS THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CAPACITY BUILDING OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES



We are extremely pleased to announce that our efforts to improve the living conditions of Bolivian agricultural producers have been recognized by Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). SOCODEVI received the Canadian International Cooperation Award for Excellence in Capacity Building of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

AGENDA

International Development Week 2006 Brunch
Sunday, February 4, 2007
at the Château Bonne Entente

The prestigious prize was awarded for the Project to Support Production and Marketing of Nontraditional Products in the Central and Northern Parts of Chuquisaca in Bolivia. "The success of this project is all the more important to us because it was undertaken by and for cooperative businesses that belong to the communities they are empowering," stated Réjean Lantagne during the awards ceremony held October 31 in Ottawa. He emphasized that the most important result of the project is that it enabled the women and men involved to double their income and rise out of the poverty restricting their families.

Innovative Project Boosts Income for Producers

In 1998, SOCODEVI, with support from agricultural member institutions Profid'or and the Coop fédérée, set up a project to produce, process and market herbs that now involves more than 1000 Bolivian families in the provinces of Chuquisaca and Tarija. Financing for the project was provided by the Partnership Branch of CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and FDTA-Valles in Bolivia which is financed by USAID.

The four-year first phase of the project was highly successful from the start, allowing participating families to increase their income by 100%! Producers in Tomina, Redencion Pampa, Sopachuy, Padilla and Serrano soon became experts in growing oregano, anise and other herbs, products that were previously unknown to them.

Building Solidarity

Among those who were responsible for this success, we must mention the role played by the Bolivian cooperatives and their apex organization AGROCENTRAL, regional municipal authorities, the men and women technicians who worked on the project, the four interns from the CIDA International Youth Internship Program, the Canadian businesses and organizations that provided goods and services, and last but not least,



LEFT TO RIGHT: The Honourable Perrin Beatty, president & CEO of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; M^r Réjean Lantagne, SOCODEVI Director General; M^r Robert Greenhill, president of CIDA; and Richard Lacasse, SOCODEVI Americas & Caribbean Director.

SOCODEVI members and staff both at the head office and in the field who participated in planning and follow up.

"When we commit sufficient effort and resources to reaching poor communities in the rural agricultural areas where they live, we can fight poverty effectively and begin to dream of solidarity and a fairer, more equitable world," said Réjean Lantagne.

For more information on our activities in Bolivia: www.socodevi.org

SOCODEVI's member institutions



SOCODEVI's associate member institutions: Comax, coopérative agricole – Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec – Fédération des coopératives de développement régional du Québec – Institut de recherche et d'enseignement pour les coopératives de l'Université de Sherbrooke (IRECUS) – La Macif, mutuelle assurance de commerçants et industriels de France – Nutrinor – Profid'or

MEMBER INSTITUTION SUPPORT



Vietnam partners welcomed

This fall, a delegation from Vietnam composed of TRUONG MINH CHANH, Vice President of SOC TRANG province, along with TRUONG THANH BINH, MAI PHUOC HUNG, LY TUAN ANH, PHAN THANH PHONG, and BUI MINH PHUONG visited several SOCODEVI member institutions along with governmental and private entities involved in providing support for agricultural producers in Québec. The goal of the mission for the Vietnamese provincial leaders was to understand how Québec farmers are supported by their cooperatives and by government agencies. This knowledge should enable them to improve technical services, farm supply services and marketing services for producers.



Insurance sector partners welcomed – Promutuel, SSQ and Union-Vie

As part of our technical strengthening project for the insurance sector in Central America, we welcomed a delegation composed of representatives from SOCODEVI partner organizations Seguros Futuro (El Salvador), Columna (Guatemala)

and Equidad (Honduras). During their stay, from October 9 to 14, our partners had the opportunity to meet with administrators from Promutuel, SSQ and Union-Vie. The main objectives of the project include increasing the services provided by our partners, improving their products and strengthening marketing efforts.



Support for dairy cooperatives in Paraguay – Agropur

From September 30 to October 12, 2006, Agropur President Serge Riendeau and Vice President René Grimard travelled to Paraguay on an organizational support mission for dairy cooperatives there. They journeyed with SOCODEVI Director General Réjean Lantagne and program officer Camil Côté. The Agropur officials met with board members of cooperatives in Paraguay to discuss their roles and functions. Discussions also took place with administrators of cooperatives and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture on drawing up a dairy production policy for Paraguay. The project to improve productivity in the dairy sector in Paraguay (PROCOLE) has been in operation since November 2005. With the support of Agropur, SOCODEVI seeks to improve the living conditions of dairy producers in Paraguay by increasing income from dairy production.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Dairy cooperatives are the main Paraguayan enterprises involved in the production, processing and sale of dairy products. In Paraguay, these cooperatives produce 82% of the country's industrial milk, 150 million litres per year.

Source: Project to improve competitiveness of the dairy sector in Paraguay (PROCOLE), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and SOCODEVI.



**Visit by SERVIPERU representatives
– Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec**

The partnership between SERVIPERU and the FCFQ (Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec) continues. From October 24 to November 3, 2006, SOCODEVI and the FCFQ were host to two representatives from SERVIPERU: Humberto Reyes Cabrera, chairman of the board of directors and Carlos Salvatierra, sales manager for the funeral services sector. The aim of their trip to Canada was to participate in the national meeting of funeral cooperatives organized by the Canadian Cooperative Association (CCA) in Ottawa and meet with Québec funeral cooperatives. SERVIPERU is a Peruvian cooperative central agency offering insurance, health and funeral services and is a member of the FCFQ. During the visit to Québec it participated in the round table meeting of federation director generals.



Consolidation of a model for sustainable forestry development in Argentina and Uruguay – Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières (FQCF)

André Tremblay, accompanied by SOCODEVI program officer Christian Thivierge, carried out a technical assistance mission to Uruguay and Argentina from October 4 to 21. André Tremblay, a cooperative development officer for the FQCF, conducted training sessions dealing with the various pedagogical tools used to transfer knowledge (androgogy), a core element of our intervention in these two Latin American countries.

COOPERATION WEEK

2006



**Riccardo Petrella
Addresses Social Justice**

To celebrate Cooperation Week, the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité and SOCODEVI organized a supper-conference featuring Riccardo Petrella. Over a hundred guests discussed the topic of cooperation and mutualism as a means to achieve social justice. Holder of a doctorate in political and social science from the University of Florence in Italy, Riccardo Petrella is also a professor at the Academy of Architecture of the Swiss Italian University where he teaches Human Ecology. Founder member and secretary general of the International Committee for the World Water Contract, he heads Acquedotto Pugliese, the water management corporation of the Pouilles region, in the south of Italy. Our thanks goes to the member institutions of SOCODEVI and the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité for their collaboration in making the event a success.

NEWS IN BRIEF



FEDECOVERA AT SIAL FOOD INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

FEDECOVERA, the *Fédération de coopératives de Las Verapaces*, a SOCODEVI partner in Guatemala, took part this year at the SIAL International Food Products Exhibition 2006 in Paris, the world's largest food industry showcase. Since 1964, SIAL has been the global meeting place for all food industry professionals with over 5000 exhibitors from one hundred countries. During SIAL, FEDECOVERA met with established and potential clients for its products, mainly cardamom, essential oils, coffee and tea.



DEPARTURE OF CAROLINE POUSSART

Caroline Poussart, whose great enthusiasm enabled her to hold several positions within our organization, is leaving us. Having worked with SOCODEVI since 1998, Caroline occupied the posts of program officer, gender and development advisor, instrumentation and systems advisor, translator and senior editor. Caro's career development will take her to Cuba to work with Care International. We all appreciated her many personal and professional qualities and SOCODEVI sincerely thanks her for her loyal service. Congratulations, Caroline, on your new position and best wishes for your success!

The SOCODEVI Foundation

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