

The MAIN Link



A GLANCE AT THIS SUMMER



Gustav Sawatzky, FECOPROD President, with Richard Lacasse, SOCODEVI Director Americas & the Caribbean



Alain Leclerc, SOCODEVI President



Paraguay

AGENDA

Cooperation Week
October 14 to 20, 2007

Training session on international development
November 16 and 17, 2007



A NEW LOGO FOR SOCODEVI

Officially presented at the annual meeting, the new SOCODEVI logo has been in use on most of our communication tools for several weeks. It evokes an open planet in the form of the letter C, which stands for the Cooperation at the core of all our organization's activities. Created in collaboration with the SOCODEVI awareness committee and Maestro Média, the new logo is available from our communication team.

SOCODEVI HOSTS A DELEGATION FROM PARAGUAY A GENERAL MEETING WITH A DAIRY FLAVOUR

SOCODEVI's 22nd Annual General Meeting was marked by the presence of an impressive delegation from Paraguay including dairy cooperative leaders and the Deputy Minister for Agriculture from this South American country. At the annual meeting, held June 8 in Quebec City, some 180 participants benefited from an in-depth presentation of SOCODEVI endeavours in Paraguay.

Since 2005, with the invaluable collaboration of AGROPUR, SOCODEVI has piloted a project aimed at improving the competitiveness of the dairy sector in Paraguay (PROCOLE). Since the beginning of this initiative, financed by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), AGROPUR directors and employees have contributed the equivalent of 240 days of work to PROCOLE

on a volunteer basis. The technical and organizational support provided by AGROPUR is concentrated on improving milk quality in addition to improving the marketing, distribution networks and management of the cooperatives receiving assistance under the project.

At the general meeting SOCODEVI presented a new video documentary featuring the project and highlighting AGROPUR involvement. Our guests from Paraguay included leaders from the eight dairy cooperatives supported by PROCOLE, FECOPROD president Gustav Sawatzky (federation of production cooperatives of Paraguay), Agriculture Deputy Minister Gerardo Bogado and Juan Esteban Aguirre, Paraguay's Ambassador to Canada.

SOCODEVI's member institutions



SOCODEVI YOUNG INTERNS SPEAK OUT OUR INTERNS IN ACTION — SPECIAL FEATURE

Since 1997, SOCODEVI has worked proudly and enthusiastically with CIDA's International Youth Internship Program (IYIP). Each year we hire and supervise 5 young professional interns who offer their support on our projects during internships lasting an average of 7 months.

About the IYIP

- The International Youth Internship Program is an employment program for young Canadians between the ages of 19-30.
- It offers post-secondary graduates the chance to acquire work experience in the field of international development.
- The internships last a minimum of six months, five of which are spent outside Canada.
- CIDA, Canadian and foreign organizations and the interns share the costs of internships.

NEWS FROM OUR INTERNS 2006-2007



Tomina, Bolivia

Internship in crop diversification and cattle production

“BOLIVIANS WHO THINK AND LIVE COOPERATION”

From the journal of **SEBASTIAN ALVEAR**, an intern with SOCODEVI in Bolivia

On arriving in Bolivia I quickly saw how each region is different. In the Andes, people are more reserved than in the eastern part of the country. Quechua and Aymara are spoken in specific areas... However, one activity seems to be found throughout the country: *pichear* (chewing coca leaves). It seems that for the great majority of people, especially in the country, *pichear* is essential for work.

Before starting, people would say to me “Shall we *pichear* first?” I think that they appreciate it when we chew coca leaves with them. It is part of daily life in Bolivia and I think it is important to understand that and accept it.

I liked certain comments that I heard in Bolivia, “for me, cooperation is the best option” — René, “a weapon in the struggle” — Cornelio. These two members of the cooperative understand the principles of cooperation and are aware of examples that have worked, such as the agricultural cooperatives in Québec. The internship

with SOCODEVI enabled me to make progress not just on a technical level, but also in terms of the organization and running of cooperatives. I was also able to discover another culture and share ideas with people in Bolivia. Now it's your turn!”



Training session in the village of San Juan del Pueblo Libre, Pangoa, in Peru

Internship in agricultural marketing and agri-economy

“PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEIR COUNTRY AND ARE READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!”

From the journal of **CAROLINE LETENDRE**, SOCODEVI intern in Peru

“Peru is a country rich in natural resources, it's incredible... Although there is an abundance of resources, wealth is not shared equally. If you have never seen extreme poverty, this is where you will find it. You don't have to look for it, it jumps out at you.

With SOCODEVI, our goal was to work with four agricultural cooperatives to develop and strengthen their management skills. Of all the activities that I undertook during my internship, the training sessions that I gave to managers, workers and members of the cooperatives were the most intensely rewarding, both personally and professionally.

I may be rooting for my own team, but SOCODEVI is an organization that truly contributes to sustainable development of the country, and it does so by relying on the efforts of people themselves, a resource that is the foundation for change.

I hope that all young people who want to expand their horizons, share their knowledge and develop their personal and professional skills can participate in this type of internship. The reality of life in Peru can appear disheartening sometimes, but here I was able to meet people who loved their country, people who wanted to make a difference and acquire the tools to do it. For them, an organization such as SOCODEVI is truly making a difference in Peru.”



Shea nut harvest in Zantiébougou

Internship in agricultural marketing and agri-economy

“BACK TO THE FOLD”

From the journal of **JEANNE AÏCHA**, SOCODEVI intern in Mali

“About 6 hours after leaving Paris, I landed in Bamako, the capital of Mali, to begin a six-month internship in a developing country that was also the country where I was born. Located in the heart of West Africa, Mali is a French-speaking country with a population of nearly 12 million inhabitants.

Two days after my arrival, I went to SOCODEVI headquarters to begin the first day of my six-month internship in cooperative development. I barely had time to become familiar with my new surroundings before I was told that there was a trip planned that same day to Siby, a village 50 km from Bamako.

The trip to Zantiébougou was another story entirely. The members of the women's shea butter producers cooperative of Zantiébougou (COPROKAZAN) had been told that a Canadian woman was coming to help them market their products, so they were expecting to see a white person. Imagine their faces when I got out of the car, and again when I greeted them and began to speak to them in excellent Bambara without an accent. Later, they began to say in Bambara "faranfî kéra toubabou yé, koi," which means a black person, in this case myself, who has become completely toubab (white)...

This internship was a unique and enriching learning experience and I consider myself fortunate to have been able to contribute to improving the living conditions of several producers and young entrepreneurs in the agri-food sector in Mali. Time went by too quickly, but the memories, emotions, experience and skills that I accumulated in Mali will stay with me always."

Internship in forestry and the environment

"OPENING NEW HORIZONS FOR FORESTRY PRODUCERS"

From the journal of **SOLAINE PRINCE**, SOCODEVI intern in Honduras

"It has been several months now since I arrived in Honduras... An outdoor person myself, the SOCODEVI internship lets me combine my love of nature with my curiosity about other cultures, my desire for adventure and my concern with protecting natural resources...

The local people that I have the opportunity to work with know a great deal about the forests around them. Here, SOCODEVI is helping to develop a regional network of those involved in forestry including government institutions, municipalities, local development organizations and local communities. These alliances are a pillar of development for groups and they ensure that community forestry activities will continue when the development projects are completed.

My strongest desire for the future is that the forestry producers achieve dignity in their work and recognition for their knowledge and involvement in protecting natural resources ... Fortunately, Honduras has competent professionals who want to take part in their country's development. That means that even when SOCODEVI is no longer present, mutual aid will continue!"

MEMBER INSTITUTION SUPPORT



Colette Lebel with a culinary herb producer from Tomina, Bolivia

Support for crop diversification for the members of AGROCENTRAL – La Coop fédérée and COMAX

Colette Lebel, business director at La Coop fédérée, undertook a support mission to Bolivia. During her tour of Bolivia she described her organization to the leaders of the cooperatives supported. She also delivered a training session on the cooperative approach based on the experience of La Coop fédérée.

As part of the same support project for AGROCENTRAL, Luc Pelland of the COMAX agricultural cooperative was in Bolivia from June 10 to 19. Two of the goals of this mission were to define the main guidelines for developing the pork production chain and to evaluate equipment and infrastructure along with potential production sites. He was accompanied by Michel Mathieu, SOCODEVI program officer.

International conference on integration and cooperative strategies – PROMUTUEL

From July 4 to 8, Claude Robitaille and Michel Gauthier, from PROMUTUEL, attended an international conference organized by our Salvadorian partner, Seguros Futuro. The event brought together 250 participants, mostly from Salvadorian organizations. Accompanied by Richard Lacasse, Americas and the Caribbean director at SOCODEVI, Claude Robitaille and Michel Gauthier delivered an address on cooperative integration based on PROMUTUEL's experience.



From left to right, Claude Robitaille, CEO of PROMUTUEL, Michel Gauthier, Chairman of PROMUTUEL Portneuf-Champlain, Bernardo Miranda, SOCODEVI insurance consultant, Marianella Ramirez, product development advisor ICA-Americas and Richard Lacasse, from SOCODEVI

Mission to Bolivia and Peru – Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec

From August 12 to 20, Alain Leclerc, SOCODEVI president and director of the Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec and Réjean Lantagne, SOCODEVI director general, undertook a mission to Bolivia and Peru during which they met several of our partners in these two countries. In Bolivia, they took part in the inauguration of a factory where oregano and other herbs are processed. They also met with leaders of cooperatives supported by our project and with local authorities. In Peru, they signed an agreement between our partner SERVIPERU and the FCFQ.

Organizational support for the forestry production chain – Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières

From June 20 to 30, Jocelyn Lessard, director general of the Quebec federation of forestry cooperatives (FQCF), carried out a support mission to Cameroon that involved defining an effective network strategy for SOCODEVI organizations in the forestry production chain. A training workshop on the operation of a forestry workers cooperative and on organizational aspects of networks was also held during this mission.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Bakary Traoré
Mali



Sylvie Mbog
Cameroun



Sébastien Valdivieso
Bolivie



Gaby Breton
Honduras



Mor Fall
Sénégal

SOCODEVI local coordinators intern in Québec

As part of its Cooperative and Mutualist Partnership Program, in June SOCODEVI welcomed local coordinators from Bolivia, Honduras, Senegal, Cameroon and Mali for a technical and organizational internship.

Begun in April 2007, SOCODEVI's Cooperative and Mutualist Partnership Program will make it possible to set up direct partnerships between the Canadian cooperative and mutualist movements and cooperative and mutualist movements in over a dozen developing countries.

Lasting five years, the program is intended to strengthen cooperative, mutualist and other associative movements in targeted countries in order to improve their economic performance and their organization and governance. The program is also intended to increase the influence of these movements and improve their position vis-à-vis government and civil society.

The role of local coordinators is to supervise and manage programs in the field. Coordinators provide technical support for partners and work under the SOCODEVI program officer.

Over 140 golfers and \$16,000 FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!



Representatives from the SOCODEVI member institutions and business partners came from all over Québec to take part in the annual SOCODEVI Foundation golf tournament on August 23 at the Godefroy Golf Club in Bécancour (Qc).

Organized by the Foundation in partnership with AGROPUR, this initiative was very well received by our member institutions, creating a movement of solidarity unparalleled in the history of our organization. Thanks to this activity, the SOCODEVI Foundation was able to raise nearly \$16,000 that will help consolidate cooperative, mutualist and associative organizations in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The next Foundation golf tournament will be held August 26 in Drummondville and will be sponsored by La Coop fédérée and its president, Denis Richard. You can reserve a place now by contacting the SOCODEVI Foundation at: www.socodevi.org/fondation



Confédération québécoise
des coopératives d'habitation

A NEW MEMBER:

THE CONFÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES COOPÉRATIVES D'HABITATION (CQCH)

There was a new addition to the SOCODEVI family this summer with the arrival of the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation as an active member. The cooperative housing movement in Québec represents 50,000 residents, 23,000 lodgings and 1,200 cooperative organizations. Jocelyne Rouleau, Director General of the Confederation became the organization's representative on the SOCODEVI Board of Directors. Once again, we wish to welcome the CQCH!



You can make your donation online by visiting www.socodevi.org/fondation

To obtain more information about SOCODEVI Foundation, please e-mail us at: info@socodevi.org



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– Coming soon –
Director – L'Union Vie (Insurance)

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