



Meeting Minutes of German-Brazilian Initiative for Cooperation in Agribusiness and Innovation

Working Session

Sunday, October 16th, 2016

9:00 am – 01:00 pm

Hotel Elephant Weimar

Coordinators:

Germany

Jordi Tormo, BDI/BASF
Friedrich Wacker, BMEL

Brazil

Francisco Maturro, ABAG
Dr. Márcio Rezende Evaristo Carlos, MAPA

Meeting Minutes of the working session of the German-Brazilian Initiative for Cooperation in Agribusiness and Innovation

Welcoming Remarks

- All Co-Chairmen welcome the participants, stressing the high interest of both sides in the Agribusiness Initiative (AI). Mr. Wacker is representing the Secretary of State of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Dr. Hermann Onko Aeikens. Dr. Márcio Rezende Evaristo Carlos is representing the Secretary of State of the Brazilian Ministry for Agriculture (MAPA), Neri Geller.

1. Review Actions Session 2015

- Jordi Tormo asks the Brazilian side to answer to the open follow-up actions from the AI meeting 2015 in Joinville (top 4.3 appendix 1):
 - List of Brazilian interests and topics for cooperation in agricultural research
 - Contact person from the Brazilian side for Mr. Stalb (Forschungsreferat 224)
- Márcio Rezende compromises himself to clarify the open points with MAPA.

2. Political Aspects

State of Art of Agriculture Policy in Germany

- Friedrich Wacker, BMEL, congratulates the Brazilian side to successfully organizing the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. He emphasizes that a future EU-MERCOSUR-Free-Trade-Agreement (FTA), which is currently negotiated, should be seen as a chance not a risk. He points out that despite the BREXIT, the EU will remain a strong and reliable partner for Brazil and MERCOSUR. Mr. Wacker invites to the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in 2017 and in the context of the G20, Germany will also host a meeting of the G20-ministers for agriculture, main issues will be "Agriculture and Water" and "The Digitalisation of Agriculture".

State of Art of Agriculture Policy in Brazil

- Marcio Rezende, MAPA, stresses the point that Brazil has become a global player in terms of exporting agricultural goods (Nº 1 exporter worldwide of orange juice, soja, coffee) in the last 20 years despite a challenging state of infrastructure and logistics. At the same time, the illegal reducing of the rain forest could be stopped, and the safety of water sources as well as sustainability have become important issues. The new Brazilian government sets perspective for positive growth. He asks for the German support in the EU-MERCOSUR-FTA negotiations.
- Marcio Rezende makes the German side aware of an issue that a German NGO is distributing leaflets with official logos warning the German retailers against buying Brazilian products suggesting the Brazilian producers employ workers in slave like conditions.

Actions:

- **Mr. Wacker promised to have a look into the matter and will clarify it bilaterally.**
- **He also suggests to discuss bilaterally the EU-MERCOSUR-negotiations.**
- Christian Lohbauer, Bayer/ABIQUIM, adds that the present political conditions in Mercosur countries indicates a good opportunity to advance in the EU-Mercosur negotiations and calls for both sides to make use of this momentum.
- Ingo Plöger, CEAL, adds that also the Brazilian private sector sees the changes in the Brazilian politics very positive to advance in international agreements with the aim to increase the exports of Brazilian added value agricultural products, mentioning specially coffee.

3. Business and Trade Aspects

Risk-based vs hazard-based decision making concerning product authorization and examination of Agrochemical Products in Brazil and Germany / Regulatory Approval Process / Intensifying Cooperation between BfR and ANVISA in the field of risk assessment and food safety

- Christian Lohbauer, Bayer/ABIQUIM, and Luiz Cornacchioni (ABAG) report that Brazil will install a new law concerning the certification process for new products in the next year. Under the new law, MAPA should have the lead in the process among the different legalizing institutions in order to facilitate the approval process, shortening the average time period (nowadays up to 5 years in Brazil) and making the process more transparent.
- Jordi Tormo points out that the German business side also prefers risk-based assessment, as in the USA, but the real issue in Brazil is the long time needed for the same process as in EU (hazard-based, 2 years).
- BfR and ANVISA: Roland Solecki could not attend the meeting. Friedrich Wacker, BMEL, address the importance of this cooperation and also the intention of the German side to intensify it with more issues like producing a technical guide for risk assessment, harmonizing capacity building, etc. and even widening it on other institutions.

Action:

- **Both counterparts should undertake the next steps bilaterally.**

4. Innovation Aspects and Bilateral Cooperations

German-Brazilian Innovation Hub Bioeconomy

- Speaker: Dr. Peter Nagler, Head of International Innovation (Evonik Industries AG) gives an update on the project Innovation Hub Bioeconomy. Actually, the project should be assessed with a feasibility study. The proposal supported already by BMEL, ABAG, BioMinas, DEHEMA, BASF and Evonik is also in the confirmation process by funding institutions in Germany. Next steps should be the realization of the study, the setting of two project managers and a steering group as well as finding financing funds.
- Klaus-Dieter Lüth, DLG, offers cooperation and support for the project.
- Francisco Maturro, ABAG, assures the continuation of the support by ABAG.

Actions:

- **Tilmann Schachtsiek, Division 525 Bioeconomy (BMEL), offers support for the Bio Innovation Hub including financial support and asks the Brazilian side for commitment and for nominating contact persons.**

Proposal for German-Brazilian cooperation in the field of livestock husbandry and animal health

- Introductory remarks: Friedrich Wacker underlines the importance of the subject for the German side.
- Speaker: Prof. Dr. J. Hartung, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, proposes to establish a German-Brazilian academy for the training of veterinarians and farmers in the field of animal hygiene, welfare and farm animal behaviour. He informs about many possible areas for German-Brazilian cooperation.

Action:

- **Christian Lohbauer, Bayer/ABIQUIM, offers to forward the proposal for cooperation to ABPA, which is the matching counterpart Brazil.**
- **Both governmental sides welcome the idea of an academy, also as a platform for exchange experiences.**

Activation of the German-Brazilian agreement on sustainable energy

- Ingo Plöger pleads for the implementation of the bilateral agreement signed in 2012 especially concerning the involvement of the private sector in the process. For example, the working group on biofuels (Article 4 of the MoU) has not yet been established. He recommends that AI should address

this issue with the Mixed Commission, already nominate possible candidates for this working group so that the group would be able to report results to the High-Level Governmental Consultations.

Action:

- **Ann-Katrin Zink, BMWi, will inform the persons responsible for this cooperation.**

5. Bioeconomy and Sustainability

The role of bioeconomy

- Friedrich Wacker, BMEL, highlights the importance of the topic which was also the main subject of the GFFA in 2016. It is also considered as central area for the bilateral cooperation especially for the background of decarbonization and diversification of the agricultural sector.

Workshop organized by MAPA and BMEL concerning bioeconomy

- Tilmann Schachtsiek, Division 525 Bioeconomy (BMEL), puts a strong emphasis on this subject as a global task. He proposes a wide-ranging German-Brazilian cooperation in this area, i.e. cooperation in research, cooperation of the Ministries as well as with partners from the private sector. He offers support for the Bio Innovation Hub including financial support and asks the Brazilian side for commitment and for nominating contact persons (see also 4.1).
- Ingo Plöger, ABAG suggests to include the theme "Bioeconomy" in the proposal to the Mixed Commission.

Actions:

- **Marcio Rezende, MAPA, promised to name a contact person for Tilmann Schachtsiek within MAPA until the meeting of the Mixed Commission on Tuesday.**
- **Friedrich Wacker, BMEL, recommends that MAPA take on a leading role of the Brazilian side concerning.**

Sustainable Bioeconomy actions – Green Latin America – Green Rio

- Beatriz Bley, Planeta Orgânico – Green Rio, informs about the intention of Brazil to hosting the Global Bioeconomy Summit in 2017. She points out that SEBRAE has included the topic Bioeconomy in its strategic planning for 2017.
- Tilmann Schachtsiek, Division 525 Bioeconomy (BMEL), welcomes the hosting of the summit and offers support at the working level.

1. Miscellaneous

- Rupert Bauer, Colossal Fish, introduces topic of aquaculture as an area with high potential for German-Brazilian cooperation.
- Hans-Dieter Beuthan gives an overview about the activities of the German-Brazilian Business and Science Center WW in promoting German biogas technology in Brazil and to facilitate the certification process for biogas production.

Actions:

- **Proposal for a joint biogas workshop with ABAG**
- **Bilateral Follow-Up on the issue of aquaculture**

6. Institutional

Prolongation of the Mandate of the German-Brazilian Initiative for Cooperation in Agribusiness and Innovation

- Jordi Tormo, BASF SE: Both German sectors (public and private) are in favour of asking the Joint Commission for a prolongation of the mandate of Agribusiness initiative for two years and plea for more commitment of the political side.
- Francisco Maturro, ABAG: The Brazilian private sector is also in favour of a prolongation of the mandate and proposes to agree upon an overall agenda for the AI focused on four main topics:

- **Bioenergy**
- **Food safety**
- **Bioeconomy**
- **Innovation in Agribusiness**
- Friedrich Wacker, BMEL: BMEL agrees to setting a focused agenda for AI and proposes to include as a fifth topic: **Sustainability**. He points out that in order to achieve a more result oriented working modus of the AI it would be useful to find a balance between the exploring part of an AI meeting where areas for cooperation are identified and the operational part of the meeting where the AI decides about the measures to be taken in order to promote the issues of the agenda. He also proposes to arrange for prep meetings or midterm-reviews approximately half a year before the AI meetings as conference call or video conference. Mr. Wacker also says that it would be preferable to include more parties in the AI i.e. Brazilian farmer associations or representatives of Brazilian producer organizations like the German DLG.
- Márcio Rezende, MAPA, expressed also the interest of the Brazilian government to install measures which make the working modus of the AI more efficient.

Actions:

- **BDI, MAPA and ABAG agree to these two propositions of BMEL and all parties vote unanimously for asking the mixed commission for the prolongation of the mandate of the AI for additional two years with more commitment of the political side.**
- **Focused Agenda on TOP 5 High level themes:**
 1. **Bioenergy**
 2. **Food safety**
 3. **Bioeconomy**
 4. **Innovation in Agribusiness**
 5. **Sustainability**
- **Introduction of Midterm reviews for follow-up and preparation of AI meetings organized by Jordi Tormo.**
- **Broadening the AI basis with more parties.**

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 Jordi Tormo
 Co-Chairman, German Business Side

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 Francisco Maturro
 Co-Chairman, Brazilian Business Side

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 Friedrich Wacker
 Co-Chairman, German Government Side

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 Dr. Márcio Rezende Evaristo Carlos
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