



Brazil launches proposal for preservation of water resources



Based on the successful Brazilian's experience in the protection of streams and river banks, farmers in Brazil launched on the 6th World Water Forum in Marseilles, France, (March 13rd), the proposed creation of a protected area continuing worldwide.

The suggestion for the world create protected areas, in order to preserve water resources of the planet, was presented by the chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock Confederation of Brazil (CNA), Senator Katia Abreu, an event in the flag of Brazil.

"We will show that the Brazilian's farmer gives an example of water conservation to the world, but we need that others countries to do the same to protect their natural resources," emphasizes the president of CNA.

'Untouchables areas' - Brazil is the country with the most stringent and restrictive environmental legislation around the world, established in the new Forest Code, passed the Senate late last year. Under this legislation, the Permanent Protection Areas (PPAs) in the country are those protected along water streams, the streams and areas with high slope.

Comparative study done by Professor Sebastian Renato Valverde, Department of Forest Engineering, Federal University of Viçosa (MG, Brazil), analyzed legislation on areas of permanent protection in Brazil, China, Argentina, Sweden, United States, Finland, Australia, France and Canada. The study concluded that "regardless of socio-economic, political, climate, topography, land area," in any of the countries studied was noted that the typical areas of permanent preservation "are untouchable as in Brazil."

The new code determines the existence of these protected areas within private properties without any form of remuneration or compensation. As a result of such an obligation and a growing environmental consciousness on the part of producers in the country, about 93 millions of

hectares (11% of Brazilian territory) of native vegetation are preserved in Brazilian farms to private property.

Responsible use of water resources - Biggest tropical agriculture of the planet and the first world producer and exporter of sugar, coffee and orange juice, Brazil achieved this leading position using only 27.7% of its territory for agricultural activities , keeping 61% of its territory preserved. Because of this preservation effort, the 12% of the world's fresh water, which are in Brazilian rivers and lakes, are well protected. "This is a potential that can and should be explored with responsibility," says Senator Katia Abreu. "The idea is that with the presentation at the Forum, we can create a climate of discussion on the topic to take it stronger for the Rio + 20," he adds.

The proposal for world creates permanent protection areas was introduced by the CNA in partnership with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and the Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA). The launch took place during the speech of Senator Katia Abreu "Brazilian Agribusiness: Building Solutions for Protection and Sustainable Use of Water in the Field," on March 13, on the flag of Brazil, on the Water Forum in Parc Chanot in Marseille.

Sustainable Agriculture - The presentation included an assessment of the progress of the Biomes Project, being developed by CNA in partnership with Embrapa. The proposal aims to facilitate sustainable agriculture in view of the specificities of the six biomes, with practices to ensure the availability of water quantity and quality for different uses and to maintain the ecosystem.

Launched at COP 16 (UN Conference on Climate Change) in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010, the Biomes Project has the support of the Brazilian Service to Support Micro and Small Enterprises (Sebrae), and companies like Monsanto and John Deere. At a cost of \$ 20 million, the project is being funded by Brazilian's farmers.

Source: CNA

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