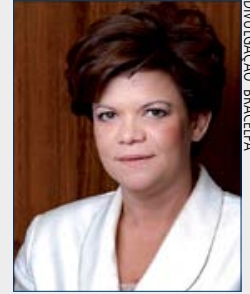


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DIVULGAÇÃO BRACELPA

THE CHALLENGES OF RIO+20

Just recently, the world population reached the mark of 7 billion inhabitants. It is estimated that we will be 9 billion in 2050. Such expressive figures generate many challenges regarding the sustainability tripod – social, economic and environmental aspects. How can we continue to grow if we do not define clear and efficient development strategies that do not compromise future generations? It is under this scenario that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 will be held in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The purpose of the meeting is to renew political commitment surrounding sustainable development and assess the deficiencies and progress of results from previous Conferences. However, different from what happened at Eco-92, for example, the motto of which was environmental matters, Rio+20 seeks to discuss a new path for economic development. On account of this, it is paramount to broaden discussions regarding themes and engage not only governments but also society and companies to exercise their active and influential role.

Brazil's sector of planted forests, pulp and paper, believes in the importance of including the biotechnology theme in the Rio+20 agenda. The objective is to discuss the status of scientific advancements resulting from research and studies from its application as an essential tool for solving future problems. Additionally, it is fundamental to assess the risks and opportunities of its use in the context of proposals for sustainable development.

It is also important that biotechnology be perceived as an ally in the implementation of global solutions for the next years, which satisfy the Brazilian government's proposals for the Conference, such as the eradication of extreme poverty, increasing the importance of forests in the economy of countries, strengthening multilateralism and disseminating technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As such, we can say that there are economic, environmental and social benefits – satisfying the sustainability tripod – by adopting this technology in forest plantations.

The economic benefits refer to the stimulus towards new investments, reducing production costs and increasing competitiveness. When talking about environmental benefits, we include control over pests and diseases, increasing the productivity potential of wood, reducing consumption of natural resources and encouraging the implementation of agroforestry systems. Social issues, in turn, refer to complying with demands generated by world population growth, professional education and training, and the generation of jobs and income.

Therefore, we hope that technological advancements and a broader look at matters become the path towards sustainable development. Brazil's government has already presented proposals that seek to achieve global objectives, particularly concerning the eradication of poverty and the creation of a green economy. In summary, Rio+20 will be a stage for in-depth and valuable discussions. Let's work towards this end, seeking to build long-term solutions for the planet. ■



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development