

# Daily Briefing May 29, 2008

Living better where humans, animals, and the environment are connected

[www.LocalActionGlobalHealth.org](http://www.LocalActionGlobalHealth.org)

**PROGRAM:**  
Thursday, 29 / 5

## ONE

- Analysis and Reflection on Day 2

## TWO

- Interest Groups: Divergence Activities Part 2

## THREE

- Assimilation Activities Part 2 (continued)

## FOUR

- Third Assimilation Activity

Night work:

Creating scenarios and stories

## Observation vital to successful collaboration

Acting before thinking is a familiar ailment that occurs within every discipline, every sector and within our individual actions.

"Very often we start off with plans rather than observing and thinking," said Jake Walter of Mozambique, reflecting, as did all of the participants, on the lessons of the last two days.

The significance of interaction and listening was echoed by many. This includes giving careful consideration to contextual needs, as well as the needs and opinions of individuals and groups.

"Observation is very important," said Anita Soto of Chile, speaking to the "observe – think – plan – act" process being implemented at the workshop. "It can empower local people and their knowledge," said Anita.

Soto also commented that conversations with others this week have validated her own experiences working on grass



*Manuel Henriquez and Anita Soto of Chile; and Lenin Vinueza of Ecuador.*

roots levels in Chile.

Learning by listening and being patient are lessons that have emerged, said participants, and are ingredients to successful observation.

Santiago Urcelay linked observation prior to action with owning a situation or challenge. "It allows participation with the purpose of being part of the outcome. Letting

people participate gives them ownership of the outcome rather than just receiving the end result."

"Engaging with others changes the way you think about relationships," said meeting facilitator Richard Bawden. "It is easy to tell your own story, but very difficult to listen to the story of others and narrate them accurately."

## IICA: Organization promoting solutions in agricultural health

At a workshop focused on local actions and global outcomes, the mission of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is powerfully relevant.

"We can only make progress in the field of agricultural health if we promote global solutions," stated IICA Agricultural Health Specialist of the Ana Marisa Cordero, in describing her organization.

"We have strong leader-

ship, have improved communications and collaboration between public and private sectors, and coordinated support among countries," said Cordero.

The IICA is an agency composed of 34 offices, each representing a different country and IICA member. It hosts a Hemispheric Program for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (SAIA) that aims to promote and support capacity

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*Guilherme da Costa Jr. of Brasil and Ana Marisa Cordero of IICA.*



## Enriching communities through local partnerships

**Alline Botrel**  
Government Relations and  
Corporate Affairs  
Cargill Inc., Brasil

government and our company must understand what's happening to foster better partnerships.

*What is the most important project that you are developing at Cargill?*

We are working with the Brazilian government on cocoa-production capabilities. Brazil has long been the second largest global exporter of cocoa. Disease has, however, devastated our production capabilities. Now, we are not producing even a tenth of what we did before and communities are very poor as a result. At our plant in Bahia, where most of the cocoa producers are located, we are working with the government to help producers with past debts. We are also creating new ways to live with the disease. We seek to help the community and the government with information and action.

*What is Cargill's greatest strength?*

From my standpoint, and to share an observation that is typically unspoken, Cargill does not want to do things fast. It does not want to draw publicity from the volunteer work and good things in which it is engaged, and therefore we do things slowly. It's best to do produce at lower levels, yet do so accurately and involve and unite a greater number of people, rather than simply producing for production's sake. The ethics, the philosophy of the people and projects that I work on at Cargill is to build and create but not simply to win, and this I think is very important.

Visit Cargill's Brazilian operations at: [www.cargill.com.br](http://www.cargill.com.br)

While some aspire to fostering international partnerships, Alline Botrel is fulfilling this mission. Botrel serves as the bridge between the Brazilian offices of her employer, Cargill Inc., and the Brazilian government. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Cargill develops products and services for the agriculture, food production and for those in risk management. Cargill employs more than 158,000 employees located in 66 countries on five continents. Cargill has been in operation in Brazil since 1965 and is one of the largest employers in South America. Based in Sao Paulo, Cargill has offices in 180 cities and 23,000 employees.

*What is Cargill's mission within Brazil?*

To be a bridge between private enterprise and the government. I work to bring the actions and policies of government to the business environment. To understand which issues are important and remain aware of government actions, I am in communication with the ministries, the departments of agriculture and the environment, and Congress. It is also important to stay in touch with grant information, with projects that develop within communities, or research projects, for example, in manufacturing plants. Maintaining this connection is my biggest challenge. Both the



## Leading poultry production in the Caribbean

**Robert Best**  
Executive Director  
Caribbean Poultry Association

regulating trade policies by representing the industry in national, regional and international forums.

Best views CPA's leadership role as essential. The organization represents 70% of all bird production in the Caribbean, and includes among its membership 18 countries, 15 industry partners, three national associations and the Community of the Caribbean - an organization that promotes economic integration and cooperation across the region.

The economic development of the region's overall agricultural industry is also another commitment of the CPA. In this effort, the CPA is linked to the Caribbean Association of Agronegocios, the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce, and the Latin American Bird-raising Association.

Robert Best is the Executive Director of the Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA), founded in 1999, to promote the development of bird-raising industries in the Caribbean region.

The CPA improves the competitiveness of the poultry industry through several activities. Critical are it's ability to collaborate with the governments of the Caribbean region to improve the services that the public sector provides to poultry producing companies, and promoting commerce and

## IICA promoting agricultural solutions (From page 1)

building and modernization of the agricultural sector.

"Providing the global population with healthy food has become one of the great challenges of the twenty-first century. It is also why we want to improve the status of sanitary and phytosanitary standards in our member countries and support competitive trade," said Cordero.

She listed many different factors as influencing the way food is produced, distributed and consumed. Included are climate change, environmental changes, population

growth, rapid urbanization and human migration, increasing variance in consumer preferences for products of higher quality, and greater diligence for protecting people's health.

Within IICA, the SAIA Institute, plays a critical role in equipping industry professionals to meet these challenges. Initiatives of the SAIA include the strengthening of practitioners' technical knowledge and leadership skills, and the promotion of networking within communities to formulate and implement agricultural health and food safety policies.