

Background of Cairns Group and its objectives

In August 1986, in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia, it has been created an alliance of agro-exporter nations, who have agreed to undertake agricultural negotiations as a matter of high priority to the multilateral trade negotiations (www.cairnsgroup.org/). By that time the questions related to world trade were settled in the GATT (General Agreement of Trade and Taxes) which was created in 1948. For 40 years the agricultural negotiations were deliberately excluded from trade negotiations, which allowed rich countries to establish all their subsidies and internal protections schemes, with direct consequence in agro-exporter nations.. The more critical instance took place at the beginning of the 80ies, with agricultural markets completely depressed. The Cairns Group made possible to include agricultural negotiations through its decisive participation in Uruguay Round of GATT (1986-1994). In this scenery, the great challenge was to be able to persuade the UE and the EEUU to reduce the helping to agricultural production.

In the course of Doha Round, once more Cairns Group pressed strongly to achieve new reforms in agricultural markets. Nevertheless, these negotiations are in stand by, even when important advances have been achieved in all those aspects related to easy accessibility to markets. To continue pressing firmly and determinately is the great challenge that calls this new meeting that will take place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, between April 19th and 21st 2010.

The Asociación Rural del Uruguay, associated to the Leaders Producers Group of the Cairns Group from its foundation (www.cairnsgroupfarmers.org/), calls with the National Farmers Federation of Australia, all the rural institutions of agro-exporter countries to participate in this new important instance of discussion and analysis.

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