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Speech: SEMARH and SEAGRO Current Experiences On Climate Change Mitigation Policies In The State Of Goiás, Brazil

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Good afternoon.

(SLIDE 1) The State of Goiás is located in the heart of Brazil. With a population of 6 million inhabitants, it has an area of approximately 340.000 km² (three hundred and forty thousand kilometers square) – to get an idea, it is three times the size of Qatar.

The State of Goiás was almost entirely covered by the Cerrado Biome, that is the most biodiverse savanna in the world and keeps 5% of the whole world biodiversity (MMA, 2011) – but now, it remains about 30% of its original cover in the State. The Cerrado Biome reaches 12 States in Brazil and has also the sources of the three main watersheds of Brazil, including the Amazonian one, being responsible for 70% of the water that feed them (Lima & Silva, 2008). Studies conducted in order to estimate the underground carbon stock compared with the subaerial stock of the vegetation of Cerrado have found out until 70 times more underground biomass than subaerial, what means that a great potential for REDD market is to come to the Biome.

However, along the last 40 years, the territory covered originally by Cerrado Biome in Goiás has been turned into agricultural and livestock areas, what, together with mining activities, put the State into the international export scenario of grains and mineral commodities for the last 15 years – and also the Biome within the most threatened hotspots in the world. The State of Goiás is the first national producer of nickel, the fourth of soybean, the first for sorghum, the fourth in cattle and the sixth in poultry. Its exports have as destination countries from all around the world, like China, The Netherlands, India, Spain, Russia, United Kingdom, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Japan.

(SLIDE 2) In order to address the matters of climate change and rural production on a sustainable development model, the State of Goiás, through its Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, has been implementing the State Plan for Mitigation/Adaptation to Climate Change. The plan aims to promote and consolidate a low carbon economy for agriculture and livestock (State Decree n. 7,690/2012) through a joint process of capacity-

building for farmers and of funding changes from traditional monoculture systems to new arrangements of crop-livestock-forest integrated systems.

At the same time, the State of Goiás, through its Secretariat for the Environment and Water Resources, has been elaborating its new law on Climate Change, Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and Sustainable Development, where, among other aspects, it is settled and regulated a market-based system for environmental conservation.

(SLIDE 3) As expected results about the end of 2014, we have farmers, rural technical assistants and private rural entrepreneurs capacitated in the State, and an environmental market focused on forest (REDD) and water working to help rural sites to combine systems of crop-livestock-forest integration together with payments for environmental services (PES), due to conservation actions related to native forest and water. Also, as a result, the State expects to contribute to reach the national Cerrado Biome target of reducing greenhouse gases emissions, as much as the targets for rural productive systems, voluntarily committed by the Brazilian Government in the frame of UNFCCC in 2009.

We hope to have contributed. Thank you for your attention.