

The MAIN Link



L'UNION-VIE DONATES \$15,000 TO SUPPORT THE SOCODEVI FOUNDATION AN IMPRESSIVE FIRST DONATION

The year got off to a remarkable start for the SOCODEVI Foundation. L'Union-Vie made a donation of \$15,000 to the Foundation in support of three projects in Africa: in Cameroon and Mali.

This contribution from L'Union-Vie will be used exclusively for three initiatives undertaken by the Foundation:

- Improvement of the quality of the sesame produced by the Union de producteurs de Banamba in Mali: donation of 250 tarpaulins for the threshing of organic sesame in order to reduce the percentage of impurities in the product and thereby obtain a better price.
- Support for river shrimp fishing in Cameroon: donation of 400 new hoop nets, four pirogues, four ice boxes and four smokehouses to the 200 members of a fishermen's association in the Kribi-Lokoundjé region. This will enable them to double their shrimp harvest.
- Improvement of manioc processing techniques in Cameroon: purchase of a multi-purpose mill, a stainless steel manual sieve and a settling tank in

order to double the quantity of manioc processed. Technical training sessions, including the use and maintenance of the new tools, will also be given.

L'Union-Vie is a Québec insurance mutual founded in 1889. Based in Drummondville (Québec), this organization has been a member of the SOCODEVI network for nearly 15 years. L'Union-Vie currently has 200,000 client-members. This donation will make it possible to provide tangible support for women and men cooperative members in Africa who have decided to take control of their future.

For more information or to support the SOCODEVI Foundation, visit www.fondation.socodevi.org (French-only)

AGENDA

Training session on international development • April 17 and 18, 2008

SOCODEVI Annual General Meeting • June 13, 2008

SOCODEVI Foundation Golf Tournament • August 26, 2008

NEW PROJECT IN PANAMA

Under the sustainable development program in the province of Chiriqui in Panama, SOCODEVI won a contract to strengthen the cooperative and commercial sustainability of COOSEMUPAR, a large banana production cooperative in the Puerto Armuelles region. This cooperative, located on one of the old Chiquita properties, has over 2,000 worker-members and is an essential economic activity for the entire region. Since the cooperative was set up fairly recently, addressing the challenges of cooperative structure, administration and efficient business management are an integral part of this two-year contract.

SOCODEVI's member institutions



FÉDÉRATION
DES COOPÉRATIVES
FUNÉRAIRES
DU QUÉBEC



Fédération des coopératives
québécoises en milieu scolaire



SUPPORT FROM OUR NETWORK

MISSION IN SENEGAL



Gilles Cardinal (right) with Marie Gagné, SOCODEVI intern in Senegal, and several coop managers.

Gilles Cardinal, past director general of Comax and expert advisor for the Coop fédérée, undertook a support mission to assess the state of the cooperative movement in Senegal. This mission falls under our cooperative partnership program.



SUPPORT MISSION FOR THE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IN HONDURAS

Hélène Simard, President and Director General of the CQCM (Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité), took part in a support mission to Honduras from October 20 to 29, 2007. Her participation mainly involved sharing the experience of the Québec cooperative and mutualist movement with the leaders of the Honduran cooperative movement. At various meetings, she discussed the Québec cooperative movement with Honduran partners. She also outlined the effort made by the movement in 2003 to establish a shared vision of necessary changes to ensure that the cooperative approach remains a sustainable solution for the future.



SUPPORT FOR THE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IN BOLIVIA

Jocelyne Chagnon, who works at the Quebec Government division overseeing cooperatives, the Direction des coopératives, and is a member of La Capitale, carried out a support mission in Bolivia from October 15 to 28. During her stay, which coincided with her annual vacation, she presented the mandates of the Direction des coopératives, the process used to introduce the Cooperative Development Policy and the partnership agreement between the Government of Québec and the cooperative sectors.

AGROPUR EXPERTISE SERVING PARAGUAYAN DAIRY COOPERATIVES



Left to right, Paraguayan dairy farmer with Serge Riendeau and Lorraine Bédard from Agropur.

Agropur president Serge Riendeau and Lorraine Bédard, director for member relations, undertook a mission to Paraguay under our project to make the dairy sector in that country more competitive (PROCOLE). During their stay, they took part in a two-day symposium organized by FECOPROD, our Paraguayan partner. The goal of this event was to create interest among producer cooperatives for milk production, to communicate PROCOLE results and to discuss the future of the dairy industry in Paraguay. Over the past two years, Agropur has invested 350 work days in this support project.



SUPPORT FOR START UP OF THE SIKASSO HEALTH MUTUAL IN MALI

Created in March 2007, the health mutual of the Sikasso region in Mali is in full start-up mode. Bruno Bourque, from SSQ-Vie, travelled to Mali with our training advisor, Pierre Tremblay, in order to develop the strategy to recruit members and volunteers for the mutual and to support the staff during the start-up phase of the new organization. Training sessions for presentation techniques to attract potential members were organized during the mission along with promotion and awareness activities.



FÉDÉRATION
DES COOPÉRATIVES
FUNÉRAIRES
DU QUÉBEC



INAUGURATION OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE MUTUAL IN MALI

In November, SOCODEVI president Alain Leclerc, and Jean Colom-bier, from the international relations department of MACIF, accompa-nied by SOCODEVI director general Réjean Lantagne, took part in the inauguration of the health insurance mutual in the Sikasso region of Mali. Over 300 attended this important event.



Fédération
des coopératives de
développement régional du Québec

STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATIVE AND MUTUALIST MOVEMENT IN CAMEROON

Gaétan Martel of the Coopérative de développement régional Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean undertook a mission to Cameroon from November 18 to 30, 2007. Accompanied by Richard Trudel, SOCODEVI program officer, Gaétan Martel worked closely with our local staff to identify the sectors in which SOCODEVI will operate under its cooperative and mutualist partnership program (PPCM) and select the organizations to become program beneficiaries.



LA CAPITALE AND EQUIDAD: A PROMISING PARTNERSHIP OF MUTUALS!

Robert St-Denis, President and Chief Executive Officer of La Capita-le's Personal Insurance Sector, and Roland Guérin, board member of La Capitale mutuelle de l'administration publique, carried out a mission in Honduras last December. The main goal was to determine the strategies of EQUIDAD, an insurance society belonging to the network of Honduran savings and credit cooperatives, and define the types of collaboration and support that La Capitale could provide under a direct partnership between the two organizations. It should be noted that SOCODEVI has provided technical assistance to EQUIDAD for two years now, mainly in the person of our insurance consultant, Bernardo Miranda.



SUPPORT MISSION TO GHANA

In November 2007, Colette Lebel, director of cooperative affairs for la Coop fédérée, travelled to Ghana for a support mission as part of our capacity building program for organizations of producers of perennial crops carried out in partnership with the STCP (Sustainable Tree Crops Program).



Confédération québécoise
des coopératives d'habitation

SUPPORT FOR THE COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA



Jocelyne Rouleau and Richard Lacasse in front of the head office of the Kachoch cooperative, one of the Guatemalan organizations supported.

Jocelyne Rouleau, director general of the Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation, travelled to Guatemala with Richard Lacasse, Americas and Caribbean director at SOCODEVI, for a support mission to the Guatemalan national federation of housing cooperatives (FENACOVI). This mission took place November 25 to 30, 2007.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New auxiliary member

The SOCODEVI network now has 19 member institutions with the arrival of a new auxiliary member: the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (CQCM). The mission of the CQCM is to participate in the social and economic sustainability of Québec by encouraging full expansion of the Québec cooperative movement, based on the principles and values of the International Co-operative Alliance. We welcome the CQCM to our network!

Training session: record participation!

November 15 and 16 SOCODEVI organized a two-day training session for managers and personnel in our network. A total of 23 representatives from a dozen SOCODEVI member institutions took part in the session, a record number of participants for this activity. The next session will be held April 17 and 18, 2008. For full details concerning our training sessions, call (418) 683-7225 extension 325 or write to p.rodriquez@socodevi.org

Rendez-vous de la coopération québécoise et canadienne dans la Francophonie – October 2008

SOCODEVI is proud to join with a group of NGOs from Québec and across Canada who have proposed a project to give increased visibility to their international activities in member countries of la Francophonie. The Rendez-vous de la coopération québécoise et canadienne dans la Francophonie will take place October 15 to 17, 2008 at Université Laval and will include workshops, international conferences and booths for each participating organization to present their cooperation projects and programs. More details will be provided in the next issue of the Main Link and at www.socodevi.org

SOCODEVI on the move: two new employees at the head office

SOCODEVI is pleased to announce the hiring of Mireille Poulin as accounting technician and Alicia Laso as secretary-receptionist at the head office. In addition, we note the departure of Michel Mugabo, financial advisor with our organization since 1998. We welcome our two new colleagues and offer our best wishes to Michel in his new endeavours!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alain Leclerc, President
General Manager – Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec

Jean-Yves Dupéré, Vice President
President – La Capitale, mutuelle de l'administration publique

Jocelyn Lessard, Secretary
General Director, Fédération québécoise des coopératives forestières

Ghislain Cloutier, Treasurer
First Vice President, La Coop fédérée

Gaétan Jodoin, Director
Administrator – Agropur

Cécile B. Pichette, Director
Vice President – Citadelle, coopérative de producteurs de sirop d'érable

Ryma Boussoufa, Director
Director – Fédération des coopératives québécoises en milieu scolaire

Clément Asselin, Director
Director – Fédération des coopératives d'alimentation du Québec

Jocelyne Rouleau, Director
General Manager – Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation

Laurent De Ladurantaye, Director
President – Groupe Promutuel

Pierre Genest, Director
Board Director – SSQ, mutuelle de gestion

Jacques Desbiens, Director
Board Director – L'Union Vie

THE MAIN LINK

Société de coopération pour le développement international
VOLUME XXII • Number 2 – 2008

THE MAIN LINK is published three times a year by the Société de coopération pour le développement international. This bulletin is published thanks to financial assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency.

Legal deposit at the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.

SOCODEVI
850, avenue Ernest-Gagnon, bureau 160
Québec (Québec) G1S 4S2

Telephone: (418) 683-7225
Fax: (418) 683-5229
Web site: www.socodevi.org

Editor
Pedro Rodríguez

Design and layout
Pouliot Guay, graphistes

Printer
Graphica Impression

Print run
100 copies



Recycled paper