MATO GROSSO DO SUL:

PANTANAL STATE COMPROMISED ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP26

Mato Grosso do Sul is one of the 27 states in Brazil, located in the heart of South America. It is the Brazilian region that is home to natural beauty such as the city of Bonito, one of the main tourist destinations in the world; in addition to the Pantanal, which is one of the most conserved Brazilian biomes, with unique characteristics and richness in terms of fauna and flora.

In 2016, the Government of the Mato Grosso do Sul State set a goal of becoming a Carbon Neutral State, adopting this "motto" as a development strategy and public policy. Since then, sustainable practices have become a condition of all public programs to promote economic activities and the experiences, results and challenges will be shown at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

All actions and initiatives of Mato Grosso do Sul will be presented at a ceremony with the 360 members of the Race to Zero and Under 2° Coalition programs. At this event, State Secretary for the Environment, Economic Development, Production and Family Agriculture of Mato Grosso do Sul, Jaime Elias Verruck, will assume, for the authorities present, the bold commitment of becoming a Carbon Neutral State by the year 2030, bringing forward the goal established in the Paris Agreement by 20 years.

One of the first actions already underway involves livestock production (beef, pork and poultry), which is one of the pillars of Mato Grosso do Sul economy and the main activity that generates greenhouse gas emissions in the state. The Government of Mato Grosso do Sul improved the granting of tax incentives to the sector, conditioning the adoption of production models with less carbon impact. In addition to the environmental gains, there was an improvement in productivity. Some of the examples are the MS Precocious programs and the Organic and Sustainable Meat from Pantanal.

In terms of financing, in the last five years, the Government of Mato Grosso do Sul, through Semagro (Secretary of Environment, Economic Development, Production and Family Agriculture), allocated US$ 65 million from a credit line called FCO Verde, specifically for the implementation of low-carbon agriculture projects and Crop-Livestock-Forest Integration Systems (ICLFS).

The ICLFS is an innovative agricultural production technology that protects the soil, water sources, captures the carbon generated by the livestock activity and which today has Carbon Neutral Beef as one of its main products. In Mato Grosso do Sul, around 2.5 million hectares on rural properties use the ICLFS, the largest area in Brazil.

In terms of clean energy, Mato Grosso do Sul is practically self-sufficient, having as the main sources of biomass from alcohol plants and the forestry sector, in addition to photovoltaic solar energy. The Government State exempts from taxes operations with equipment for the generation of solar energy. This measure allowed, for example, the realization of one of the largest universalization programs of electric energy in the world, with the installation, by December 2022, of 2,000 mini solar plants to serve 5,000 families living in the Pantanal region. This program, called Illuminates Pantanal, which is a finalist at the Solar & Storage Live Awards 2021 and will also be highlighted at COP 26.

In the cities scope, the Government of Mato Grosso do Sul adopts the Ecological ICMS (State Sales Tax); a model that differentiates the percentage of transfer of tax collection to municipalities that properly dispose of waste and protect their conservation units. In the matter of solid waste, Mato Grosso do Sul has become a reference in reverse logistics packages in Brazil.

Finally, around 1 million hectares of degraded pastures have already been converted into productive agricultural areas, solving an environmental and economic liability. The PROSOLO Program promotes the recovery of degraded areas and the preservation of soil and water, which in addition to retaining carbon, promotes improvements in fertility and productivity.