Conclusion of the 2nd International Stevia Symposium, November 9-10, Asunción – Paraguay

The symposium was put together to publicly announce the results of the studies required by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives to establish a permanent ADI for steviol glycosides, a stevia extract. The results will be presented before other organizations such as CODEX and FDA, thus opening the possibility of international commercialization of Stevia.

Representatives from Japan, China, Korea, Brazil, and Paraguay participated in the symposium. These countries got together to study the pharmacological effects of steviol glycosides in humans: "Repeated exposure to dietary and therapeutic doses in normotensive and hypotensive subjects and those with Diabetes types 1 and 2."

Results of human studies using 80 patients concluded:

-Long-term consumption of steviol glycosides is considered safe in humans.

- At sweetening doses, steviol glycosides have no pharmacological effects. No adverse effects were observed in glucose levels nor in blood pressure in subjects that would be considered to have normal levels. There is evidence that at higher, therapeutic levels, steviol glycosides have a favorable effect on hyperglucemic and hypertensive subjects.

- Long-term exposure to steviol glycosides will not affect other parameters such as lipids, liver and kidney functions, etc.

Conclusions were also presented on other studies required for other commercially available products.

1- Analytical information on distribution and concentration of all steviol glycosides components.

2- Analytical methods to determine all components of steviol glycosides.
3- Nature and concentration of the fractions that are not contained in steviolglycosides.
4- Quantity of residual solvents from isolation and purification steps of the manufacturing process.
5- Hydrolitic stability of the steviol glycosides in acidic foods and beverages.

The study willbe officiallypresented to JECFA by Japan during the last week of November 2006 with the goal to fulfilthe JECFA requirements stated at their63rd meeting in2004.

Other presentations:

Edmundo García, a representative of FDA, explained the regulatory process in the U.S. for substances that willbe added to foods.

Caroline Blache del Cirad presented on the benefits of an implementation of a geographic indication for Stevia from Paraguay.

Mr. Oscar Rodes gave a brieftalk on the history of Stevia in the U.S. regarding itscommercialization as a dietary supplement and itsfuture possibilities.

Dr. Per Bendix Jeppesen from the University of Aarhus in Denmark gave a presentation on new aspects of the components of Stevia intype 2 Diabetes.

Asunción, November 10, 2006

Representatives:

Japan, China and Korea - Tadashi Katabami
Denmark – Per Bendix Jeppesen the Universityof Aarhus
Brazil- Helena Meneguetti,Antonio Licio, Airton Goto.
Paraguay – Luís Barriocanal National University of Asuncion- Paraguay, Juan Carlos Fischer Cámara Paraguaya de la Stevia (CAPASTE)

Special Invites

France — Carolina Blache
EEUU — Oscar Rodes, Edmundo Garcia, Shelke Kantha
Paraguay - TriniJiménez, Nelson Gonzalez
Brazil-Roberto Campos, Fernando Meneguetti, Paulo Gottschalk