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# Food Security, Water Scarcity, the G-20 Agenda and the Strategic Role of Southern Cone Countries

(Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay  
and Uruguay)

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Southern Cone Contributions to Food Security  
and Global Environmental Sustainability

**Marcelo Regúnaga & Pablo Elverdin**

Virtual Water in The Rural Sector of Argentina,  
Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay and its Potential  
Impact on Global Water Security

**M. Florencia Ricard & Ernesto F. Viglizzo**

**JANUARY, 2017**



**GRUPO DE PAÍSES PRODUCTORES DEL SUR**

**GROUP OF PRODUCING COUNTRIES FROM THE SOUTHERN CONE**

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# Foreword

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The Group of Producing Countries from the Southern Cone (GPS by its Spanish acronym) is a Regional initiative organized by several non-public organizations of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, that have been working together to contribute to the construction of a South American platform that will be able to meet new food demands in a sustainable manner, while also generating wealth, employment and social capital in the region.

This effort builds on two premises. The first is that working jointly will give the four countries involved greater bargaining power, from a geopolitical standpoint, than if they worked individually. And the second is that prospects for consolidation in the region will unquestionably be better if such countries share a common development plan for the agroindustry as a whole.

For this purpose, GPS's work agenda focuses on three axes: a) Promote the regional integration; b) Improving the international presence of the region in the agroindustry area, and; c) Encourage the sustainable development with special emphasis in the climate change agenda.

Therefore, the present document is the result of the work and contributions of a large number of people, organized in a complex network, in response to

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their commitment to participate and contribute in the construction of a world that is capable of producing food for everybody in a sustainable manner.

In the next years, the importance of exports in order to satisfy the growing food demand, at reasonable prices and in a sustainable manner, will increase. The future food security will depend on trade and on the ability of net food exporters to locate their surpluses in the international markets without unjustified obstacles. Here is where the countries of the region play an important role, since they account for almost 30 percent of the total net food exports worldwide, and that contribution is expected to increase in the near future.

These concerns have also raised social and political awareness with respect to the growing economic scarcity of natural resources, the potential impacts of climate change and the difficult political economic issues that the world will face in the coming years by these reasons. These concerns have also led the International Community to propose specific mechanisms to improve global governance on environmental issues, and recently some compromises of singular magnitude have been achieved (as the commitment made in the COP21 shows).

In response to these concerns and proposals, GPS has organized a joint effort to analyze the potential contributions that the four countries can make to the global food supply and to environment sustainability and has put forward ideas and proposals concerning the major issues that are being considered in the international agenda in the areas of food security, agricultural natural resources and climate change.

GPS would not be possible without the efforts of the following persons and institutions: Eduardo Serantes and Luis Bameule (GPS Argentina); Luiz Cornacchioni and Juliana Monti (Asociacao Brasileira do Agronegocios-ABAG, Brazil); Héctor Cristaldo, Lilian Cabrera and Alfredo Molinas (Unión de Gremios de la Producción-UGP, Paraguay); Juan de la Fuente and Victoria Carballo (GPS, Uruguay).

This document is the result of a collective effort and builds on information and previous studies produced by GPS that were contributed by the participating organizations and individuals. The main authors of the papers have been Marcelo Regúnaga, Pablo Elverdin, Florencia Ricard and Ernesto Viglizzo, with substantial contributions by Martín Piñero, Eduardo Serantes, Luis Bameule and Paloma Ochoa.

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At the same time, the authors would like to express their special thanks to Nelson Illescas and Nicolás Jorge (INAI Foundation, Argentina) and to José Luis Tedesco (Asociación Argentina de Productores de Siembra Directa-AAPRESID, Argentina) for their individual contributions to the present paper; as well as to ABAG for providing the information included in Annex II.

The document is organized into two sections and deals with three main subjects: a) it describes the food production capacity of the region, its extraordinary potential and the significant progress made in technological and organizational matters; b) the contribution of the region to global food security implementing environmentally friendly production systems; and c) the regional export of virtual green water, and how it contributes to water security of the destination countries of its exports.

GPS would like to express its sincere appreciation to all those institutions which constitute our net.

**ARGENTINA:** CARI; AAPRESID; ACSOJA; ASAGIR; Argentrigo; ACTA; Bolsa de Cereales de Bs. As; CREA; FUNPEL; F.P.C; Irradia; Maizar.

**BRAZIL:** ABAG; FGV Agro; FIESP

**PARAGUAY:** UGP

**URUGUAY:** CURI; Cámara Mercantil de Productos del País.

Environmental Advisor: Ing. Agr. PH. D. Ernesto F. Viglizzo.

**Horacio A. M. Sánchez Caballero**

Project Coordinator



*Group of Producing Countries From The Southern Cone, Buenos Aires, January, 2017.*

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