

BRAZIL – VETIVER HANDICRAFT TRAINING COURSE

Last month (September 2106), at the initiative of Deflor BIOENGENHARIA, we held a workshop for training Vetiver handicraft craftsmen . The event was held in the beautiful facilities of HOTEL FAZENDA DA CHACARA, located in the vicinity of Santana dos Montes, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, owned by Deflor, between the 31/08 and 16 / 09, involving a total of 112 hours of training.

The activity is part of Deflor's community development program, and was opened by its Chairman, Ing. Aloisio Rodrigues Pereira, with guests including the Mayor of the Municipality and Sacedorte Parish. The course was in managed by Deflor's Engineers, Paula Leao and Luiz Lucena, and Venezuelan, Marbella Rivas Hernández, was the trainer, under my advice and supervision.

The workshop began by teaching the participants the various types of braids that are used to manufacture various products; followed by the technique of weaving where participants made dining table mats, bottles, fans, angels , small decorative pieces attached for magnetic attachment to refrigerators, and finally the hen egg cup Participants were also told about the spread of vetiver teaching, and techniques to harvest the leaves and their processing as a fiber for crafts.

Course participants , with support from Deflor, will meet once a week to improve their techniques and to include new participants from the community.

The company provided participants with a number of vetiver plants to plant at their homes and thus have own raw material. Deflor also presented them with an industrial sewing machine, looms and other tools, and will continue providing with supplementary materials for the production of handicrafts. The project includes marketing through the hotel, local shops, and other regional outlets. They will receive training in fair price marketing. Additional workshops will be held for learning techniques for making other products such as furniture, over the next 6 to nine months.

We congratulate Deflor Bioengenharia for this community initiative and urge other Latin American companies to follow its example and create similar environmental oriented income earning projects for low-income communities. The training program is based on international Vetiver handicraft training that has been developed over the past 10 years. Those interested in the subject can write to vetiver.vzla@gmail.com.

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