

# IFEAT BRAZIL / PARAGUAY

11th – 20th August, 2012

On 10th August some 40 IFEAT members from 17 countries met up in Sao Paulo for the start of the 5th IFEAT Study Tour; this time to Brazil and Paraguay. It proved to be another superb tour thanks to the support, excellent hospitality and commitment of

*“The whole trip far exceeded my wildest expectation”*

the Brazilian and Paraguayan companies that were

visited - all of whom were IFEAT members.

Early on Sunday morning we left Sao Paulo in a luxury coach to visit Fazenda Alpina, where Ivo Gregori's enthusiasm for the organic production and processing of essential oils was there for all to see. This set the tone for the other visits – and throughout the tour it was a joy to meet up with many individuals whose enthusiasm and commitment for essential oils was contagious.



Tuesday saw a visit to Dierberger's processing operations at Barra Bonita followed by a tour of one of their several thousand hectare farms growing a range of plants for the production of essential oils. The following concert, food and party in the evening surrounded by forests and overlooked by the Southern Cross was a great experience.

The next morning saw a boat trip along the River Tiete, including a lunch to see some of the environmental changes that had been implemented over the years.

*“The participants were truly special and I feel honoured to get the chance to know many ... much better.”*

Then to the eucalyptus citriodora production and processing operations of Tres Barras and an evening of superb entertainment as the delegates shared Tres Barras 50th anniversary party - one of the highlights of the Tour. From the relatively small operation of Tres Barras, the visit the following day saw a very early wake up call and a visit to Cutrale's massive orange production and processing operations. This was followed the next day by visits to Louis Dreyfus farms and processing operations both of which were true eye



openers for many of the participants who were amazed by the scale of the operations. Following the Dreyfus plant tour a farewell party took place at the Dreyfus Guest House where a Samba School entertained participants who were all encouraged onto the dance floor.

Each of the companies provided superb introductions and videos to explain the operations. Indeed this was a feature of all the Tour visits – each company had put in a lot of work to provide detailed analysis of their production and processing operations – leading to all the delegates becoming much wiser regarding the specific essential oil production and processing operations. Moreover the companies provided superb books, clothes and other mementoes of the visits.

Friday morning saw a return to Sao Paulo, where the group split in half –

*Truly great memories!*

# STUDY TOUR

some heading home while others flew to Asuncion in Paraguay where a Welcome Dinner had been organised along with gifts and videos of Paraguay.

Saturday was one of the highlights of the Tour as the two chartered aircraft, each holding 10 delegates headed to the Chaco to visit the Mennonite communities and the Cooperativa Chortitzer Ltda. and their various agricultural operations including guaiacwood oil production as well as their extensive water conservation techniques.

Sunday could not have been more different. We drove to San Pedro district where we visited the warehouse of Amigo and Arditi and then on to the village of Nuclear to visit by ox-cart the smallholder bitter orange tree areas to watch the harvesting and distillation of petitgrain oil. On our arrival in Nuclear we were entertained by some wonderful traditional Paraguayan dancing



and music as well as shown a superb display of local fruits, vegetables and arts and crafts. Then to the operations of Alpaca to see the processing of guaiacwood oil as well as the harvesting of vetiver and the growing of other essential oil plants including eucalyptus, cabreuva and palmarosa. The day ended with a farewell dinner, which included more traditional music and dancing and a superb guitar concert by one of Paraguay's most famous musicians.

A full report of the 2012 Study Tour will be available on the IFEAT website.

*The memories ... will be cherished forever.*

Another outstanding feature of the tour was the level of intra group discussions amongst the participants, each one willing to share information about what is perceived to be a very secretive industry. This is a very healthy sign for our industry.

The days were long and full, starting with the early wake up calls, followed by the company visits and then the meals, music, concerts and dancing in the evening. The participants witnessed the growing, harvesting and processing of a range of essential oils including orange, petitgrain, guaiacwood, eucalyptus citriodora and vetiver. The site visits and quality of information distributed by the hosts were outstanding; these keep improving with each tour. The visits were very well organised and there were some excellent gifts from the various companies and sponsors.

Thanks to the local committees and IFEAT Study Tour Committee and particularly to the companies who hosted and sponsored the Tour as well as the Dauras Agency in Brazil, Raul Amigo in Paraguay and Stephen Pisano for all their efforts.

Book up now for the southern India Study Tour from 9th to 18th June 2013.

*Overall - it was a great learning experience.*

