

## **Questions Period:**

### **Question:**

I think 400 ppm being a target for Co2 is optimistic. The rate of co2 increase is increasing, Methane is increasing.

### **Question:**

One year ago I came across the word addiction. We are addicted to a high energy lifestyle in North America, Europe, Asia. We need a new perception or a new path to deal with climate change. We need intervention versus education at this stage. Some claim that they are doing something, that they are acting now but education takes a long time. Is Brazil at this addictive stage?

### **Miriam Duailibi:**

Should we have laws to forbid, or invite people to join? We have to do this and this and that and that. Climate change is a very dramatic issue. The changes we need are dramatic. Part of the world is addicted, you are right. But at the same time, a lot don't even use the minimum. Not many countries have big footprints but they have the impacts.

In Brazil, 80 per cent consume a minimum. It's a matter of education. These people aren't addicted but they are getting quickly addicted. If you go to the favelas, young people especially are getting obese while at the same time, they do not have food security. They don't have enough food but when they do, they eat junk food.

In Brazil, our main problem is not emissions by consumption. About 90 per cent of our electricity comes from hydro. We have methane fuel and this source is getting larger. We have flex cars that use ethanol. Our main problem is burning and clear cutting the forest. This is because people are buying timber from the Amazon. Brazilians. Education is needed. For us and for all over. We need education to protect this resource.

At the same time, we need severe legislation to deal with the abuse of consumption, especially in the North where a large percentage of the energy comes from burning coal. We need a large process of awareness of the consequences of climate change. Citizens need to be empowered to know, to push policy to avoid tragedies.

In the U.S., Obama has been voted in. We know the promises he made. We now have to claim this change that Obama promises. This is a question of education, employment and civil society

### **Paulo Cunha:**

We don't have time. We should be less than 550ppm and with the way we continue to live, we will reach this sooner than we should. Education takes time, we need to take other action. We can change ourselves now. We need to use communication.

**Question:**

I think we need to treat this addiction like we treat addiction with other addicts – cold turkey. Quit! Education is a good idea but education is to pass on words without action. We cannot afford this time. It's unacceptable. It is the responsibility of us all to education. We need to get off our seats, get out of the classroom and become street activists.

**Question:**

The problem of technology needs to be separated from 'other' issues about what people should do. We can't just incorporate technology into this model of how society should work. If we are talking about a catastrophe, technology is the catastrophe. It is not the case that technology is part of the solution. We can't keep saying that. We can't allow technology to be seen as any part of the solution. We can't use this model or concept. It is much more severe and problematic – it is part of the problem. Even if you think it is part of the solution, you must admit that it is part of the problem. Thinking has to change.

**Question:**

We have to ask ourselves, how close are we to the tipping point? Then see how our political leaders are acting. It is criminal negligence. Do we need an international criminal court to prosecute political leaders who sabotage our ability to live sustainably? Will we survive if the models of ruthless murderous greed that runs institutions continues? We all know about the looming ecological holocaust. Is that what we are facing? And what should we subject to those who fail to act with due diligence?

**Question:**

Eduardo, you spoke about projects with family farmers. What impact does your work, this project have on large scale farming? Do you go beyond the local area? Do you work with large land association? Most agricultural activity in Brazil is done by large-scale producers.

In a related question, is your organization, your work having an impact at the level of the federal ministry and if so, are changes taking place in the Ministry of Agriculture?

**Question:**

In your opinion, what is the role of Canada, its government's behaviour and what do you anticipate happening in Copenhagen in December? What do you hope happens at the UN Climate Conference COP15? Has anyone heard of the KYOTOplus Campaign (question directed to audience)?

Forty plus organizations have signed onto this petition. It is the only one that I know of in Canada. It calls for the government to honour its legal commitment to Kyoto and beyond. The petition calls for a minimum, but even this isn't enough. We want to make sure our kids have more hope for the future.

We are in a time and crisis and we are not acting as we understand this. I have left the petition at the back and I invite all of you to sign. Make yourselves aware. Let others know.

In my thinking, Canada is in an obstructionist position and needs to take more political action. Canadians are too staid. By not acting, we are going to our death and bringing the rest with us.

**Question:**

Eduardo, how did you approach the local communities? Via a group or individual by individual? You mentioned opposition from the city council. Did you get anywhere with this?

My opinion on education is climate change is that we have to define the good life. We are so driven by modernistic thinking. If we continue to endorse this way of life, there will be no way to reach any of our climate change goals. We should be able to feel proud of living simpler lives.

**Question:**

Eduardo, were you in contact with the wealthier land owners? What is the impact of real estate on the situation and what is the discussion, if any, with the higher status landowners? Are they willing to help in the process or not?

**Question:**

You mentioned eucalyptus as a crop. Is this farmed in the hope it will eventually lead to more native species as part of the education, and then move to agroforestry?

**Eduardo S. Quartim:**

I work with working farmers and communities. We also work with bigger farms as well. At least four larger farmers have joined the pact for rainforest restoration. I just attended a meeting to launch this pact. It has more than 53 entities. A book was also produced that shows the best practices to use to restore the rainforest. We also work with both small and large farmers.

We also have a forest dialogue with those who run the mills, who detain the largest part of the native forests. They are looking at better ways to help retain the forests. NGOs and other institutions are also working with companies on this issue and to make it better ecologically. We work with a lot of different companies too. We also have a map of the Atlantic rainforest, which is used to discuss ways to promote restoration and preservation.

The education processes used have not been effective. One supposes that adults can't learn. They can learn today and change tomorrow. We don't need 10 years. It's not just for future generations. We need to work with adults and children, but adults are changing their properties now, not in the future. Many of them have already done something.

But I understand what you tried to show us. We can't just think education will save the world.

Technology. Yes, it is part of the problem but I can't see an improvement in the future without technology and nobody wants to go back to the cave times. We are in a contemporary society so it is difficult to give it all up and start again.

In reference to the question about community involvement, in one of the places where we worked, one of our monitors now works for the environmental section in one the municipalities. One of the technicians left his position with us and is now Secretary of Tourism in one of the cities, so we are inside now.

The Environment Ministry asked us to work just with the small farmers, but we couldn't. A lot gave up their land and the big city people often make it worse when they buy that land. For example, they take down the rainforest and plant grass down to the water so they can have a view. It is not possible to work with only one part of the community so we work with the medium and large farmers as well. We are breaking the paradigms that we need to see landscapes and grass everywhere.

Resources, though, still go to the poor, not the medium or large farmers. We still do technical assistance with the latter two groups, but they pay for this assistance. Some individuals from these groups help will help, others bring new concepts to the group.

We have different regulations to work with in terms of native species growth. As soon as we plant native trees, it can't be harvested so we needed to develop management projects and apply to the government for approval. We are still working at this. Agroforestry is one of the ways to do this. This is also part of the rainforest pact I mentioned earlier. One of the authors of the book, also mentioned earlier, is a specialist in growing native trees. We need to create more documents like this to make things easier.

**Paulo Cunha:**

When we talk about climate change, we have to talk about Co2, methane and all of the related things, including people and technology. We can't make a separation between the latter two. Technology is developed by and for people. We can choose to use different technologies or not to use them. I don't have a car, for example, and if I have to use it, I use a taxi to support the driver. It depends on you. It is completely possible for me to separate them.

On the issue of negotiating climate change, I have participated on this, invited by the Brazilian group. I was shocked when I saw how it was. I can't necessarily believe that it can change. I have good expectations for Copenhagen but I have also read that they don't believe Copenhagen will come to any decision or agreement on the second phase of Kyoto.

Worldwide, we need to take political action to we can try to encourage change. This change will happen only if people decide to do it now – collectively or individually. When a company does something wrong, you make the director or president answer. They can go to prison. It should be the same with politicians.

People act as if we have time to wait. The only way to stop is for people worldwide to act in all countries. We all act like we have 100 years to decide.

**Mariam Duailibi:**

Since 1992, Ecoar has had concerns. One, how to influence public policy. Even if we are working on specific projects like Foresta da Familia and working with small farmers, we try to involve the whole community, including politicians, in the experience. We then can make the experience a model to influence others.

We work closely with the government in any project in both urban and rural communities. In Brazil, in the last six years under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, there has been support for family farmers. In Brazil, almost 40 per cent of food is produced on family farms. We do have large agribusiness too. Lula has a Ministry especially for this, a Ministry of Agrarian Development and another agricultural ministry. The latter, in our view, has a conservative policy on agriculture, working with big companies, for example. But the former works with NGOs and small farmers, agro ecology etc. The good news is that there is equal funding for both. This is the first time that has happened in Brazil.

I always wear a different t-shirt with different message. People always come to ask me about it. Education for us, as Eduardo said, is a not a formal, daily practice. We are all educators and students. We try to advocate for transformation, emancipatory education. Don't tell us what to do, give us the opportunity to figure out what is best for us. We really believe that we can influence change. We can influence it through the behaviour of our families, our communities. We can choose which people to elect if we are conscious and empowered by our role of choosing our candidates and politicians.

We can act as consumers and as such, choose good companies. We have companies in Brazil that have ecologically correct marketing strategy. We have multinationals that are doing this. They are growing more than others. We have banks that are joining the Ecuador Principles, sustainable ways of running a bank. This is, for example, not financing projects that have a negative environmental impact.

One year ago, HSBC refused to finance a power plant between Argentina and Uruguay because civil society created a movement against the project and showed that it would contaminate the river. There was a lot of pressure and the bank gave up, fearing it would be held responsible.

We really do believe that we can do our part as consumers, electors, investors, individuals and community members. Canada can do so much better. So many people in Canada are committed to the cause and I am sure you can change the policies on climate change. If you do this, it would be a huge contribution to the whole world.