

AIM-PROGRESS members host Supplier Forum to Address Responsible Sourcing standards in India Sugar Industry

Leading fast-moving consumer goods manufacturers Bacardi, Kraft, Kellogg's, Mars, Nestle and The Coca-Cola Company convened a supplier forum in India on 11 July to promote responsible sourcing standards in the sugar industry. The forum was hosted by The Coca-Cola Company and brought together approximately 100 supplier and brand representatives to discuss the importance of responsible sourcing, to share best practices and to agree on common evaluation methods to improve performance.



AIM-PROGRESS is an association of 30 Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies that seek to enable and promote responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems. Member companies agree to recognize audits completed on behalf of other member companies, thereby reducing audit fatigue and driving cost savings throughout the industry. This was the first such forum focused on the sugar industry in India.

T. Krishnakumar, CEO, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd addressed the group saying, "Our reputation, and that of the other companies present, is built on trust and respect. Our consumers judge us by the content of our character just as they judge us by the content of our beverages. In addition, respect for human rights is core to the way in which we approach our business, our workforce and our suppliers."

In addition to hearing from local and international business leaders about AIM-PROGRESS and customer expectations, suppliers heard from SGS, a regional audit firm which conducts third party monitoring in factories and farms. SGS spoke to the audience about methods used to verify compliance to social and environmental standards. Representatives from Bonsucro and Solidaridad presented as well. Bonsucro is a global multi-stakeholder non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the environmental and social impacts of sugar cane production which links its name to a product, process or service that has been certified by an independent certification body as being in compliance with the Bonsucro standard. Solidaridad is a non-governmental organization based in the Netherlands which helps train farmers in farming techniques that have less negative impact on people and the environment and which lead to better quality and higher yields.



T Krishnakumar, CEO, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd



In 2010 AIM-PROGRESS organized a responsible sourcing forum in India for suppliers which reached approximately 300 people. This session was a continuation of the work focusing on the sugar industry. Last year AIM-PROGRESS organized eight joint supplier seminars on responsible sourcing reaching more than 1,000 suppliers and 2,000 participants in South Africa, Kenya, China, Mexico, Europe and the United States.

About AIM-PROGRESS

AIM-PROGRESS is a forum of consumer goods companies assembled to enable and promote responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems. It is a global initiative supported and sponsored by AIM in Europe and the GMA in North America.

Its key objectives include the provision of a forum to exchange views regarding responsible sourcing practices and supporting the effective collaboration and potential convergence with other global initiatives having similar aims or interests.

It aims to develop and promote the use of common evaluation methods to determine CSR performance within the supply chain and drive efficiencies for all companies by collecting, assessing and sharing non-competitive information on supply chain CSR performance. For more information about AIM-PROGRESS, please visit www.aim-progress.com