GENEVA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND SERVICES



Geneva, Switzerland
28 October 2026

Executive Summary
Key Insights and Opportunities for Cooperation

Convened and coordinated by Heloisa Slav, SLAV LAW
Hosted by Vincent Subilia, Geneva Chamber of Commerce (CCIG)

CCIG – Maison de l'économie, Geneva

Executive Overview

On 28 October 2026, the **Brazil Roundtable on Sustainable Agriculture, Trade and Food Security** brought together representatives of Brazilian and Swiss public institutions, international organisations, agricultural associations and the private sector for a high-level dialogue on sustainable agriculture and international trade.

Convened by **SLAV LAW** in partnership with the **Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG)**, the meeting sought to foster greater mutual understanding of Brazil's tropical agricultural model and its contribution to global food and energy security, while examining the sustainability and market-access considerations relevant to Switzerland and Europe.

Held against the backdrop of the evolving EFTA–Mercosur trade relationship, the Roundtable provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on agricultural productivity, environmental preservation, production standards, traceability and sustainable trade.

A central theme emerged: strengthening international cooperation requires a better understanding of different agricultural production models, supported by reliable information, transparent practices and constructive engagement between public and private stakeholders.

1. Understanding Brazil's Tropical Agricultural Model

The discussions highlighted the transformation of Brazilian agriculture over the past five decades, driven by technological innovation, productivity improvements and agricultural practices adapted to tropical conditions.

A defining feature of this model is the possibility of cultivating multiple crops on the same land within a single agricultural year.

This approach has contributed to substantial increases in agricultural production and more efficient use of cultivated land.

Participants examined how agricultural productivity, soil management and sequential cropping can support food security while reducing pressure for proportional expansion of agricultural areas.

The exchange reinforced the importance of assessing agricultural systems in their specific climatic, geographic and technological contexts.

Key insight: Agricultural sustainability and competitiveness should be evaluated through measurable outcomes, including productivity, resource efficiency and environmental performance, rather than solely through comparisons of production methods.

2. Sustainability and Environmental Preservation

Environmental preservation was a central dimension of the dialogue.

The discussions addressed Brazil's regulatory framework for the protection of native vegetation, including mandatory preservation requirements on rural properties, alongside the role of agricultural technology in improving land-use efficiency.

The exchange also explored how sustainability can be integrated into economically viable production systems, encouraging practices that contribute simultaneously to agricultural productivity and environmental responsibility.

Recognising the differences between tropical and temperate agricultural systems is essential to developing meaningful comparisons and constructive international cooperation.

Key insight: Greater transparency regarding environmental obligations, agricultural practices and measurable sustainability outcomes can contribute to a more informed understanding of Brazilian agriculture in international markets.

3. Connecting Food Security, Animal Feed and Renewable Energy

The Roundtable also explored the integration of agricultural production with bioenergy and animal feed.

Brazil's experience with sequential cropping and corn ethanol production illustrates how agricultural systems can generate multiple products from the same cultivated area.

The production of ethanol alongside animal feed co-products demonstrates opportunities to combine food security, renewable energy and industrial resource efficiency.

This integrated approach contributes to a broader understanding of sustainable agricultural development, in which economic competitiveness and environmental objectives can reinforce one another.

Key insight: Integrated food, feed and fuel production systems offer opportunities to improve agricultural resource efficiency while contributing to global food and energy security.

4. Traceability and Sustainable International Trade

The increasing importance of traceability and due diligence in global agricultural supply chains was another central topic.

As international markets introduce more demanding sustainability requirements, the availability of reliable information concerning agricultural origin, land use and environmental compliance becomes essential.

The discussions highlighted the role of traceability, monitoring technologies and verifiable information in strengthening confidence between producers, trading partners and importing markets.

Particular attention was given to the practical challenges of implementing sustainability requirements across complex agricultural supply chains, including the need for accessible and proportionate compliance mechanisms.

Key insight: Credible traceability and transparent environmental information can support market access, facilitate regulatory compliance and strengthen trust throughout international agricultural value chains.

5. Brazil–Switzerland Cooperation and the EFTA–Mercosur Context

The Roundtable took place at an important stage in the development of economic relations between Switzerland and Mercosur.

The discussions highlighted the opportunities associated with stronger commercial ties, while acknowledging the importance of addressing sustainability, agricultural competitiveness and differences in production standards.

The exchange underscored the value of constructive dialogue between agricultural stakeholders, businesses and public institutions.

It also identified opportunities for technical cooperation and knowledge sharing, particularly in areas where Brazil's tropical agricultural experience and Switzerland's regulatory and agricultural expertise may offer complementary perspectives.

Key insight: Sustainable trade cooperation depends on recognising different agricultural realities, addressing legitimate stakeholder concerns and promoting evidence-based dialogue.

6. Opportunities for Continued Cooperation

The Roundtable identified several promising areas for further engagement:

- **Technical knowledge exchange:** Strengthening mutual understanding of tropical and temperate agricultural production systems, sustainability practices and environmental performance.
- **Agricultural standards and traceability:** Encouraging dialogue on production requirements, environmental compliance and practical approaches to supply-chain transparency.
- **Innovation and resource efficiency:** Exploring opportunities related to agricultural productivity, integrated production systems, renewable energy and climate resilience.
- **Institutional dialogue:** Maintaining exchanges between Brazilian and Swiss stakeholders, international organisations and the private sector to support constructive and informed discussions on sustainable trade.

These areas provide a basis for continued cooperation and the development of practical initiatives aligned with shared interests in sustainability, food security and international trade.

Conclusion

The Brazil Roundtable provided a valuable forum for dialogue at the intersection of agriculture, sustainability and international trade.

The exchanges reinforced the importance of understanding Brazil's tropical agricultural model in its own technological, environmental and economic context, while recognising the legitimate considerations shaping Swiss and European agricultural policy.

The discussions also highlighted the potential for closer cooperation through technical exchanges, greater transparency and mutual understanding of sustainability requirements.

By connecting Brazilian agricultural expertise with Switzerland's institutional and international trade ecosystem, the initiative contributes to building bridges between different agricultural realities and identifying opportunities for sustainable economic cooperation.

SLAV LAW and CCIG look forward to building on this dialogue and encouraging continued exchanges among stakeholders committed to sustainable agriculture, food security and responsible international trade.

Yours sincerely,

Vincent Subilia
Director General, Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG)
President, Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIS)

Heloisa Slav
Founding Partner
Slav Business Law Sàrl

This summary presents the principal themes and areas of discussion of the Brazil Roundtable held on 28 October 2026 at CCIG – Maison de l'économie. In accordance with the Chatham House Rule, individual statements and positions are not attributed to participants. The document does not represent a jointly adopted statement by participating institutions.