

NUFFIELD IN BRAZIL UPDATE

By Sally Thomson, Honorary Ambassador, Nuffield Brazil

Four years ago, I thought that Nuffield had such an obvious fit in Brazil that we would achieve four scholarships in that first year. It was far from that simple, but we have stayed committed to the adage of “if you want to go far, go together” and focused on building awareness, confidence and eventually buy-in to the Nuffield brand.



Photo: Scholars participating in a debate

In May 2017, Association Nuffield Brazil was created, and we have secured four scholarships for Brazilians to participate in the 2018 Nuffield International Scholarship program. This is not just bringing one of the world’s leading agricultural capacity building programs to a key global food producer / exporter. It is providing a tried and tested example of creating industry good by building social capital in an emerging and significant global economy.



Photo (L-R): 2017 Scholars Kathryn Stack, Thato Moagi, Carla Borges and Murilo Bettarello

Expanding the Nuffield footprint in this meaningful way is a great challenge to be involved with, and we are grateful for the support of Nuffield International and our Brazilian volunteer base to stay committed to this goal. The value and enjoyment of receiving Nuffield Scholars from other countries in Brazil cannot be over-stated – the intellectual stimulation, warm conversations and the lasting impression that Nuffield Scholars give to show that we are genuine proposition. The enthusiastic commitment of our Brazilian volunteers to try new approaches and develop our skills along the way has been great fuel for our engines.



Photo (L-R): Marina Scheffer Bortoli (Grupo Bom Futuro), Sally Thomson, José Maria Bortoli (Grupo Bom Futuro) and Roger Mercer

Hosting the 2017 Contemporary Scholars Conference, the first time to hold the event in an emerging economy, was a great success for both Brazil and Nuffield International. Nine days in Brasilia plus four post-CSC tours with only one scorpion bite, means we all got through it quite lightly! Thanks to Nuffield International for giving us the chance, and thank to all from being part of the journey so far.



Photos: (L): Farm visit as part of the first family weekend. (R) CSC farm visit to Verni Wehrmann

In the words of Fabiano Paganella, Chair of Nuffield Brazil:

“The improvement and evolution of agribusiness depends on the evolution of the people who work in it. The Nuffield mission contributes to this. Develop people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. We are very pleased to formalise Nuffield’s presence in Brazil and the network of people who are helping in this process of structuring and growth. The recognition of companies and people related to Brazilian agribusiness by Nuffield has been increasing and we have become better known every day because of our proposal to make a difference for agriculture”.