

INTERNET CONFERENCES AND COURSES HELP JOURNALISTS IN ARGENTINA

The IFAJ's first South American member, the Argentinian Circle of Agricultural Journalists (Circulo Argentino de Periodistas Agrarios, or CAPA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with an active program of training and events for members.

Even though CAPA has always been very active, in the last two years there have been a lot of changes in its membership, according to spokesperson Mercedes Colombres. A new generation of young journalists has started participating since 2004, working alongside more experienced members who have been running the organisation for the past 20 years. "In this 'new period' CAPA is organizing a lot of activities, specially designed to give agri-journalists across Argentina the tools to do better work," Colombres said.

Courses

Courses are being held for journalists across the country as an important way of providing basic knowledge about the problems facing agricultural production in Argentina. For example, a course about "Farm Machinery: Reality and Perspectives" was offered in March during FERIAAGRO, one of the most important agricultural expositions held in Argentina. "How we can produce more beef?" was also covered at Expochacra, another important event.

Internet media conferences

Internet media conferences provide easy access to information for journalists who are based far from Buenos Aires, the capital city, and who don't have easy access to other sources of information. Conferences have featured Miguel Campos, chief of the Agricultural Department in Argentina; Jorge Amaya, chief of SENASA, the public organisation which looks after animal health; and Lilita Carrio, an opposition leader who opposes the government's agricultural policies. Another conference involved a panel of beef experts talking about the impact of the recent ban on beef exports.

CAPA is also preparing the first guide to agricultural journalism in Argentina, and recently organised a national competition for journalists which offered \$10,000 in prizes. The winners were chosen by a jury which included senior representatives from the department of agriculture, the Institute of Agricultural Technology and CAPA.

CAPA 's executive includes president Matias Longoni (CLARIN JOURNAL), vice president Franco Varise (LA NACION), secretary Carlos Curci and Horacio Esteban (INFOBAE JOURNAL), Roderick MacLean (Supercampo Magazine) and Eduardo Bustos (NOTICIAS AGROPECUARIAS AGENCY).

More information about CAPA is available at www.periodistasagrarios.com.ar

Ends