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## Brazil

**Post:** Brasilia

### Brazil Confirms New Minister of Agriculture

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Agriculture in the News

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**Report Highlights:**

Neri Geller has been confirmed as the new Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil and will be sworn in on March 17, 2014. He will replace Antonio Andrade. Geller is currently the Under Secretary for Agricultural Policy in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply (MAPA). Originally from the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Geller has dedicated most of his professional life to farming and business in Mato Grosso. He has also been elected on numerous occasions to the Brazilian Congress.

**General Information:**

Mr. Neri Geller has been confirmed by President Dilma Rouseff to replace Antonio Andrade as Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply. He will be sworn in on March 17, 2014.

Geller, 46, was born in Selbach, Rio Grande do Sul state. He advanced his professional career as a pioneering businessman and farmer in the Brazilian agricultural frontier, specifically in the municipality of Lucas do Rio Verde, Mato Grosso state. Geller is soybean and corn farmer and owns a fuel distribution company.

Geller began his political career as a city councilman in Lucas do Rio Verde with an affiliation to the Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB), which is the principal opposition party to the current government. During 2007-2011, he was elected twice as a Congressman with the backing of the PSDB. In 2011, Geller changed his party affiliation to the Progressive Party (PP) and under the aegis of the PP, was elected again as Congressman. October 2013 he joined the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), which is part of the coalition of pro-government parties presided over by President Rouseff. Within the Brazilian Congress, Mr. Geller has been a member of the House Agriculture Committee. Most recently, Geller served as Under Secretary for Agricultural Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA).