

**AGRICULTURAL COLONIZATION IMPACT ON THE TROPICAL RAIN FOREST:
THE CASE OF MACHADINHO PROJECT (RONDONIA - BRASIL)**

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Machadinho is a Colonization Project created by the National Institute of Colonization and Agrary Reform (INCRA) in 1982 as part of the POLONOROESTE Project, financed by the World Bank. It is located in Rondônia State (western region of Brazilian Amazonia) and has a population of approximately 32,000 habitants living in an area of 209,000 ha divided in 2,934 plots of land for farming, 17 Florest Reserves, 15 urban areas and one airport. The 1986 and 1989 EMBRAPA's study showed that: 1) the agriculture's practice is totally manual; 2) settlers use the strategy of great multiplicity of small investments (animal or vegetal production) to avoid losses; 3) the use of modern technology is limited; 4) productivity is low; 5) life condition is of almost complete misery; 6) the capacity of capitalization is small; 7) there is a high incidence of diseases (such as malaria). These aspects have kept the same since 1982, however the allotment of space and resources for several activities have not kept the same in time. The great majority of agriculturists follow a production system, therefore confirming the non-random land use hypotesis. The capitalization level causes a diferentiation in this system, because it acelerates the process. The use of chain-saw, for instance, increases considerably the deforest area for cultivation. Therefor, showing that this kind of equipment is very useful in Colonization Projects in the brazilian tropical rain forest.

**Key Words: Colonization Projects, System of Production, Tropical Rain Forest
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