



SHADES OF GREEN VIII

📅 01/10/2019(<https://panamazonsynodwatch.info/2019/10/01/>) ⌚ 7:18 am 💬 No Comments(<https://panamazonsynodwatch.info/feature/shades-of-green-viii/#respond>)



Evaristo De Miranda

Sustainable Agriculture in Brazil

CHAPTER 6 – TROPICAL INTENSIFICATION

NATIVE FORESTS SAVED BY THE AGRICULTURE INTENSIFICATION

Brazil is the only country in the tropical belt of the globe to become an agricultural power. Management technologies have transformed poor soils into fertile land. The tropicalization of crops, with differentiated cycles, has enabled the use of lands in all climatic conditions. Sustainable management and practices are an arsenal of environmental advocacy[1].

In 1972, the grain harvest was 30 million tons for a planted area of 28 million hectares. In 2016, production was 240 million tons for an area of 60 million hectares. The cultivated area increased 80% and production, more than 500%. This “vertical” growth in production prevented the deforestation of more than 100 million hectares of forests and cerrados.

To produce current crops with the productivity of 1972 would require another 100 million hectares of new areas, incorporated by means of deforestation. Therefore, saving forests is not a promise not to deforest, but rather a fact of preservation derived from the green intensification of Brazilian agriculture.

The view of producers regarding the actual conditions of soil, water, biodiversity, photoperiodism and tropical climate led Brazil to disconnect itself from the agricultural heritage brought over by immigrants from temperate countries, and from technologies imported like black boxes. Consequently, new ways of practicing agriculture, livestock raising and forestry were devised. This enabled the intensification of production and the development of many adapted technologies, which have multiplied productivity exponentially and have allowed the conserving of protected areas, as well as the reduction of environmental impacts, thus ensuring agricultural sustainability.

Sustainability, however, is still invisible to the large urban public, accustomed to the criticism of the past, and having no access to the innovations in use in the field. Despite the excellent results obtained via mechanization; the intensification of land use; soil fertility management; industrialized pest and disease management/control systems; the expansion of genetically modified crops, and forests that have been destined to Brazilians are still ignorant about the origin of the food abundance on their table, the fibers used in thousands of products, and the energy available for them to take trips and to work on a daily basis. City dwellers still need to learn to see the improvement in their quality of life and well-being as a result of the intensification of agriculture on tropical bases. But their views on Brazilian agriculture have begun to change. According to recent research, Brazilians living in the country’s main capitals know about and take pride in the work being done by the immense agricultural chain, far from the great urban centers[2].

© Reproduction is authorized provided the source is acknowledged.

Positions and concepts emitted in signed articles are the sole responsibility of their authors.

[1] LOPES, Maurício Antonio. Intensificação sustentável é realidade no agro brasileiro. *Agência Embrapa de Notícias*, 29/11/2016. Available at: <https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/18530376/artigo-intensificacao-sustentavel-e-realidade-no-agro-brasileiro> (<https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/18530376/%20artigo---intensificacao-sustentavel-e-realidade-no-agro-%20brasileiro>). Access in Jul. 2017.

[2] PLANT PROJECT. Pesquisa inédita: cidade tem orgulho do agro. 09/11/2017. Available at: <http://plantproject.com.br/novo/2017/11/pesquisa-inedita-percepcao-do-campo-na-cidade-tem-orgulho-do-agro/>. Access in Nov. 2017.



Evaristo de Miranda

Is an agronomist and has a master's degree and a doctorate in ecology from the University of Montpellier (France). He is the author of 40 books and of hundreds of works published in Brazil and abroad. As a researcher at Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), he has already implemented and directed three national research centers. He is currently the General Manager of Embrapa Territorial.

◀◀ (<https://panamazonsynodwatch.info/books/environ>) ▶▶ (<https://panamazonsynodwatch.info/editorial/brazil>)

Pan-Amazon Synod Watch
729 likes

Like Page Share

Be the first of your friends to like this

Pan-Amazon Synod Watch
22 hours ago

A Pope With the "Myth" of the People: The following text is the talk that Sandro Magister gave at the study conference held on Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1 in Anagni, in the Sala della Ragione, at the initiative of the Fondazione Magna Carta, on the theme: "To Cesar and to God. Church and politics in the pontificates of John Paul

PANAMAZONSYNODWATCH.INFO
panamazonsynodwatch.info

Leave a Reply