

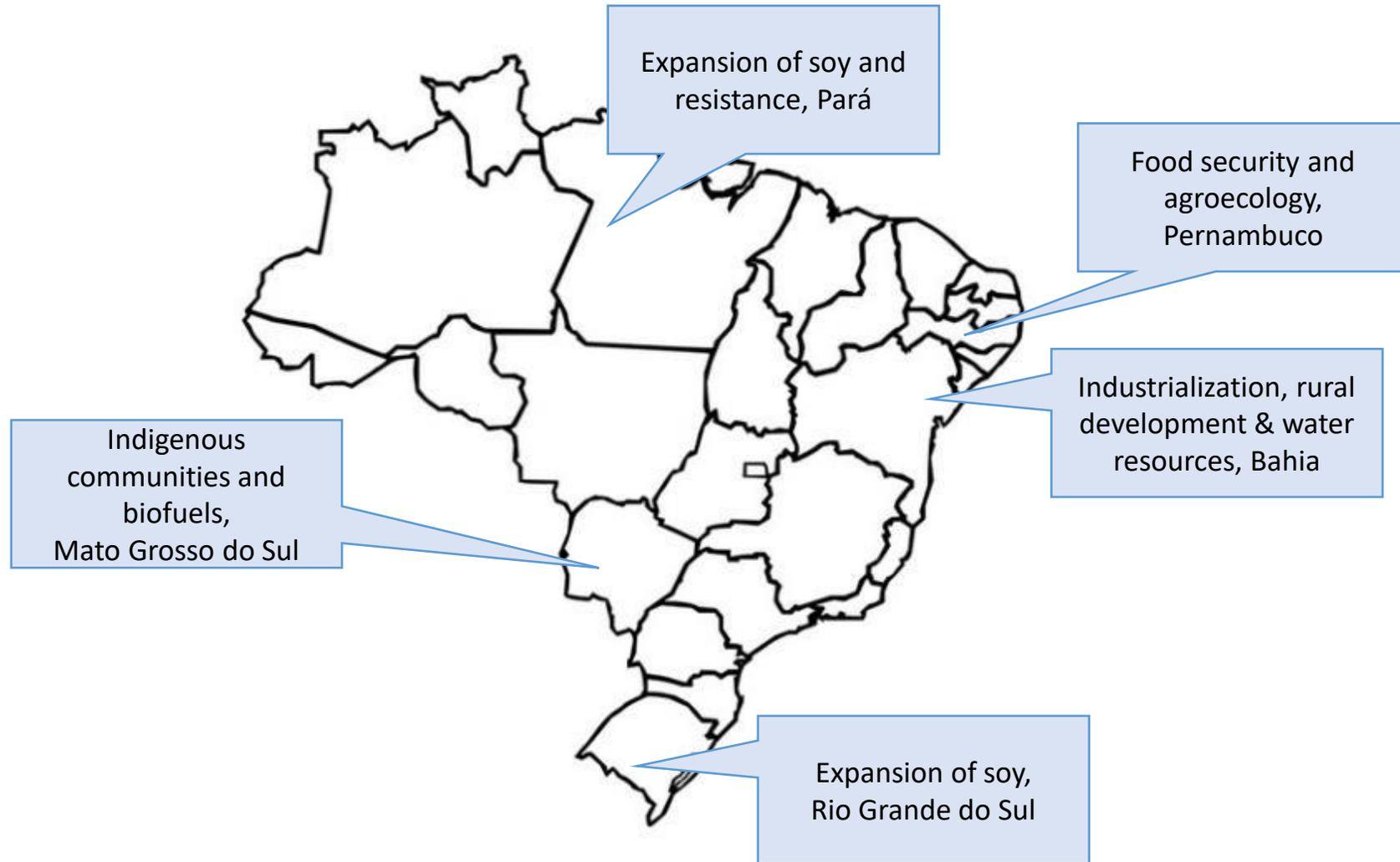
Agribusiness, Rural Communities and Resistance in Brazil

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GLOBAL-RURAL Brazil case studies



PROJECT COLLABORATORS IN BRAZIL

150 interviews, photographs, videos, field note, policy and documents collected between 2017/2018

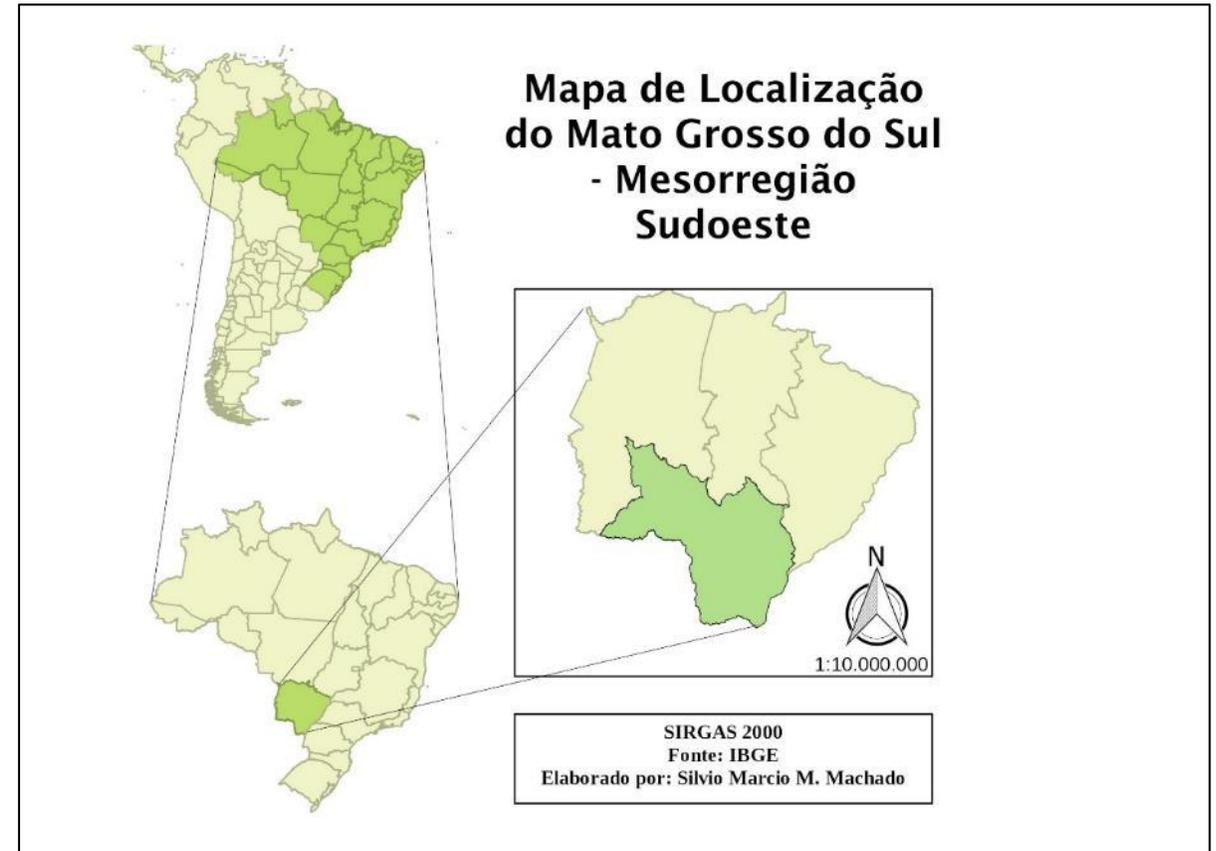
- **Centro de Educação Comunitária Rural (CECOR)**
 - For research conducted in Serra Talhada (Pernambuco)
- **Fundação Terra Mirim, Simões Filho**
 - For research conducted in the Metropolitan Region of Salvador (Bahia)
- **Instituto de Ciências da Sociedade, Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará (UFOPA), Santarem**
 - For research conducted in Santarém (Pará)
- **Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Baiano - Campus Santa Inês**
 - For research conducted in Dourados (Mato Grosso do Sul)
- **Programas de Pós-Graduação em Sociologia e Desenvolvimento Rural, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRG), Porto Alegre**
 - For research conducted in Dom Pedrito (Rio Grande do Sul)
- **Serviço de Tecnologia Alternativa (Serta)**
 - For research conducted in Ibimirim (Pernambuco)

1. Land grabbing and resistance in Mato Grosso do Sul



Land grabbing in Kaiowá and Guarani territories

- Creation of indigenous reserves (19th-20th century)
- 5,000,000 hectares to the Mate Laranjeira Company
- different ethnicities (the Kaiowá, Guarani, Terena and other ethnic groups) were forced to live together
- Constitution 1988



Right to the Land

“They are lands **traditionally occupied by the indigenous people**. They are those lands inhabited by them on a permanent basis, **those used for their productive activities**, those indispensable for the **preservation of the environmental resources necessary for their well-being** and those necessary for their **physical and cultural reproduction**, according to their uses, customs and traditions.”

Direito à terra



Davi Yanomami (a esquerda), presidente da Hutukara Associação Yanomami e funcionário da Funai na manifestação para retirada dos fazendeiros da região do Ajarani, Terra Indígena Yanomami, Roraima. 2013. Foto: Romário Cavalcante

A nova Constituição inovou em todos os sentidos, estabelecendo, sobretudo, que os direitos dos índios sobre as terras que tradicionalmente ocupam são de natureza originária. Isso significa que são anteriores à formação do próprio Estado, existindo independentemente de qualquer reconhecimento oficial.

O texto em vigor eleva também à categoria constitucional o próprio conceito de **Terras Indígenas**, que assim se define, no parágrafo 1º. de seu artigo 231:

“ São terras tradicionalmente ocupadas pelos índios as por eles habitadas em caráter permanente, as utilizadas para suas atividades produtivas, as imprescindíveis à preservação dos recursos ambientais necessários a seu bem-estar e as necessárias a sua reprodução física e cultural, segundo seus usos, costumes e tradições.”

São determinados elementos, portanto, que definem uma sorte de terra como indígena. Presentes esses elementos, a serem apurados conforme os usos, costumes e tradições indígenas, o direito à terra por parte da sociedade que a ocupa existe e se legitima independentemente de qualquer ato constitutivo. Nesse sentido, a **demarcação** de uma Terra Indígena, fruto do reconhecimento feito pelo Estado, é ato meramente declaratório, cujo objetivo é simplesmente precisar a real extensão da posse para assegurar a plena eficácia do dispositivo constitucional. E a obrigação de proteger as Terras Indígenas cabe à União.

Retomada

- Crossroads: stay or occupy?
- Lands now occupied by sugar, soy and corn plantations
- Expansion of agribusiness from 2000s
- Conflicts intensifies from 2000s
- 258 Kaiowá and Guarani leaders were murdered in Mato Grosso do Sul between 2003 and 2011



Eviction Day 28 March 2018





**No other place
left...**

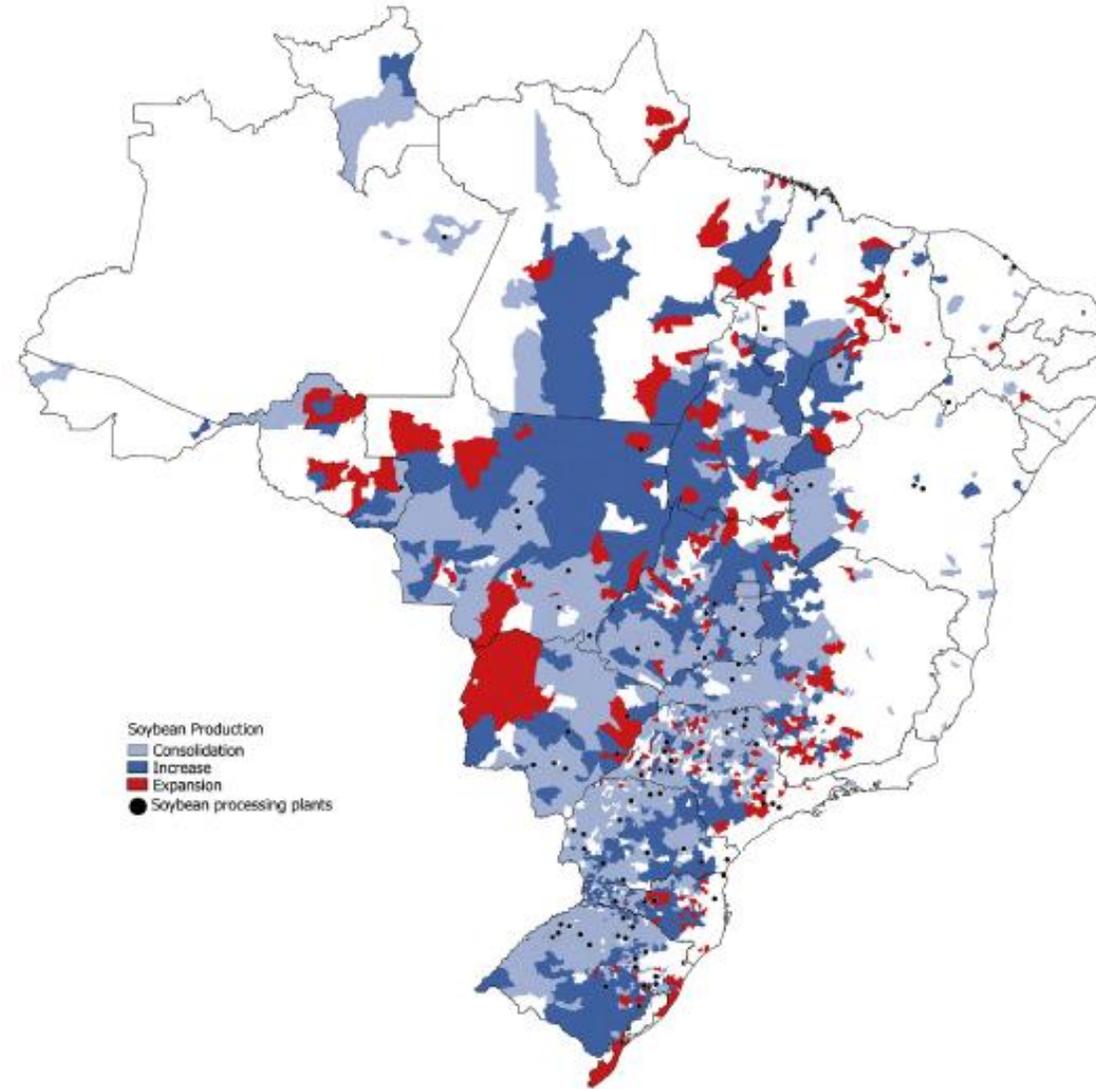
**Environmental
Issues:**

Air, soil and
water
contamination

Health Issues:

headaches,
stomach
problems and
sickness

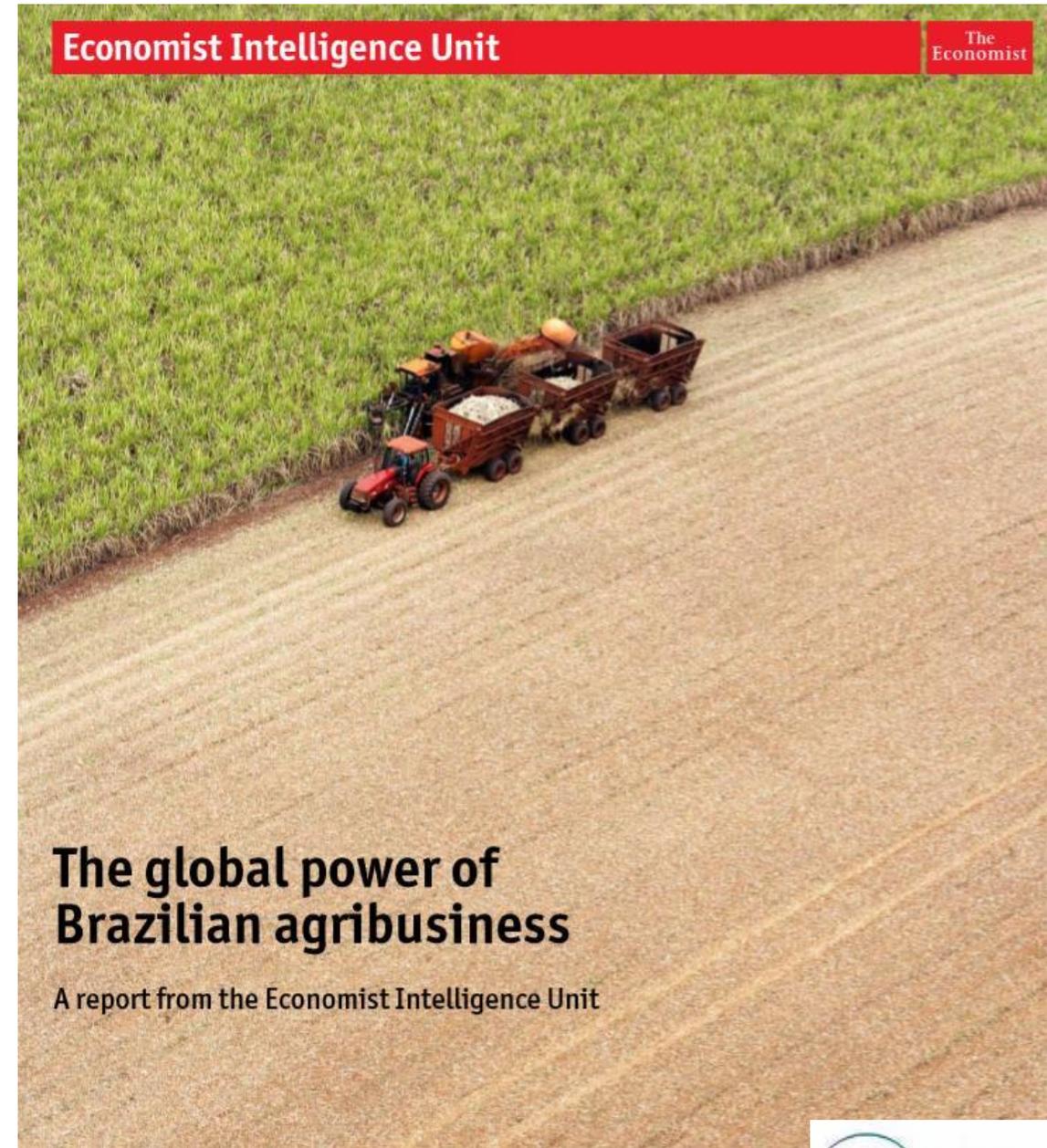
Consolidation and expansion of soy plantations, 2006-2014



Medina, G., and Pereira dos Santos, A (2017) Curbing enthusiasm for Brazilian agribusiness, *Applied Geography*, 85: 101-112

Agribusiness

- Large-scale monocultures
 - Transgenic crops
 - Industrialised agriculture mainly for exporting
 - Agro-chemical inputs
-
- Brazil is becoming a [global agribusiness powerhouse](#);
 - Brazil is supplying the [Four Fs to the world](#): food, feed, fuel and fiber,
 - [the future promises](#) of agribusiness for Brazil economic growth.



2. Soy on the Pampa?

Dom Pedrito, Rio Grande do Sol



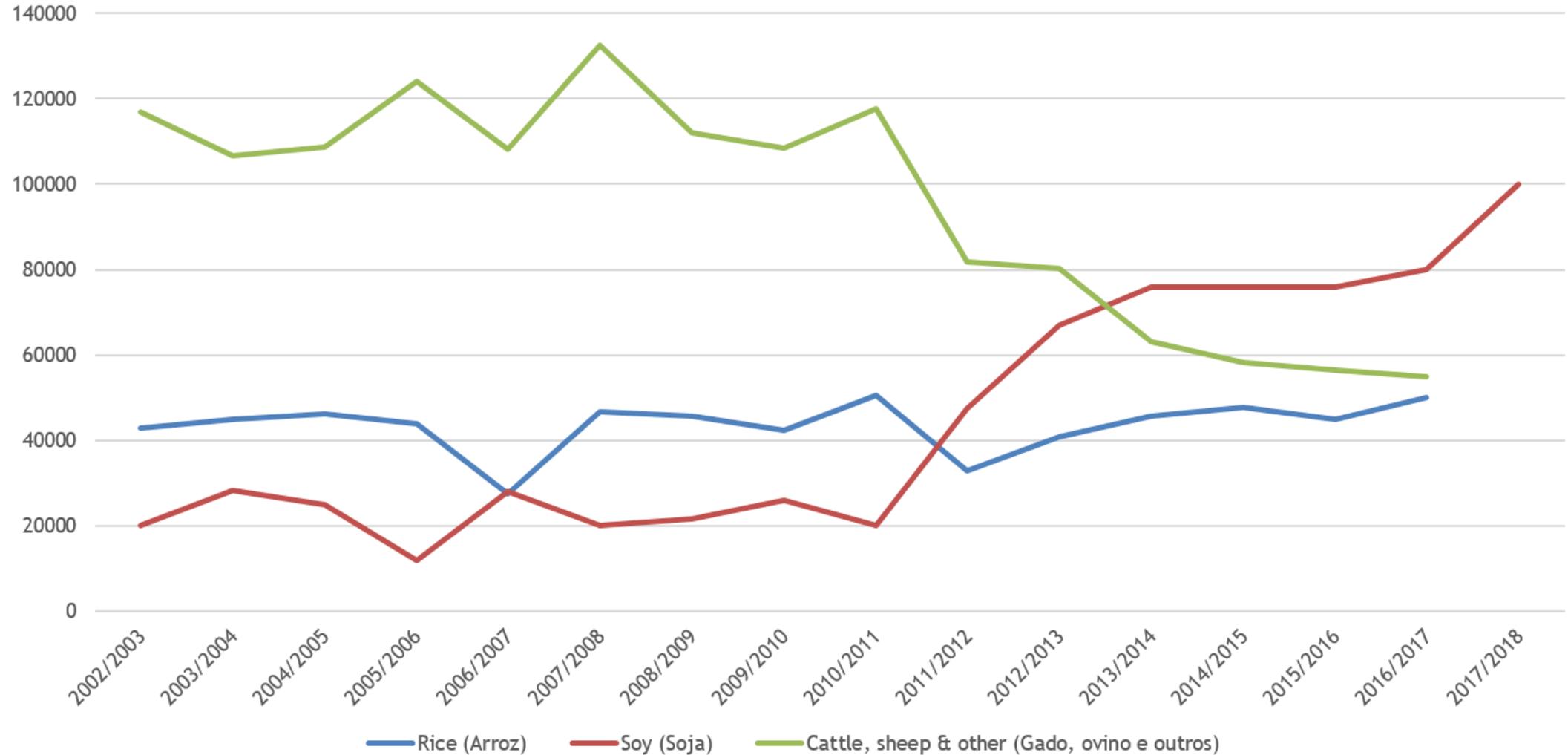
Rice and Soy

- Rice
 - Expansion of rice cultivation from 1970s
 - Development of Brazilian rice industry started with introduction of *japanoica* variety from Asia
 - Sold mainly on domestic market
 - Increasing competition from imports from Paraguay under Mercosur
- Soy:
 - Soy cultivation 1970s-1990s ended with falling world price on Chicago exchange
 - Rapid expansion in last few years driven by demand from China
 - Soybeans transported directly to port unprocessed & shipped to China



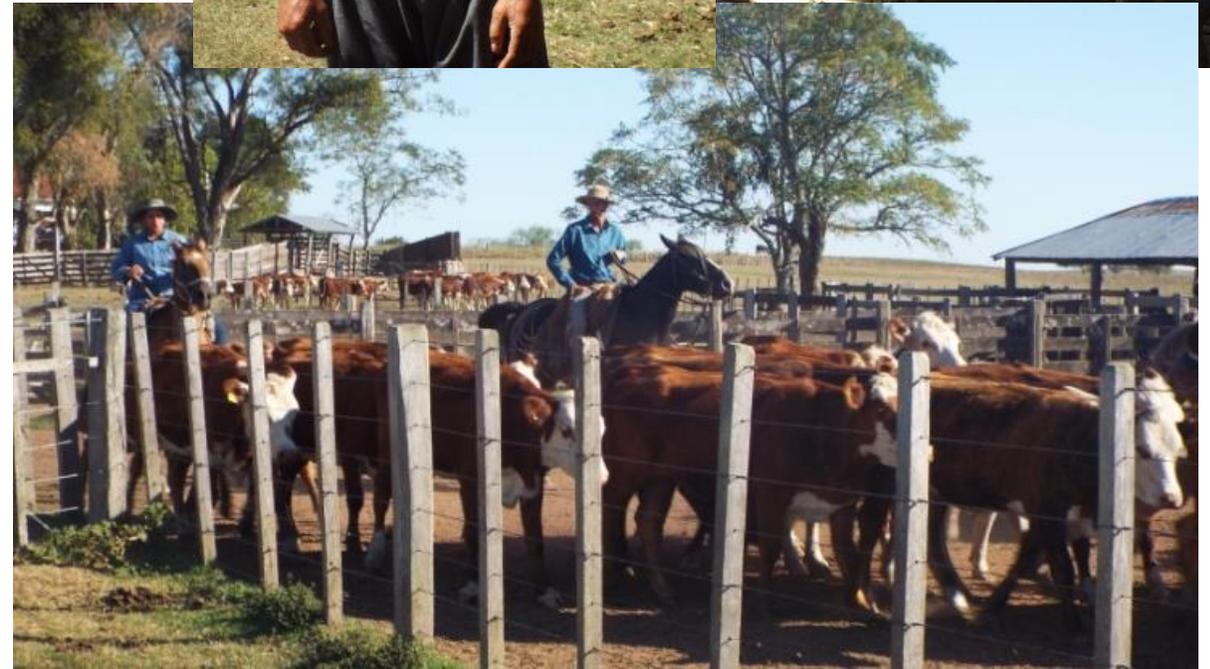
The growth of soy

Farm land use in Dom Pedrito (Hectares)



Wool and cattle

- Sheep & beef farming dominated from early C20th, with wealth especially from wool exports
- Collapse of wool price in 1960s blamed on aggressive Australian policies & US switch to synthetics
- Sharp fall in sheep numbers
- Cattle farming core to traditional livestock farming and *gaucho* culture, mainly for domestic market
- Modernisation and internationalisation
- Use of genetics etc and involvement of transnational biotech corporations



Impacts

- Components in the soy assemblage can have detrimental impacts when attached to other assemblages
- E.g. Chemicals (*agrotóxicos*) sprayed from air
 - Decline in bee numbers
 - Water and air contamination
- Invasive grass and weed species introduced to fields
- Fewer farm workers required for soy than for rice
- Inequalities between farmers, including increasing farm debt.

Resistance?





3. Micropolitics of resistance in the Lower Amazon mesoregion

Santarém

- A Gateway city of multiple frontiers
- Located between Belém and Manaus and originally subordinated to these cities
- Recently acquiring a new regional role

Resumo: Aborda-se neste artigo o percurso de Santarém como cidade portal de múltiplas fronteiras que se desenvolveram historicamente no vale médio do rio Amazonas e no vale do rio Tapajós. Através dos séculos a cidade comandou uma hinterlândia que passou por vários surtos econômicos, desde a coleta das drogas do sertão no início da colonização portuguesa à agroindústria de hoje. Localizada entre Belém e Manaus e historicamente subordinada a estas, Santarém hoje começa a sair da sombra delas e destacar-se como polo regional administrativo, comercial, cultural e de serviços especializados. Os surtos econômicos e as transformações socioambientais são interpretados com base no modelo de redes de cidades globais de Peter Taylor, adaptado à Amazônia com o conceito de cidade portal da literatura sobre fronteiras históricas no mundo.

Palavras-chave: Surto econômico; Cidade portal de fronteira; Amazônia; Pará.

Abstract: This article treats the historical role of Santarém as a gateway city of multiple frontiers of the middle valley of the Amazon and valley of the Tapajós Rivers. Over the centuries the city has controlled a hinterland that underwent a number of economic surges, from collecting natural spices, herbs and fruit of the forest in the beginning of the Portuguese colonization to agro-industry today. Located midway between Belém and Manaus, and historically subordinated to these cities, Santarém today has become a regional center for administrative, commercial, cultural and specialized services. The economic surges and socio-environmental transformations are interpreted according to the global cities network model of Peter Taylor, adapted to the Amazon with the concept of gateway cities from the literature on historical frontiers of the world.

Keywords: Economic surge; Frontier gateway city; Amazon; Pará.

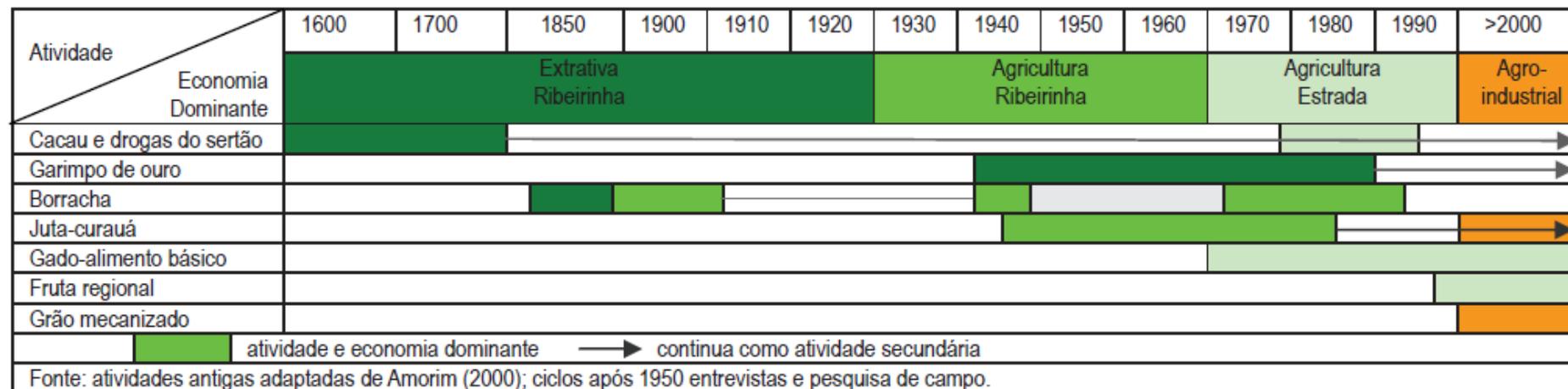


Figura 2 –Surto econômico por ecossistema em Santarém.

Cargill

- 2001 arrived in Santarém
- “Santarém Plateau was exceptional in the Amazon for mechanized agriculture” (600,000 hectares)
- Federal government call in 1999 to the construction of portual terminals
- 50 years concessions
- 3 silos of 18,000 tons and another one of 60,000
- Export capacity from 2 to 5 million tons
- Capacity of 20 ships per month
- 95% outflow of Mato Grosso production
- 160 mil tons from local producers

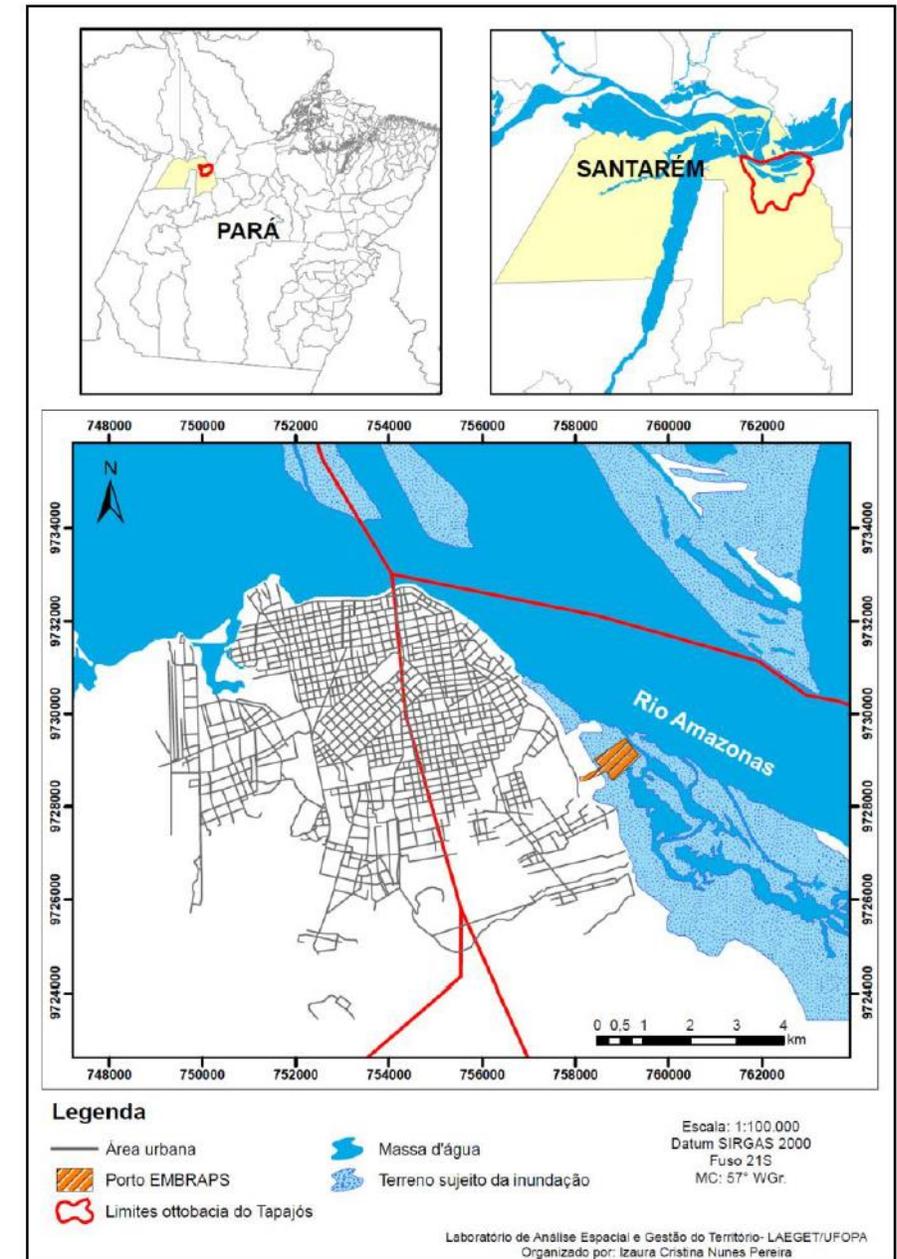


Maicá

- Riberinhos; fishing communities
- 21 communities
- Empresa Brasileira de Portos (EMBRAPS)
- 1500 fisherman



Figura 10. Mapa Localização do Porto da Embraps em Santarém (PA)



Fonte: Izaura Cristina Nunes Pereira Costa (2016).

Micropolitics of resistance

Networks of institutions:

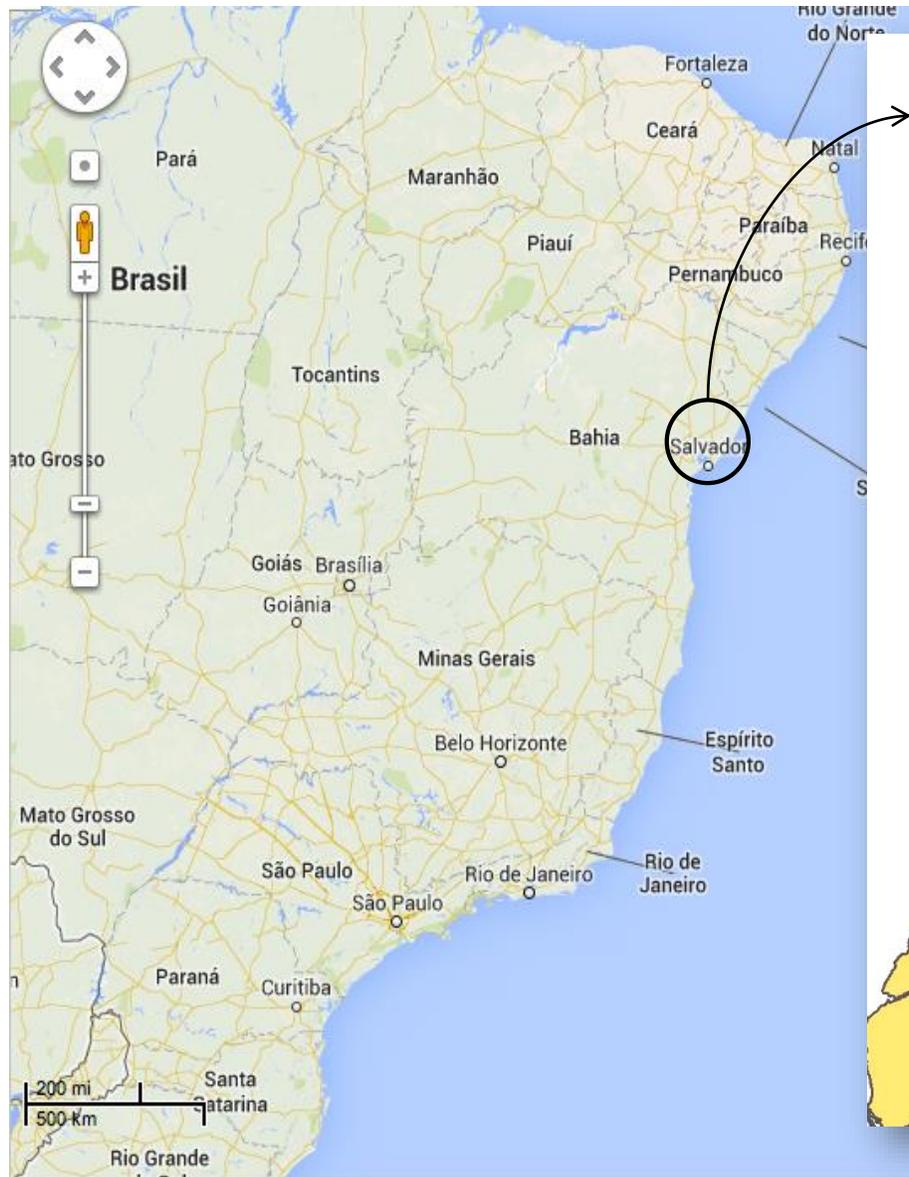
- Diocese of Santarem
- Rural workers Union
- Association of neighbourhood residents
- FASE
- UFOPA
 - “Considerando que o Rio Amazonas é um rio federal, a Secretaria Municipal de Meio Ambiente de Santarém (SEMMA) não é o órgão mais indicado para conduzir o processo de Licenciamento Ambiental do empreendimento, uma vez que os impactos do mesmo serão de âmbito interestadual e com impacto no mar territorial.”
 - Socio-economic impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Archaeological sites



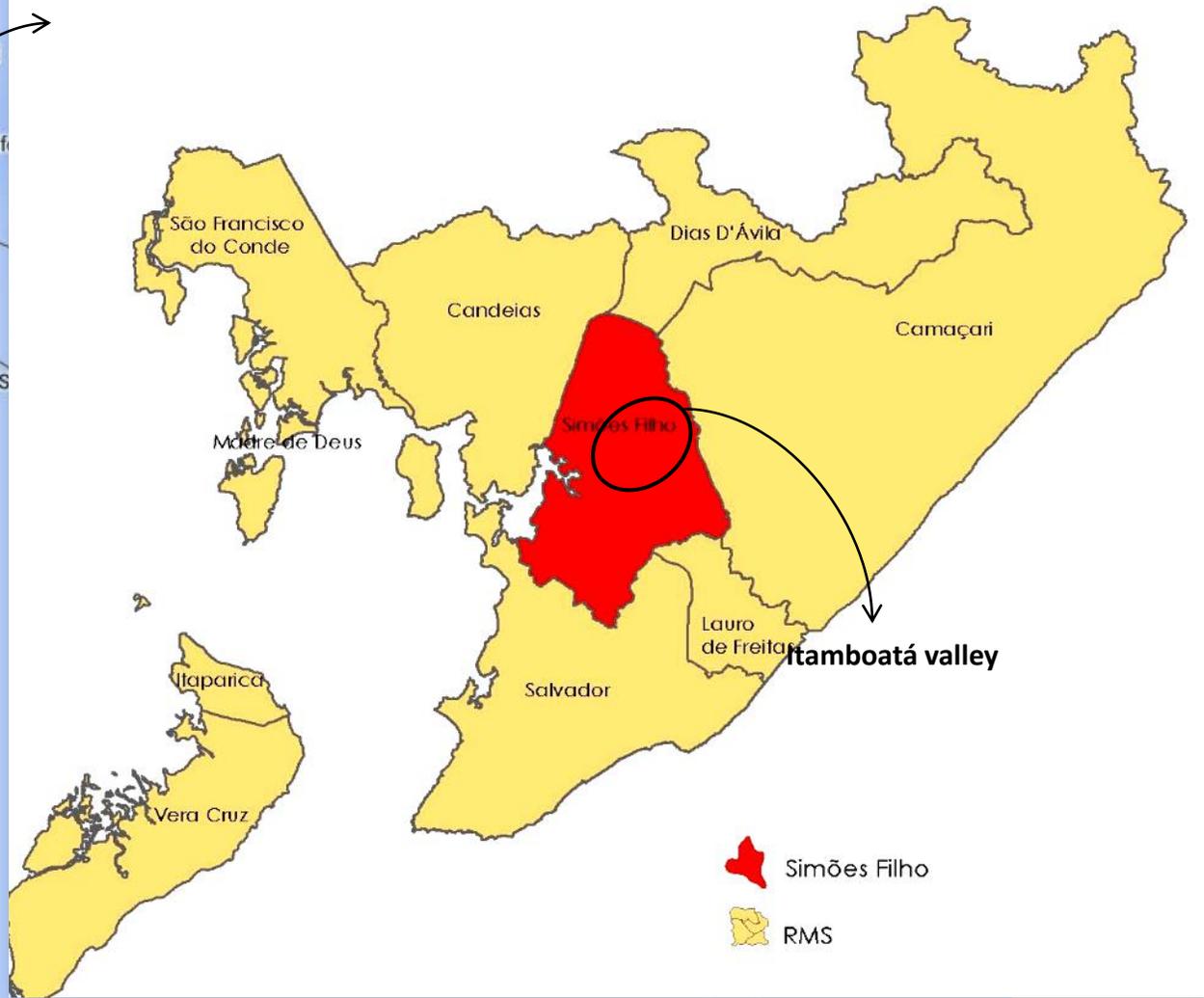


Beyond
agribusiness

**4. Industrial development in the
Metropolitan Region of Salvador**



Metropolitan region of Salvador (RMS)



Brief context of the Itamboató valley

- Indigenous population Tapuia until the colonization process in the 16th
- lands of Simões Filho municipality were predominantly used for the cultivation of sugar cane
- The emergence of Quilombos communities (or Quilombolas)
- In the 1960s, the Itamboató valley was affected by intense processes of industrialisation and urbanisation
 - Industrial Centre of Aratú,
 - the Petrochemical Complex of Camaçari
 - the Port of Aratú
- Simões Filho became a dormitory town registering a rapid increase in population with a population of 129,964. IBGE, *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística*.

Rural communities in Itamboató valley

- Neglected rural lands
- Fragmented territories due to pursuing of capitalist aims
- Logistic infrastructure
- “Bringing employment”
- Threaten the local tradition
- Leaders coaptation
- Environmental issues



Threats and micropolitics of resistance

March 2017

- Coca Cola new installation
- Landfill arrival
- Remaining part of the Atlantic Forest
- Network of local communities
 - Terra Mirim Foundation
 - Quilombos
 - Catholic community
- Difficulties?





5. Agroecology in Pernambuco Caatinga

Caatinga

- Migration trends
- Reputation
- 4 years drought
- *“Segundo Andrade (1989), o problema do sertão não é de ordem física, mas sim social” (Amancio Alves et al, 2008:149)*
- Expansion of livestock since colonial times (XVII century)
- “Since 1993, 201,786 km² of the caatinga had been transformed into pastures, arable land and other types of intensive land use (IBGE, 2007).”



Alternative assemblages: Agroecology

Agroecology as a science and a set of practices : ‘application of ecological science to the study, design and management of sustainable agroecosystems’ (Altieri 2002).

- The core principles of agroecology (Altieri & Toledo 2011):
 - recycling nutrients and energy on the farm, rather than introducing external inputs;
 - enhancing soil organic matter and soil biological activity;
 - diversifying plant species and genetic resources in agroecosystems over time and space;
 - integrating crops and livestock and optimizing interactions and productivity of the total farming system, rather than the yields of individual species (Gliessman 1998).

Alternative assemblages: Agroecology

- Polycultures
- Rotations
- Agroforestry
- Use of native seeds and local breeds of livestock
- Encouraging natural enemies of pests
- Using composts and green manure to enhance soil organic matter





- SERTA (Serviço de Tecnologia Alternativa) is an organisation of the civil society that has existed for 25 years
- “the farmers couldn’t be alone with themselves. We needed to connect with them” SERTA founder
- “principle of agroecology is to believe in us. Agroecology starts from the soul - from inside. It takes care of the relations.” SERTA educator

State	Municipality & Community	Ethnicity	Region	People
Pernambuco	1. Aguas Belas	also 2 Quilombolas	agreste	13
Alagoas	2. Delmiro Gouveia	-Asentamentos (MST) -Quilombolas	alto sertão	8
Pernambuco	3. Floresta • Carnabeira da Penha	-Pipipã (indigenous) -Pankará (indigenous)	semi-arid	12
			semi-arid	

Matriz Curricular

MATRIZ CURRICULAR CURSO TÉCNICO DE NÍVEL MÉDIO EM AGROECOLOGIA

Área Profissional: Eixo Recursos Naturais

Habilitação: Técnico em Agroecologia

MÓDULO I – BÁSICO E INTRODUTÓRIO			CH de 60 minutos Presencial	Tempo comunidade
INTRODUTÓRIO E BÁSICO	01	Comunicação e Expressão,	40	20
	02	História da Agricultura Familiar	40	20
	03	Introdução à Educação do Campo	50	20
	04	Introdução à Permacultura	40	20
	05	Práticas Agroecológicas – 01	10*	
	TOTAL			170
			250	

* Práticas Agroecológicas são atividades práticas de campo, construção de tecnologias, manejo do campo (animais, plantas, plantio, colheita), bioconstrução, manutenção do campo, mutirões e demais serviços práticos do campo. São realizadas ou pela manhã antes do café ou pela tarde antes da janta. Além desses momentos permanentes, acontecem com as aulas práticas das demais disciplinas. São orientadas por professores das diversas disciplinas e monitores. Não são avaliadas com notas como as demais.



- Providing an education that **valorises the territory** and agriculture
- **Challenging cultural discriminations** about the semi-arid region
- Oriented to young people
- Food security starts from creating a **new consciousness** among the young generations
- Teaching the importance of **traditional methods but together with technological innovations** that respect the nature, increase the efficiency
- Technical classes to read the landscape; have a good basic knowledge of geology, agriculture and so on.
- Collective activities inside the course ; what is a **mutirão**? A way to make a substantive change in a place.
- **Stopping young migration** to cities and other rural areas



Conclusions

- Attacks to human and environmental rights
- Threats and expansion
- Neglected needs of rural communities
- Variegated responses from rural communities
- Not passive actors
- Active networks in defence of the territory
- Social relations crucial to produce micropolitics of resistance





Thank you!

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