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Portrait of sugarcane suppliers of Microregion Nhandeara, SP.

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Suppliers are responsible for part of the sugarcane production in Brazil. According to ORPLANA, (Sugar Cane Growers Organization of São Paulo) approximately 17,000 suppliers are responsible for 25% to 30% of sugarcane in São Paulo. The raw material purchasing process is through partnerships between producers and plants that pay per ton of product. Most of the suppliers are associated with ORPLANA, which organizes the producers sugarcane class in the state and has 34 association regions. APLACANA (Association of cane growers in the region of Monte Aprazível) is one of those associations, which belongs to Nhandeara microregion and São José do Rio Preto administrative and mesoregion which also includes 40 cities, and represents 285 sugarcane suppliers. The purpose of this paper was to evaluate cultivation practices performed in this region using data from the association, which they belong. In 2013, harvest in the region produced over 3 million tons of sugarcane, in approximately 38,000 hectares this total represents less than 1% of total production in the state. Of the total produced sugarcane in the region, around 80% comes from properties that provide up to 10,000 tons of sugarcane; 10% of suppliers are responsible for producing up to 20,000 tons and the remaining 10% produce between 20,001 to 100,000 tons, or 53% of the regional total. The producers use seedling from commercial areas or RIDESA, which distributes clones and new varieties. The region predominantly uses manual production systems (96%) and only 4% of producers use mechanized planting systems. About the harvest, the use of machines has grown in recent years and in the 2013 harvest, 34% of suppliers have adopted the system, while the remaining 66% still manually harvest the cane. In this region is still used manual harvesting with burning, manual cutting with semi-mechanized loading and shipment. Because the standards of fitness for Agro-Environmental Protocol producers strive to fit new rules, abolishing the burning. Technological advances available to the industry require rapid modernization and new production arrangements, and environmental and social appropriateness, creating difficulties for those suppliers to remain on the market. Thus, new government policies that enable the improvement of new suppliers would ensure the achievement of sustainability according to the criteria recommended internationally.

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