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### **Characterization of sugarcane production systems on São José do Rio Preto/ São Paulo Mesoregion**

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In recent years, Sugarcane has expanded to new regions due to large groups from São Paulo looking for the extension of culture. Those areas are concentrated in South-Central of the country and traditional states, such as Minas Gerais, Paraná and São Paulo. The main extension of EDR's (Escritório de Desenvolvimento Regional) in the state of São Paulo between 2000 and 2013 were Araçatuba with 185,3% , Andradina with 406%, Presidente Prudente with 619% , São José do Rio Preto with 684% and Dracena with 736,3% (IEA, 2014). This expansion, especially in São José do Rio Preto region replaced agrieconomics activities such as animal husbandry and citrus agriculture. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the sugarcane production system in São José do Rio Preto macro region and Nhandeara microregion checking the techniques used by new producers in the region. In this article it was used the survey methodology of data analysis provided by APLACANA (Association of sugarcane producers in the region of Monte Aprazível). This association represents sugarcane suppliers from 40 cities of this region. From this data, were classified five types of sugarcane production system, three systems of plantation and two systems of harvesting, according to the set of activities and agricultural operations, which reflect the level of applied technology in the system. Currently in this region are concentrated 285 producers, mostly small producers, who grow raw materials in 48 thousand hectares. In the year 2013, the local farmers had produced over than 3219 million of tons of sugarcane. Around 80% of the local farmers produced less than 10,000 ton, 10% reached 20,000 tons, 5% reached 50,000 tons and only 0,7% produced more than 100,000 tons of sugarcane per year. About 96% of producers in the region have a manual system of planting and only 4% have mechanized systems. About the harvest, only 34% runs with mechanized systems while 66% performed manually with burning; mechanized systems are the main difficulty of local producers in the region. According to APLACANA, due to scarce hand labor, most producer pays for the plants to harvest their own production, thereby increasing costs. So according to the collected data, it is correct to conclude that despite that the manual production system is predominant for sugarcane expansion at South-Central and at some regions of the state of São Paulo, at this specific location. It is conclusive, that the cost of technology deployment, specifically mechanical harvesters, is prohibitive because of the large number of small farms. These traditional methods of planting and harvesting turned up the sugarcane scenario, in this region, socially unfriendly what suggests that some policies or strategies with technical recommendations can support the producers to face the market more and more demanding for sustainable solutions.

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