MANGO INTEGRATED PRODUCTION SYSTEM IN THE SUBMÉDIO SÃO FRANCISCO RIVER VALLEY, BRAZIL: PRESENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES[1]

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The expansion of the mango growing area depends on the generation/adaptation of production technologies, as well as on the consumer market tendencies, which nowadays requires better quality fruits. Brazil needs to adjust itself to the agricultural production systems like Fruit Integrated Production (FIP), which has the objective of economically producing high quality fruits, obtained by ecologically safer methods, which minimize the collateral undesirable effects of the use of pesticides, increasing the environmental protection and improving human health. The FIP System in the Submédio São Francisco River Valley began in 1999 with the elaboration of an environmental diagnosis of the region, followed by monitoring insects and diseases, training of technicians and farmers, studying the productive chain, elaborating data bases and procedures for mango integrated production. Today, the Program counts on the participation of 26 mango export farms, amounting to a monitored area of 2,939.53 hectares. This Program is based on the integration among scientists, farmers, consultants and extension people, both from public and private institutions. Research studies are being carried out in order to generate and diffuse new technologies, products and services which can be adapted to the situation of the Brazilian mango farmers.