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ABSTRACTS



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THE TECHNOLOGICAL DIVERGENCES OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CYCLES IN THE AMAZON

Homma, A. K. O. (Embrapa/Amazonia Oriental, Brasil)

This research is part of a broad study of the influence of the technological innovation in the history of Amazon agriculture in the last five centuries, started in 1996. A chronological report was made of the principal events, persons, institutions, public policies, technological innovations and others, that influenced the Amazon agriculture throughout the last five centuries. The great dependence of the Amazonian economy on foreign markets since the beginning of European occupation conditioned the cycle length in function of natural resource stocks, the incapacity to respond to international scenario changes, carrying out the accumulation of dissatisfaction of previous cycles. The incapacity of generation of self technology in response to changes in the reduction of natural resources stocks, always outdated (219 years for cocoa, 63 years for rubber, etc.) and new technology constraints could be pointed as the principal reasons of the continuous reductions of natural resources stocks in Amazon. Nowadays, despite the preservationist view about Amazon, the process of creation of the Second Nature are actively impelled by great infrastructure building complying with foreign interest, through "humanized destruction". The creation of new cycle based on mineral extraction, hydroelectric power plants, biodiversity, production and export of grains, wood extraction, reforestation, cattle, intangible environmental service, among the principal are being materialized. The negation of the conflict between technological supply and demand, can leave the counterbalanced and "humanized destruction" without major benefits to the regional population.

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WHICH FUTURE FOR TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE IN AMAZONIA ? MANIOC BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PRESERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY.

Pinton, F. (Université Paris10-Nanterre, France)

The preservation of a traditional agriculture in Amazonia is chiefly linked with the deterioration of other means of living such as extractivism, but it can also be interpreted as the consequence of a double inability : the resistance of forest people against technological innovation and the fact that the institutional actors are incapable to sustain agricultural development. Consequently, it weakens regional production for the market and frequently jeopardizes the living conditions of the rural communities. On the other hand, the rise of global environmental issues and more specifically the problem of biodiversity help to re-attribute some virtues to traditional farming and the FAO and some NGOs are making themselves the spokesmen of these virtues. This agriculture could indeed play a considerable part in the conservation of phylogenetic resources. In this perspective, we intend to identify the characteristics of traditional agriculture, through analysing the main cropped species in Amazonia : manioc (*Manihot esculente*), a crop of neotropical origin which can be found on various ecological and cultural contexts. It is the chief subsistence crop and the chief source of income for petty commodity producers, presenting a great diversity of varieties, which grow thanks to collective experiments. The control of the production process allows a great flexibility to the system, which reinforces food security thanks to the permanent possibilities of help and exchange between producers. But those qualities tend to be fragilized in a more and more unsure environment and /or because they are faced with the development endeavours of the manioc production network organized by the government and applying practices that are far from gathering the support of communities.

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DOMINAÇÃO VIOLENTA NO MEIO RURAL BRASILEIRO

Esterci, N. (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil)

As relações entre patrões e empregados no mundo rural brasileiro, se orientam muito frequentemente pelo modelo da dívida, do favor e da obrigação, baseado no pressuposto da desigualdade entre as partes (Bohanann, Shleton Davies). No passado três situações são exemplos clássicos de atualização desse modelo: o colonato introduzido nas fazendas de café de São Paulo, ainda no século passado; a morada, que prevaleceu na 'plantation' açucareira do Nordeste nos anos 50; e desde o início do século, a relação de aviação nos seringais da região Norte. Mais, recentemente, um modelo semelhante foi praticado na fase de implantação de grandes fazendas agropecuárias na Amazonia, quando os governos militares pós-64, decidiram estimular grandes grupos econômicos a investirem na região. Pensando estas situações a partir das teorias de dominação (Weber, Simmel, Bourdieu) pretendo: 1) focalizar as formas pelas quais se articularam nesses casos o uso da força física com o uso da violência ritual na reprodução de modelo em cada caso; 2) considerar as dimensões de gênero, geração e parentesco em que se apoiam simultaneamente os mecanismos de dominação e as práticas de resistência.

