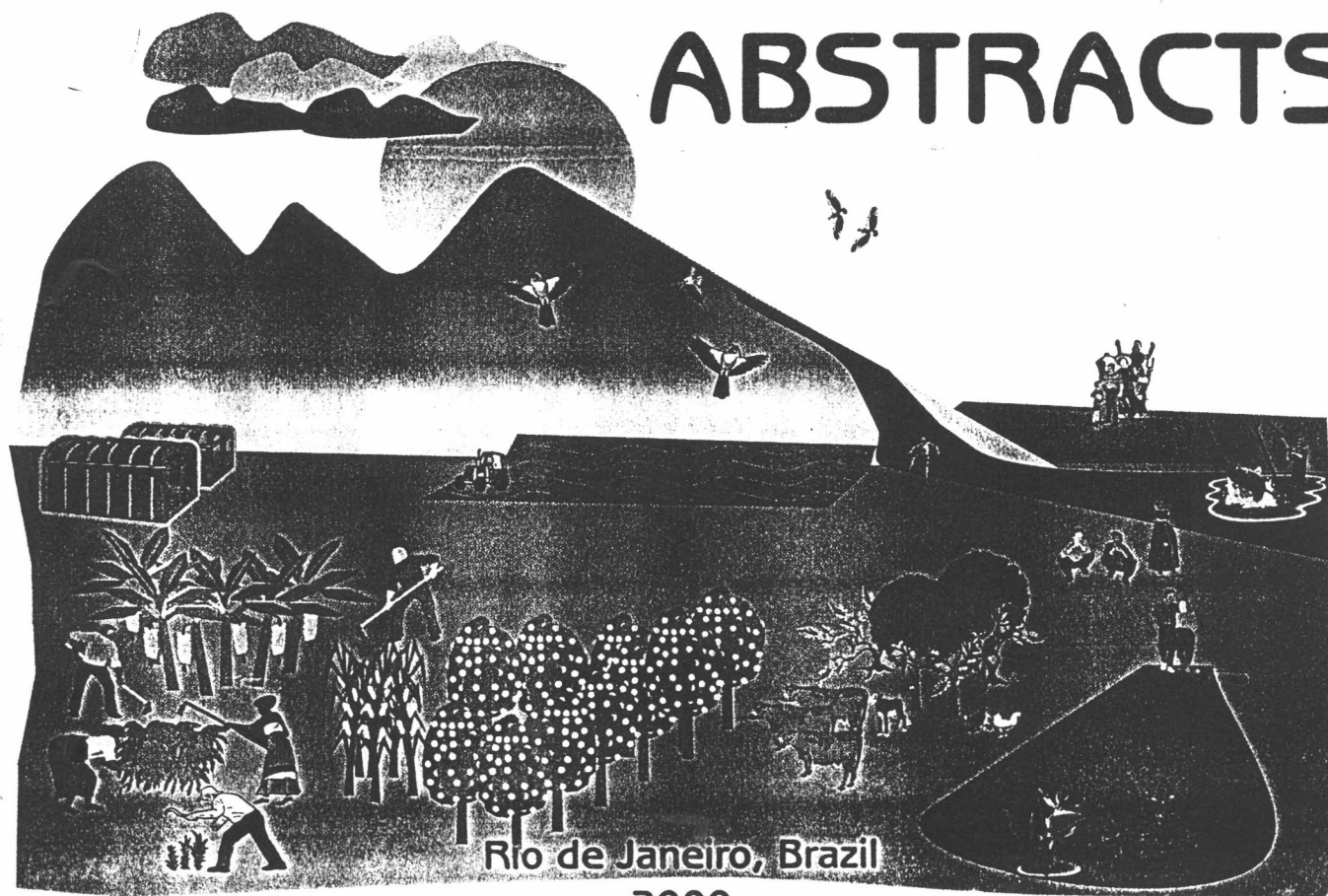


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ABSTRACTS



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SUSTAINABLE LAND REFORM AND FAMILY FARMING IN THE MAKING OF A NEW RURALITY.

Leroy, J. P. (FASE, Brazil)

The interpretation of various experiences of family farmers and *assentados* in Brazil can lead to the following formulation of rural sustainability: a) Each *assentado* or family farmer that has a small farm with a land title, all of the men, women and youngsters, each *assentamento* and each rural nucleus (family farming area where land reform has granted regular legal status to peasant lands), and the thousands of *assentamentos* and rural nuclei together...b) should be able to ensure life as human beings, as members of local organizations and collectivities, and as citizens of a national territorial collectivity...c) by means of activities concerning both the preservation of their own environment (environmental sustainability) and the use of natural resources, in ways that ensure the long term continuation of production with the maintenance of biodiversity (ecological sustainability), as well as the quality of life with dignity and safety (economic and social sustainability), and the exercise of citizenship (political sustainability)... d) extending these activities to the region and to the country, beyond agriculture and beyond the present moment, so as to create conditions for a sustainable society.

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THE ECONOMIC REASONS OF NATURAL RESOURCE DESTRUCTION: THE CASE OF BRAZIL NUT TREES IN THE SOUTHEAST OF THE PARA STATE

Homma, A. K. O. (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Brasil); Carvalho, R. A. (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Brasil); Ferreira, C. A. P. (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Brasil); Nascimento Júnior, J. D. B. (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Brasil)

This research was conducted from 1997 to 1998, supported by the Para State Fund for Science and Technology (FUNTEC), to analyze the causes of destruction of Brazil nut trees in the Southeast of Para State. This region has already extracted more than 22,000 tons of shelled Brazil nuts in 1973, and in 1995, the amount extracted was less than 1,500 tons. Analysis of Landsat satellite imagery in the period 1984 to 1997, showed that 70% of the area of Brazil nut trees has been deforested. For this analysis the NPV was determined for five different systems and interest rates, considering the option of the peasant not to deforest the plot of land of 50 ha for extraction of Brazil nut or cupuaçu fruits in the planning horizon of 0 to ∞ , or to sell the Brazil nut trees for wood extraction, gradual deforestation for growing annual crops, and transforming in to pasture and cattle production, as it is traditionally done, in the Southeast region of Para State. The results showed that the cutting of Brazil nut trees, despite prohibition since the 1960's, is also related to the declining of economic competitiveness with other alternatives. If the annual flux of net benefit from the extraction of Brazil nut and cupuaçu fruit is higher than selling Brazil nut trees for wood extraction the conservation is viable. Under the current circumstances it is necessary to increase by four the actual net income obtained by the extraction of shelled Brazil nut, in a 50 ha plot of the untouched land.

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PUBLIC POLICIES AS INDUCERS OF BRAZIL NUT TREES "ANNOUNCED DEATH" IN THE SOUTHEAST OF THE PARA STATE

Homma, A. K. O. (Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Brasil)

This research was conducted from 1997 to 1998, supported by the Para State Fund for Science and Technology (FUNTEC) to analyze the causes of destruction of Brazil nut trees in the Southeast of Para State. This region has already extracted more than 22,000 tons of shelled Brazil nuts in 1973 and, in 1995, the amount extracted was less than 1,500 tons. Analysis of Landsat satellite imagery in the period 1984 to 1997, showed that 70% of the area of Brazil nut trees has been deforested. This research analyses the major historical facts, events, persons, public policies, infrastructure, and others, since the foundation of the Burgo de Itacaiúnas in June 7th, 1898, originating the city of Marabá and the process of occupation of the region. In one century of the process of occupation and the destruction of Brazil nuts trees increase after 1969, having as reference point the connection of the Marabá to the Belém-Brasília highway. The principal results showed that the destruction of Brazil nut trees was a deliberate action of public policies in conducting the "announced death" (opening roads, fiscal incentives, colonization process, implementation of Great Carajás Program etc.). Its is paradoxical to conclude that, despite the environmental pressure after 1988, arising from the murder of Chico Mendes, for instance, the Ibama, has authorized the cutting of dead and unproductive Brazil nut trees for wood extraction, the settlements of colonists by Incra in areas of occurrence of Brazil nut trees, invasion of MST, and so on.

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ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND COLLABORATIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN BRAZIL

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Collaborative approaches to natural resource management have been identified as an effective method to simultaneously forward human development and protect the environment. These efforts typically bring together government officials from all levels, community groups, NGOs, researchers, as well as international development agencies. This paper critically examines inter-organizational relationships within collaborative resource management efforts in Brazil. The results are based on in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observations conducted as a USAID / Michigan Population-Environment Fellow between 1995 – 1997 and a follow up study in 1998. Overall, the process of collaborative management was found to foster a homogenization of objectives and resource management alternatives. The power conferred to international organizations and government agencies due to institutional and funding structures led to their domination of these processes and raises serious doubts about their "collaborative" nature. In addition, the importance placed on science, and scientists, in defining alternatives was found to be highly differentiated based on level of education and between international and Brazilian organizations. Differing perceptions of science was a significant barrier to generating agreement on environmental management strategies. This study suggests that efforts to promote collaborative natural resource management must address the inherent power differentials between the diverse organizational actors as well as alternative definitions of science and the environment. If not, it is likely that unsustainable patterns of development will likely be replicated in the future.