

**From the experimental station to the farmer's field:
A proposal for development research**

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Content of Abstract:

The present proposal is part of a major analysis of agrarian systems carried out in the municipality of Igarapé-Açu, Bragantina region of Pará State. The goal of this analysis was to present a model which could contribute to the process of regional agrarian development in a participative way. While elaborating the study we met several challenges, which – after a process of critical reflection – led us to articulate and construct a model or a mode of conceiving agrarian development on the basis of six fundamental aspects. The first aspect is the need of creating a new concept among social actors involved in the regional agrarian space (researchers, extensionists and academics in general) which gives account of the practices developed by peasants in a coherent way. This new concept – on which our proposal is based – is the concept of *peasant coherence*: *Agrarian producers know what they are doing and why they are doing it. If we, researchers, extensionists and academics in general, want to contribute to their development, we first of all need to understand their logic.* The second aspect refers to the construction of an instrument which could reveal peasants' coherence, i.e. *why there is a diversity of production systems in regional agriculture, how they work and what their logic is.* For this purpose, we propose a type of study which understands agriculture as a systemic activity. The third aspect encompasses the construction of a scheme able to define internal and external aspects of agriculture, allowing to understand *how* the dynamics of regional agrarian development work and of *which* elements this dynamic is composed. The fourth aspect is related to the need of constructing an *interdisciplinary* team (here, interdisciplinary work refers to the *interaction among subjects* with different professional formation and who *want to build something together*) in order to study regional agriculture with the double objective of analysing and characterising the conditions of its reproduction, and of contributing to a policy of regional agrarian development. The fifth aspect refers to the need of determining the *scope of participation*, understood as a *process of building together*. The sixth aspect is related to the way *how a participatory process of agrarian development can be implemented* and to its *progressive and necessary steps*.