



V SIMPÓSIO  
DE BÚFALOS  
DAS AMÉRICAS



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## **Diagnosis of Buffalo Breeding Farms in the *Recôncavo Baiano* for Genetic Improvement Program<sup>1</sup>**

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Brazilian buffalo farming concentrates half of the herd in the Northern region of the country, and the remaining animals are scattered throughout all the other states. The state of Bahia is the second largest producer in the Northeast, with nearly 20 thousand animals. Its production started in the 1920s with the Carabao breed from the Marajó Island, which was later replaced with the Murrah and Mediterranean breeds. Cheese and meat production supplies the local market, especially Salvador and Feira de Santana, and one of the production centers is the region known as *Recôncavo* (at Aramari, Catu and São Sebastião do Passé, respectively located at 12°04'58.22''S and 38°29'56.27''W; 12°21'12.13''S and 38°22'43.53''W; 12°30'50.00''S and 38°29'42.64''W). Farms in this region participate in the project "Genetic analysis applied to buffalo selection (*Bubalus bubalis*) for high quality meat and milk", which is headed by EAO, in cooperation with the UFRB. This project's objective is to meet part of the national demand for high merit animals. Farms 1 and 2 are located in S. S. do Passé, farm 3 in Catu, and farm 4 in Aramari. Farm 1 has 374 animals, 64 of which participate in the project, and farm 2 has 594 animals, 77 of which are participants. On both farms, milking takes place twice daily, and that operation is mechanical on farm 2. The animals are kept under pasture and are fed with concentrate after milking. As for breeding, natural mating (MN) is used on farm 1, but artificial insemination (IA) has been gradually phased in; and farm 2 uses IA. Farm 3 has 28 animals included in the Project. Manual milking takes place once daily, and the animals are kept under pasture and bred through MN. Farm 4, with 60 animals, has 30 participants in the project. Animals are kept under pasture, milking occurs once daily and MN is used for breeding. There are differences between the farms concerning the zootechnical facilities, number and type of milking operations and milk destination. Milk Control started in April and the project is to be completed in 2012.