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## PRODUCTION SYSTEM OF SUGAR CANE IN SÃO PAULO STATE - BRAZIL: A CONCEPTUAL MODEL

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The production of sugar cane in Brazil started only 25 years after its discovery in 1500 and is currently one of the main agricultural crops of the country. The sugar cane stands for one of the oldest cultures in Brazil, presently, the cultivation of sugar cane is the third largest planted area in Brazil, mainly because it represents an alternative and renewable source of energy. The most prominent producing region is the South-Central-Southeast with more than 85% of production and the largest national producer is the State of São Paulo with approximately 60% of this production. The production system of sugar cane is complex: the production plants depend on sugarcane growers and capital goods. The products alcohol, sugar and energy are distributed to fuel and electricity distributors, food industry, wholesale and retail, trading and exporting. The environmental and social equity concerns have been strengthened in recent years, especially due to market globalization. As a result of the society awareness that has emerged from the new global posture, the need arises for adjustment of agricultural activities or agro-industrial processes for the entire production system to generate positive impact for the environment and society. This article aims to show the information raised and organized about the of system production sugarcane in the São Paulo State and from that create a proposal of conceptual model of this system. This model will be validated by experts of Sugar Cane Sustainability Area. This work can be the basis for future sustainability assessment of the production of sugar cane.

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