

THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

Field Dialogue on Tree Plantations in the Landscape (TPL) in Brazil 12-16 March | Espírito Santo e Bahia, Brasil

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD VISIT LOCATIONS

VERACEL STATION PRIVATE RESERVE

Theme: Area of High Conservation Value with legal status of protection (RPPN- Private Reserves of Natural Heritage)

The Veracel Station Reserve (RPPN) is the largest private reserve of the northeast of Brazil and the second largest one in the Atlantic Rainforest biome. It represents one of the main remains of Atlantic rainforest in the extreme south of Bahia and the Atlantic Rainforest Corridor. The reserve also has historical value, as it harbors the spring of river Mutari, that flows into "Coroa Vermelha", where Pedro Álvares Cabral, the Portuguese discoverer of Brazil, provided freshwater to his crew.

The reserve is among the 20 protected areas of the world with the highest number of individuals and highest number of tree species. It was identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) for its important role in the protection of fauna species globally threatened of extinction. It is also considered an Important Bird Area (IBA), as it hosts significant populations of bird species that are globally threatened of extinction. The importance of Veracel Station RPPN is recognized internationally with the title of World Natural Heritage Site, given by UNESCO in 1999.

OUT GROWER TREE PLANTING FARMS

Theme: Rural properties as wood producers for paper and other uses.

The farm that will be visited is called Monte Pascoal, and is located in the district of Monte Pascoal. Part of it is in the municipality of Itabela, and the other of Porto Seguro, Bahia. The property is owned by Dr. Armando Rodrigues, that has his son Renato Rodrigues as its manager.

The property was acquired by the Rodrigues family in the mid-2000s. Until 2003, the main activity was cattle ranching, with around 1000 units of livestock. In 2003, Dr. Armando was presented with the possibility of becoming part of the Forest Producer Program, which he considered a viable and interesting proposal.

In 2011, the property acquired forestry certification, in the group I SLIMF of the Association of Forest Producers (ASPEX) forest certification. The farm has around 930 hectares, being 392 hectares eucalyptus out growers (Veracel contract), 49 hectares of independent eucalyptus plantations and 271 hectares of residual forests. There are four families living in the farm.

SETTLEMENTS OF AGRARIAN REFORM

Theme: Insertion of the agrarian reform settlements and small agricultural communities in the forestry supply chain.

The Jaci Rocha settlement: the project began with a historical deal between Fibria and MST in Bahia. After years of conflicts with MST occupations, followed by Aracruz Celulose (former Fibria) repossessions, both parties dialogues with the mediation of diseased professor Paulo Kageyama. The agreement foresaw that Aracruz would voluntarily transfer the property of two farms for the land reform and construct an agroecology school for settlers in partnership with the Government of Bahia. The development of agroecology and agroforestry was also agreed upon, to produce sustainable food resources for sustenance of the settlers.

QUILOMBOLA TERRITORIES

Theme: Respect to the rights and opportunities for insertion in the forestry supply chain.

Coxi Quilombola Association: Quilombola Community for small quilombola agriculturers that is totally surrounded by Fibria. It has an enormous tradition of flour production and of its byproducts, that are commercialized in local fairs and in schools and the Food Acquisition Program.

São Domingues Quilombola Co-op: The Co-Op was created was created in partnership with Fibria to create alternative source of income for a group of 22 families of the community that lived off wood theft and collection of eucalyptus residue. A good part of the co-op members had a long history of conflicts with the company, arrests for theft and other issues. The partnership with Fibria allowed for a new form of entity, an elaboration of a business plan and the provision of forestry services to Fibria. It also created the opportunity for new strategic partnerships with Instituto Vontariam and BNDES, the national development bank, among others.

INDÍGENOUS RESERVE

Theme: Respect of rights and lessons learned

Aldeia Areal: The village was reconstructed after the indigenous reserve was demarcated in 2009, after the occupation of a factory. 11 thousand hectares were returned, and became twelve villages. The chief of Aldeia Areal, Mr. Jonas, is the eldest one and knows all of the history. In the village there are 40 to 50 families, the quantity is constantly changing and growing due to the advantages presented by the partnership with Fibria, that is allowed by the chief.

The sustainability plan of Tupiniquim e Guarani (PSTG) was created in the twelve villages. Fibria works only with families that chose to, with agroecology, beekeeping and artisanal work with the women. To benefit all, Fibria is constructing a flour mill with AITAA, an association of this village.