



Universidade Federal do ABC



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The misconceived notion of a successful Brazilian agriculture and some difficulties to endogenize an external model

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PEAPA

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF
AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN AFRICA

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Point of departure

- Brazilian agriculture is known as a successful model based on a bimodal structure (agribusiness + family farming sector)
 - A successful model?
 - A peaceful coexistence between sectors?
 - A transferable model?

It is not a model

5.1 million of unities

4.3 million of family farmers' unities

800 thousand of non family farmer's unities

12.9 million of people

11 millions on family farmers

1.7 working on non-family farmers' unities

US\$. ~60 billion (2006)

US\$.20.5billion by 3 million of family farmers

US\$.40 billion by non-ff

1.3 million of family farmers' properties without monetary income

Complementar and contradictory coexistence

We have not two models but five agriculture segments

1 Agribusiness (Embrapa model)

(high level of productivity and income)

2 Big land owners

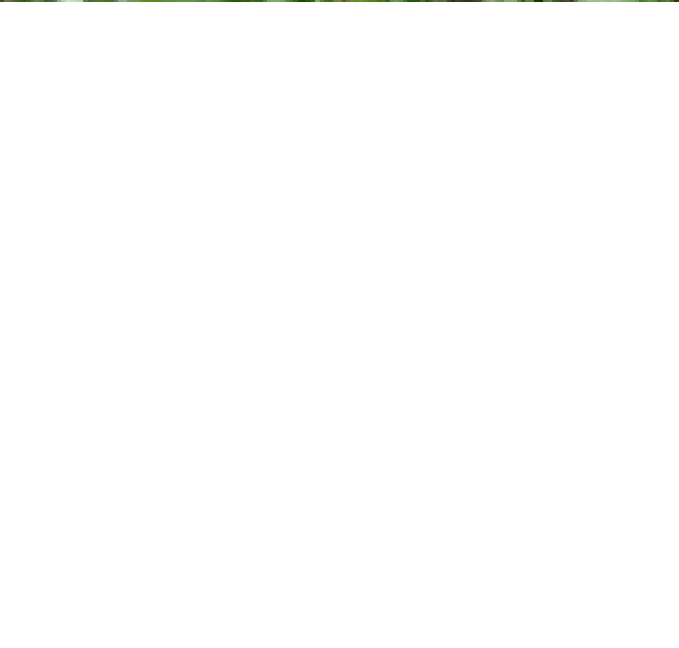
(low level of technical modernization and productivity + **political power**)

3 Peripheriferal family farming (MDS Policies)

4 Intermediate family farming (MDA/Pronaf model)

5 Consolidated family farming (Embrapa model)





The role of political conditions

The coexistence between big enterprises and family farmers in Brazil is not a simple consequence of public policies well designed.

Public policies are a consequence of social pressure

- Modern Brazilian big agriculture as an answer to problems of food scarcity and social conflicts under the military dictatorship (60s and 70s)
- Family farming policies were also adopted as an answer to the pressure exercised by rural social movements (90s)

Endogenous forces driving changes and the constitution of local coalitions around policy making

The role of a strong State

There were some political and institutional requirements to the constitution of the instruments responsible for the success of Brazilian agriculture

6 axes

- national credit system
- national research system
- national training system
- national infrastructures
- multisectoral integration and coordination
- social policy against poverty,

Strong State financing and coordinating the modernization process, adapting technologies, creating capacities + Social actors driving State policies

The role of extra-agriculture factors

Infrastructure + technologies + investments + access to markets = high levels of production

Social negative impact caused by agribusiness' technology intensive model and its subsequent low necessity of work force = poverty

These can be offset by decentralized urbanization and economic diversification creating local markets and other opportunities to absorb excess work force

Environmental problems derived from intensive use of water and soil, or derived from loss of biodiversity

It could be offset by low input and high diversification technologies (ecological requirements of future agriculture) but not available for large scale use

Issues for African agriculture

An experience, not a model

Brazilian experience should be received in Africa as a complex and contradictory experience. It is necessary to choose what aspects to be applied and under what institutional conditions, rules and incentives

Bulding capacities, beyond import resources

External resources are needed to boost African agriculture. Yet local capacities need to be built

Opportunities: New model (leveraging foreing expertise and resources)

Problems: Dependency and reproduction of exogenous trade-offs

Thank you!

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