

# ***Strengths and limitations of the Round Table for Responsible Soy – RTRS in Mato Grosso, Brazil***

Mateo Mier y Terán G.C.

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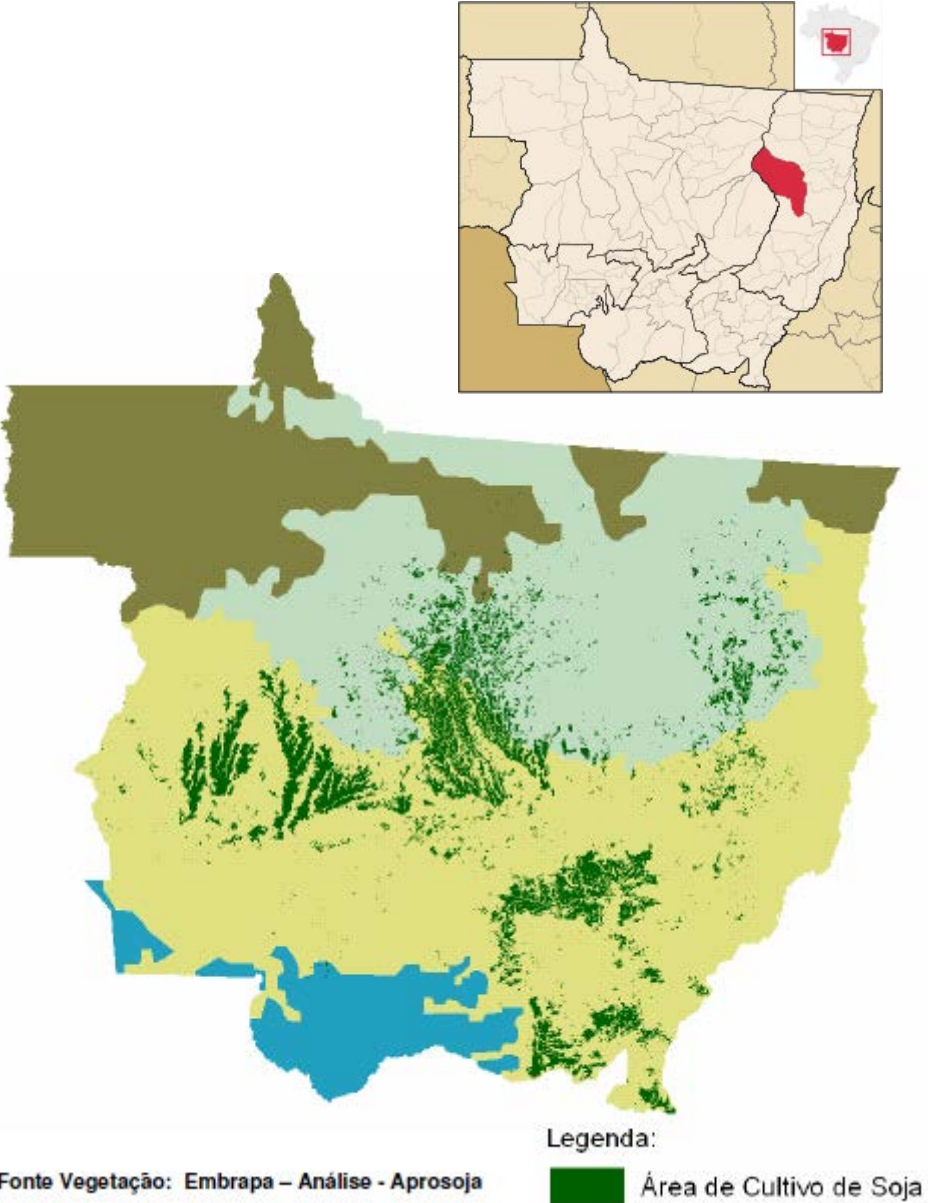
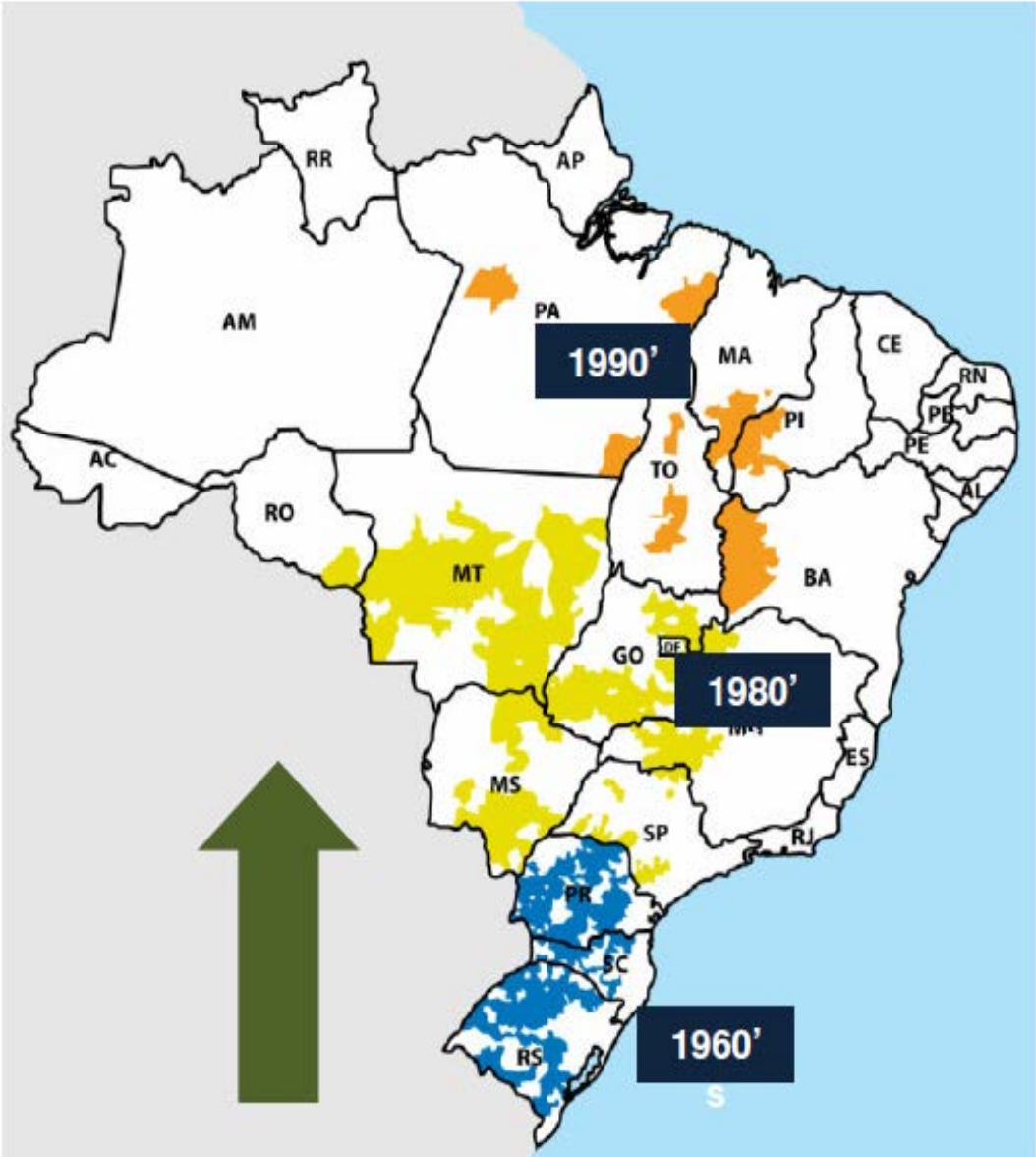
Organised by the **Land Deals Politics Initiative (LDPI)** in collaboration with the ***Journal of Peasant Studies*** and hosted by the **Future Agricultures Consortium** at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex



## Questions:

1. What are the purposes of the RTRS generally, and in Mato Grosso in particular?
2. Are land investment and sustainability goals made compatible through it?
3. What are the underlying politics of the process?
4. And who wins and who loses with the certification initiative of the RTRS?

# Soybean production in Brazil and Mato Grosso



Source: Aprosoja

# Querência, MT

## Local Sustainable Agricultural Practices



- Consensus around having Areas of Permanent Preservation – APP (Forest Code), but there is a process to make this possible. How to reforest?
- Multiple initiatives from the government and diverse types of partnerships
- Producers are organized politically

# Stories (macro-narratives) of a sustainable soybean agri-food system

1. *Denial Narrative;*
2. *Minimal Responsibility Narrative;*
3. *Incompatible Alternatives Narrative;*
4. *Environmental Pragmatism Narrative*

# *Denial Narrative*



# *Minimal Responsibility Narrative*



# *Incompatible Alternatives Narrative*





# *Environmental Pragmatism Narrative*



## The RTRS principles:

- 1) Legal compliance and good business practice
- 2) Responsible labor conditions
- 3) Responsible community relations
- 4) Environmental responsibility
- 5) Good agricultural practices

# Reflections around the RTRS initiative I

- a) **Actors motivations: Image management / CSO (Arts, 2002, van Huijstee & Glasbergen 2010) and coordination and information management / value chain analysis (Henson and Humphrey 2010)**
- b) **Pre-defined conception of responsible and sustainable principles**
- c) **Minimum standards**
- d) **Heterogeneity of producers and stakeholders**
- e) **Dismissed power relation along the chain**

# Reflections around the RTRS initiative II

- f) **Transition to sustainability**
- g) **Which producers will be able to take advantage of the potential opportunities offered by the RTRS and which producers will be marginalized by this initiative?**

# Questions

- 1) Does it make sense to emphasize the role of the middle holder?
- 2) Relation between the RTRS and the State
- 3) Evaluating the RTRS – multiple changes (reformism) with strengthening alternatives in parallel (The incompatibility paradox)
- 4) Relevance of case studies

**Criticisms and comments are welcomed**

**Thanks**