



# Academic<sup>th</sup>

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ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“CLEANER PRODUCTION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION”

## **From the Amazon's Traditional Knowledge to Innovation: An Study of SME Natural Medicines Producers in Manaus**

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### **Abstract**

Using the approach of Local Productive Arrangement we did a case study on innovation in Manaus (Amazonas/Brazil) with the goal of researching Micro and Small Companies which, together with local research and fostering institutions, make up an agglomerate which produces cosmetics and medicines based on indigenous knowledge and natural prime materials from the Amazon. Considering the neo-schumpeterian methodology, we found that there are product and process innovations, and at the same time we find characteristics of an underdeveloped economy. In spite of the difficulties we show that it is possible to innovate in regions on the periphery of global capitalism, such as the Amazon. There is a need for more robust institutions to increase feasibility of cooperation based on mutual trust. We conclude that to intensify the innovation processes in the value chains we need greater local content and not only prime materials, thus including specialized services and products and capital assets. Notwithstanding, even recognizing recent conquests, we finalize this Project also mentioning huge barriers in the regulatory apparatus (legislation) that need to be overcome.

**Keywords:** *Micro and Small Companies, Amazon, Traditional Knowledge, Innovation.*

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