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Practice and Procedures in Agroecology

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Abstract

All the data for this article have been collected and organized during the specialization course in Rural Family Agriculture and Education offered by 19 Universities in Brazil. In this course, the student Edvânia de Souza Silva wrote, under my supervision, the thesis 'Formation for the Transition of Conventional Agriculture to Agroecology Agriculture: The case of the diffusing family of Pajeú Mirim-Tabira/PE. Our research environment is the community of Pajeú Mirim, located 18 km away from its main city of Tabira. From the gathered data and debates developed there, we produced this article in order to raise thoughts about the speeches and practices built through our research process. Our main proposal is to contribute to the formation of a new professional in the family agriculture scenario in the countryside of the Pernambuco State. Thus, we gave priority to the learning experience of techniques, methodologies, and acquaintance among the 'true authors' of this history - the agriculturists - in a way to develop actions together, therefore contributing to the formation and understanding of the current transition from a conventional agriculture to a process based on agroecology. To achieve that, we focused on the use of different alternatives to help in the production system recovery, managing plagues, and diseases with natural defenses, rational use of water through an irrigation system by micron-aspersion and dripping. Our main research question relates to the agriculture scenario in the countryside that involves less diversification and lack of hydric infrastructure. In areas for agricultural production, families who own lands nearby the dam of 'Brotas' and the Pajeú river, plant fruits and vegetables using agrochemicals. In such manner, the debate on economic and environmental sustainability raises questions about changing the current planting culture to an agrochemical-free environment. Our methodology was based on the community needs and demands, considering the importance of theoretical approach for the farmers. Hence, the following activities were carried through:- Mobilization within community reunions, for a better interaction between agriculturists and researchers so they could preview and understand their own problems and demands;- Informal interviews with people from the community; - Trainings related to the negative impact of agrochemicals usage;- Trainings related to agroecological alternatives as a preparation for the natural defenses in the handling of plagues and diseases;- Experience and knowledge exchange between agriculturists and researchers. Our research sample consisted of three families with a certain level of awareness, following these criteria: to have access to their own water in their properties, which is an important requirement for proper production. That was possible because the families are located near the Pajeú river.

Keywords: agroecological, economic and environmental sustainability, natural defenses, rural Family agriculture and education
