



## **SHADES OF GREEN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN BRAZIL**

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One of the biggest challenges for Brazilian agribusiness is communication. The image of Brazilian agriculture does not depend only on what it does or on what it is. It depends on what it can communicate to customers, partners and consumers in Brazil and around the world.

The book **Shades of Green** contains surprising and little-known data about the sustainability of Brazilian agriculture. It is an instrument for expanding the dissemination of irrefutable facts on the subject, both here and abroad.

The book presents a little-publicized reality: the consistent sustainability of Brazilian crop and livestock raising. It is not the work of chance, nor is it the importation of solutions generated abroad. Brazil's sustainability is the result of the technological evolution of production systems adapted to the climate, soils and other conditions of cultivation, grazing and reforestation in the tropics, thanks to the entrepreneurship of producers and the innovations generated by Brazilian research.

In its third edition, this work is also being published in Mandarin (besides the originals in Portuguese and English). This will make it possible to extend the book's message to the general Chinese public. Currently, China is the main export destination for our agricultural products.

The researcher **Evaristo de Miranda**, agronomist, with a Ph.D. in Ecology, uses a colloquial style and scientific work by Embrapa Territorial to present figures, maps and facts about the use and occupation of lands in Brazil.

Concrete and measured examples include, for example: the preserving of native vegetation on millions of rural properties; the strength of renewable agroenergy production; no-till planting; tropical intensification; agricultural and forestry integration; advances in the use of biological agents; green and carbon neutral livestock raising; increased agricultural recycling; and circular economy in various productive chains.

Rural Brazilian producers preserve 26% of the national territory on their rural properties. And they cultivate only 7.8% of the country, compared to an average of over 50% in most developed countries. Brazil dedicates 66.3% of its territory to native preservation: an area larger than the territory of the European Union. These data have been confirmed by other studies, such as those released by NASA, FAO, the United Nations Environment Program, and other scientific and non-governmental institutions.

For Brazilian agriculture, sustainability is imperative: it implies producing more and more, with preservationist technologies for soil, water, flora and fauna. Brazil and the world need to know the decisive role of our rural producers in maintaining preserved areas and in sustainable land use, producing renewable energy, fiber and food by means of modern, diverse, innovative and tropical technologies.

Those who explore the pages of this work will discover a new and revealing image of agricultural activities in Brazil: its worldwide distribution will nourish a new perception about the main contours of the environmental reality linked to agriculture in Brazil.

Tereza Cristina

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply

Brasília, 2019

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