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The good news from the field

ONLINE

Brazil: Integration Agriculture - Livestock – Forests are using 6x less area to produce the same of plantations realized of conventionally form, says research.



Photo: Embrapa

Study led by BASF in partnership with Unesp Sorocaba City and Embrapa shows of technology can avoid deforestation, fight hunger and be more sustainable

BASF, German chemical company, presented a study in partnership with Unesp Sorocaba city about Crop-Livestock-Forest integration to enhance the effectiveness of the system. The experiments were done for two years in the unit of reference technological farm Santa Brigida belonging to Embrapa, located in Ipameri City (GOIÁS - STATE). As methodology, it was used the system AgBalance, that measures and evaluates the sustainability in agriculture. The results

were released in this last week at an event for journalists in Campinas City (SP - STATE).

The results show, in comparison with conventional systems of planting and farming, the integration Agriculture / Livestock / Forest uses six times less area to produce the same quantity, in the contexts analyzed by the study. It means a better use of land and reduction of deforestation for the expansion area. Also as a result, there are advantages recovery of degraded soils by livestock, reusing them in agriculture, increasing organic matter in soils and maintaining this standard for a long time.

With the LPF integration, continues the research, it was possible to jump from just an annual grain harvest, with average yield of 3.5 tons per hectare for soy plantations, off-season (with brachiaria), livestock and forest in 11 months of the year (over a crop / year), adding 10.5 tonnes of grain per hectare, in addition to the average of 180 kg of meat in the same area.

The sustainability of a property isn't only in agricultural production results, but also supported the pillars social and economic. These are also benefited: according to the research, 36% more partner-eco-efficient and 54% more economically lucrative.

According to Eduardo Leduc, Vice President Senior of Crop Protection unit of Basf from Latin America, iLPF is one of the tools to grow more food for producing more food to population in the world, it might to reach in 9.5 billion people in 2050, demanding an increase of 70% in food's production. "Integration can help produce not only food, but energy to the property," he explains.

The iLPF is already a reality in some properties in Brazil. Embrapa accompanies data's of this system and estimated in 2013 there're 2.8 million hectares with integration. "Today in very parts of country in Brazil, there's two crops, off-season, and it can also integrate livestock with the system. It might gest energy from biomass, to create economy for the property," says Leduc.

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