

CERAMIC INDUSTRY OF CAMPOS DOS GOYTACAZES COUNTY, RIO DE JANEIRO STATE, BRAZIL

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The project was accomplished in the sedimentary plain of Campos dos Goytacazes that served as support for the sugar industry and agriculture. The mineral activity was implanted in the middle of 1930. With the abundance of high quality's clay and low cost, the ceramist industry was developed, constituted by 130 companies according to the Secretaria Municipal de Meio Ambiente de Campos dos Goytacazes. It generate about 2,600 direct employments, producing 100,000 bricks /week/company, and consuming 50m³ of clay/week/company. The ceramic companies explore the superficial layers of the Quaternary plain, represented by coastal, paludal and fluvial sediments, deposited in the Paraíba do Sul river delta system. The fertile superficial horizon, of about 2.5 m thickness, was compacted by decades of exploration by agriculture. When this layer is extracted, come into view fertile - organic sand underground, rich in nutrients. Then, these areas become compatible with the reutilization for the agriculture, with great productivity of sugar cane, corn and fruits. Another uses are an economic reforestation for industry energy source and utilisation of the current depressions for the fish farming. In this case the mining has generated benefits to the agriculture, permitting the appearance of a fertile soil, rich in organic matter, of good porosity and humidity, from the retreat of the compacted superficial layer.