

Brazilian Cerrados in Northeast Region : The Challenge of Sustainable Development

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At the southern region of the Parna ba basin, which consists of permo-pensilvanian sediments, part of the second largest Brazilian ecosystem can be found. This is the Brazilian Savannah vegetation, so called Cerrados, forming a unique landscape area which covers approximately two million square kilometers in Brazil.

Such a region belongs to the states of Piau  and Maranh o and was considered the country's last agricultural frontier at the beginning of the last decade. Other regions of Cerrados had been explored for many decades; starting in the south, moving to the midwestern and northern regions of Brazil.

This paper discusses the natural conditions which have made this region attractive for crop growing, especially soybeans, rice and beans. Among these conditions we will consider landscape aspects, the availability of mineral deposits useful in agriculture and meteorological and climatical data.

On the other hand, exposed is one of the main factors which has contributed to the opposition of the cultivation of the Cerrados : the traditional mechanical agricultural techniques . With this outline we will present a great challenge: how to have sustained development through the two conflicting situations above.