

Less pesticides and less toxic alternatives

Besides requiring low amounts of pesticides, chemical products used on tobacco are less harmful

One more research clarifies the misunderstanding: tobacco crops do not require many pesticide applications. A recent study attested that, besides requiring only 1.01 kilograms of active ingredient per hectare, the chemical products applied to tobacco fields are characterized by low toxicity rates.

The new analysis, conducted by professors José Otávio Menten and Lourival Carmo Monaco Neto, both from Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture of the University of São Paulo (Esalq/USP), attested that tobacco occupies the second last position in the amount of pesticides on a list of 19 commercial crops. Furthermore, in terms of toxicity, especially as far as human beings go, all products used on tobacco are less harmful.

The specialists' report attests to a significant difference between the pesticide classes, where herbicides are the least toxic, followed by fungicides, acaricides and insecticides. And for tobacco crops, of the amount required, 62% are herbicides, the least toxic pesticide of the four classes. The researchers maintain that the need for pesticides varies among the different crops. For example, apples and potatoes, highly susceptible to diseases, require higher levels of protection.

The crops analyzed for the study were as follows: cotton, garlic, peanut, rice, banana, potato, coffee, sugarcane, onion, citrus, bean, tobacco, apple, melon, watermelon, corn (first and second crop), soybean, tomato, wheat, oats, rye, barley and grape. The crops that require the smallest amount of pesticide per hectare (kg AI/ha) are banana, tobacco and bean, respectively 0.48, 1.01 and 1.22 kg AI/ha, way below the 19 crops analyzed (4.90 kg AI/ha). Tomatoes require the highest amount of pesticides, 46.87 kg AI/ha, followed by apples (39.18) and potato (31.6).



SPECIFICALLY

- These analyses relied on data furnished by the National Union of Crop Protection Products (Sindiveg), National Agricultural Aviation Companies Union (Sindag) and by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

- According to FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) Brazil occupies the 44th position in the world as pesticide consumer, if the use per cultivated area is analyzed, and 58th when the use relative to the volumes of production is analyzed.

- The demand is correctly expressed when it is calculated by the amount of active ingredient (molecule that is effective indeed) per area unit or amount of product. Amount of pesticides per person is a mistake, seeing that they are applied to plants.

PRESIDENT'S WORD

2020 comes as an atypical year to all of us and we know that we have a lot of challenges ahead of us. The pandemic adversely affected the industrial activities of several sectors. In the case of tobacco, fortunately, we have managed to resume the necessary rhythm for us to make good on our exports and we hope to overcome this phase with less difficulty than other segments. It is also very important that the logistic questions and the ports continue operating close to normal so that we can ship our tobacco to all our customers.

The pandemic has brought some changes to our activities. The Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was postponed to late 2021. We had to cancel the event focused on the presentation of the results derived from the program 'Corn, Bean and Pastures after tobacco harvest'. In addition, it was necessary to put off the Empty Pesticide Container Collection Program for two months and delay the Awareness Cycle seminars.

In this scenario of uncertainties and readjustments, integrated production proves to be even more important, as the moment calls for joint efforts for facing a future that is still uncertain. Nevertheless, we hope that, soon, this moment will be surmounted and the tobacco supply chain will continue contributing towards the generation of jobs and income, very important for many municipalities in South Brazil and bringing in dividends for the Brazilian Nation.

SPEAK UP, PRODUCER!

This space is destined for the farmers who belong to the ITPS (Integrated Tobacco Production System) in all regions in South Brazil.

VICENTE E CRISLAINE MAZUR Campo do Tenente – PR



Vicente and Crislaine Mazur, a couple from Paraná, are a reference in rural production excellence, condition achieved thanks to the use of technologies, business management and the use of sustainable techniques. In an area of 31 hectares, their leading activities comprise the production of tobacco, fertile eggs and corn for the dairy cows, besides areas devoted to soybean – in another 15 hectares through a leasing farmland system.

According to Vicente, the tobacco crop in the 2019/2020 growing season amounted to 212 tons (1,400 arrobas) derived from the cultivation of 100 thousand plants in 6.25 hectares. For the 2020/2021 crop year, they have decided to increase their production and, to this end, they are going to plant 120 thousand tobacco plants in 7.5 hectares. A traditional crop on the farm of the Mazurs, tobacco was first cultivated back in 1967, by Aleixo, Vicente's late father, who opted for the crop because it occupies only small stretches of land and ensures good financial returns.

With regard to the production of eggs, carried out in the integration system, Mazur obtains approximately 2.5 million units per year. On the other hand, they devote 15 hectares to soybean, whilst the dairy operation produces 80 liters of milk a day. With regard to corn, in the previous season they cultivated three hectares, two of them for silage. However, the corn fields are usually bigger, taking into account the after tobacco harvest crop, which was not possible in the previous season because of the prolonged drought that hit the region. Without any chance for the second crop, Mazur has already prepared the hand for tobacco, including ridges and oats for mulch needed for direct planting.

THE FARM

- 31 hectares of their own
- 15 hectares rented
- 21 hectares areas covered with crops
- 120 thousand tobacco plants in 7.5 hectares
- 3 curing barns
- 9 hectares of native forests
- 6 hectares reforested with eucalyptus
- Diversification:** tobacco, eggs, milk, corn and soybean.

What is the relevance of the tobacco supply chain in the Brazilian economic and social context?

The tobacco supply chain comprises an agricultural crop of great economic importance for Brazil, especially for the Southern States. It is a chain that involves upwards of 150 thousand Brazilian integrated farmers and exports to different countries. It is an agricultural product with high added value, generating income and better quality of life for all rural tobacco producers. The crop is produced in sustainable manner, thus contributing towards environmental preservation.

The production and export of Brazilian tobacco rely on the pillars of the more than 100-year-old supply chain. What is your opinion about the organization of agribusiness in supply chains?

The model of an organization based on supply chains results into lots of advantages. It allows for solving problems common to all agricultural crops, if it is the case and, at the same time, it paves the way for solutions specific to a certain agricultural supply chain, in a joint and organized manner. The model of supply chains for agribusiness gained further momentum

with the creation of the Department for the Development of Supply Chains (Decap, in the Brazilian acronym) within the scope of the Innovation, Rural Development and Irrigation Secretariat SDI), of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (Mapa). The new department emerged together with the new folder structure that resulted from the administrative reform implemented by the federal government in early 2019.

Product traceability has made a difference in agribusiness. In the tobacco sector, the Integrated Tobacco Production System (IP) has introduced new rules for product certification. Do you believe that measures of this kind consolidate even further the exports of the crop? Why?

Yes. Global trade has increasingly been requiring agricultural products obtained in sustainable manner, in compliance with social justice. Countries that fail to introduce these traceability and/or certification concepts in their agricultural products will face great difficulties in staying in the business or in accessing new markets.

CLASSROOM

In the media, for the producers' well-being

Farmer health and safety and the protection of children and adolescents are current concerns of the tobacco sector. On an annual basis, there are media campaigns to promote awareness of the importance of correct attitudes that ensure the quality of life in the farms and rural communities. Through television, radio and newspaper campaigns that reach all tobacco growing regions in Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina and Paraná, the publicity items are broadcast in two periods: at tobacco planting and harvest.

Three videos are set to be aired on 11 television stations, totaling 284 insertions. The items focus on awareness of the importance for children and adolescents to attend school and stay away from work activities. They also insist on the need to handle pesticides carefully and to return the empty containers, without overlooking the importance of wearing protective clothing at harvest. In all, there will be 2,160 insertions in 48 radio stations, 1,080 in each of the periods. Furthermore, several announcements have been scheduled to appear in all major newspapers of the tobacco growing regions.

Besides the media campaign, other initiatives are aimed at protection measures in tobacco producing holdings, such as warning plates for fields where pesticides have been applied recently and also for pesticide cabinets, placards featuring guidelines on safe practices and instructions for the farmers.



A bet on the future and on the hope for the youth

Ana Paula Motta Costa, lawyer, sociologist, Master's Degree in Criminal Sciences (PUC/RS), Doctor of Law (PUC/RS), researcher in the area of the rights of children and adolescents

Five years ago, when the Growing Up Right Institute was created as a collective initiative to offer concrete opportunities to adolescents in the tobacco producing regions, we had no idea of how far we would go. Now there are 333 young apprentices duly qualified in three editions of the program, besides three editions of the "Us for Them" program.



Quantitative results are important, but the qualitative experience has made all the difference. Many youths have stood out in a variety of activities: 24 former apprentices are now attending college courses or technical courses, 11 of them have implemented entrepreneurship projects that had been conceived in the final stage of the course and 49 are now in the implementation process.

And what is really impressive is the individualized life of the adolescents that show their potential, and are progressing collectively, have something bigger on their mind. These are stories, sometimes with a difficult past, but are a promise for a future full of hope.

A bet on the future sounds like a bet on the youth, Every young person is, so to speak, an "identity in action", a world of possibilities under construction. Each open window, is a metaphor of a world previously inaccessible, meaning hope. Not in a guaranteed future, but in more possibilities.

- Adaptation of the full article available on blog Empreendedores de Campo

NEWSFLASHES

35 YEARS OF DIVERSIFICATION

Although the prolonged drought adversely affected the production of grains in South Brazil, the *Corn, Bean and Pastures Program* yielded good results to those farmers who cultivated a second crop after tobacco harvest. The program turned 35 and provides for higher income and for the reuse of farm inputs, besides conserving soil. In 2020, farmers income amounted to R\$ 634.2 million, split into R\$ 297.4 million for the farmers in Rio Grande do Sul, R\$ 205.2 million for Santa Catarina and R\$ 131.5 million for the farmers in Paraná.

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The Growing Up Right Institute turned five in April. One of the commemorative actions of this festive occasion was the debut on Instagram, the most recent communication and connection channel with the public. The daily routine of the young apprentices and also of the former apprentices is the subject for 'posts and stories', besides the activities of the educators themselves and of the administrative team. At the initiative of the SindiTabaco and its associate companies, the Institute was created on 23 April 2015 and has already reached the mark of 333 youths who graduated from the Entrepreneurship and Rural Administration course.

TOWARD MORE SECURITY

The increase of green tobacco cargo thefts has motivated the creation of a Security Committee, comprising representatives of the sector and public security organs. The measures that were introduced include the distribution of 4 thousand folders to the transporters, featuring information on preventive measures and procedures in case of cargo thefts. In the past three years, the total volume of tobacco involved in the occurrences amounted to 555 tons, valued at approximately R\$ 5.3 million. There were 48 occurrences over the period: 57% in Rio Grande do Sul.

COLLECTION OF EMPTY CONTAINERS

The receipt of empty pesticide containers occurs in 23 municipalities of the Rio Grande do Sul Sierra-Plateau region until July 22. This is the first itinerary after the interruption of the collection in compliance with the health authorities to prevent the Covid-19 from spreading. The itinerary that follows will reach out to the municipalities in the Plateau Sierra region in Rio Grande do Sul. Promoted by SindiTabaco, in a partnership with Afubra, the Empty Container Collection Program turns 20 in 2020 and has already disposed correctly of more than 16.5 million empty containers.

New rules for integrated production and certification



The Integrated Tobacco Production System and its Certification are now governed by new rules. The Specific Technical Standard (STS), devised by the Operational Technical Committee sets forth some new procedures in compliance with Decree N° 443, of the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Inmetro), comprising production, harvest, warehousing, commercialization and processing.

The novelties include the need for a Responsible Technician (RT) with his capacity building renewed every five years and a periodic evaluation of the need for training the workers involved. What was equally improved is the mandatory adoption of best conservation practices and soil analyses of the tobacco growing areas, at least, every five years.

Furthermore, with regard to the evaluation of pesticide residues, the auditor is supposed to select at random the result of residue analyses carried out by the processing company or its importers, in order to check the compliance with the international standards. In addition, residue analyses should be conducted whenever there is need to corroborate accidental spill or improper use of pesticides. The document also sets forth the need for one audit at field level every crop year.

WHAT IS IT – Official program created by the Ministry of Agriculture, the IP tobacco is aimed at ensuring traceability and product safety for consumption. With the certification, it becomes viable to attest to the origin and methods used in the generation of the product.

TOBACCO ROADS



- Located at an altitude of 589 meters and known as the Land of the Pine Nuts, Passa Sete is a municipality located in the Central Sierra region in Rio Grande do Sul.
- Mayor: Bertino Rech

The top tobacco producing regions are in the spotlight in every edition of SindiTabaco News. What follows is something more about the municipality of Passa Sete, 230 kilometers away from Porto Alegre, capital of the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

With a predominantly agricultural economy, the municipality of Passa Sete relies mostly on the production of tobacco, soybean, corn, dairy foods, beef cattle and fruit crops. According to data furnished by the Municipal Administration, 95% of the revenue derives from agriculture.

It is in such a scenario that tobacco is the main crop. According to mayor Bertino Rech, the leaf is produced in almost all the rural properties across the municipality and is the flagship product for most of the farmers. "There is no doubt about the importance of the tobacco crop for the economy in light of the huge number of people directly involved in the production process and also because the crop is the main source of income", the mayor comments.

Data furnished by the Tobacco Growers' Association of Brazil show that, in the 2018/2019 growing season, the 1,134 tobacco farmers in Passa Sete produced 5,710 tons in 2,496 hectares. As the city records 1,163 rural holdings, in the previous crop year, the difference amounted to only 29 holdings.

PASSA SETE IN NUMBERS

Sources: Municipal Administration and IBGE

- Population (estimated 2019): **5,702** people
- Territorial area: **305** km²
- GDP per capita (2017): **R\$ 19,305.19**
- Rural properties: **1,163**
- Average size of the farms: **18** hectares
- Tobacco growers (2018/2019 crop year): **1,134**
- Main agricultural products: tobacco, soybean and corn



GLOSSARY

COP

Conferences of the Parties (COP) are biennial events that represent the deliberative body of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) whose participants have ratified the treaty, and Brazil is one of them. During the COP sessions, the delegations of the Member States debate and approve guidelines to advise the parties on how to introduce national measures.

IP TOBACCO

It is an official program of the Brazilian government created by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (Mapa) with the aim to ensure traceability and product safety for consumption. With the certification, it becomes viable to attest to the origin and methods used in the generation of the products, through formal and auditable records, on sustainability principles and their relationship with demands, the environment, economy and society.

RURAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAM

In 2015, the Growing Up Right Institute offers professional learning to the young rural apprentices without any need for them to leave the countryside or their school, qualifying the adolescents in Entrepreneurship and Rural Administration. These apprentices, aged 14 – 17, carry out their theoretic activities in the environment of the course, at home or in their communities and, following the Learning Law, they receive a salary proportional to 20 hours - the hour load of the course, which takes place in the shift opposite to regular school classes.

CALENDAR

25 MAY Industry Day

27 MAY Atlantic Forest Day

5 JUNE Environment Day

12 JUNE World Day against Child Labor

24 JUNE 73 anniversary of the SindiTabaco

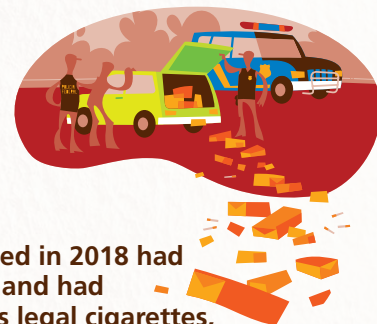
13 JULY Anniversary of the Statute of the Child and Adolescent

17 JULY Forest Protection Day

18 AUGUST National Clean Field Day

DID YOU KNOW?

The illicit cigarette trade exerts systemic impacts on the economy, discouraging investments



- If each pack of illicit cigarettes consumed in 2018 had been sold for a minimum price of R\$ 5 and had been subjected to the same taxation as legal cigarettes, Brazil would have collected an extra R\$ 11.4 billion in taxes.
- If the entire Brazilian cigarette market were legal, agriculture would create an extra 4 thousand job positions, thus adding R\$ 180 million to our GDP.
- Since 2013, cigarette taxes (and the price) have doubled.
- There was a decrease in the consumption of legal cigarettes (from 70 to 47 billion pieces).
- This gap was filled by contraband cigarette brands, which now account for more than half (57%) of the entire Brazilian cigarette market.

Causes of soaring contraband trade

- Significant tax increases (cumulative taxation of up to 97% since 2011).
- Brazilian tax load is three times higher than in Paraguay.
- Prices of contraband cigarettes are lower.

Source: Oxford Economics (Study: The economy of the illicit cigarettes in Brazil, by Marcos Casarin, Chief Oxford Economics economist for Latin America)

ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

SindiTabaco comprises 13 associated companies and sees to the demands from all over Brazil, with the exception of the States of Bahia, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. Transparency and visibility are SindiTabaco's strategies, whilst emphasizing the social and economic importance of the sector, whether in the generation of jobs and taxes, or through the relevance of tobacco for the economy of the municipalities and States in the South Region. Furthermore, the Entity encourages sustainability, through social and environmental responsibility, a fact that attests to the reason for the existence of the SindiTabaco and its vast operational field

- Alliance One Brasil Exportadora de Tabacos Ltda.
- ATC - Associated Tobacco Company Brasil Exportação e Importação de Tabaco Ltda.
- Brasfumo Indústria Brasileira de Fumos S.A.
- China Brasil Tabacos Exportadora S.A.
- CTA - Continental Tobaccos Alliance S.A.
- JTI Processadora de Tabaco do Brasil Ltda.
- Philip Morris Brasil Indústria e Comércio Ltda.
- Premium Tabacos do Brasil S.A.
- Profigen do Brasil Ltda.
- Souza Cruz Ltda.
- Tabacos Marasca Ltda.
- Universal Leaf Tabacos Ltda.
- UTC Brasil Indústria e Comércio de Tabaco Ltda.

PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS



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Production: SindiTabaco
(www.sinditabaco.com.br)
Rua Galvão Costa, 415 - Centro
96810-012 - Santa Cruz do Sul - RS
Fone: (51) 3713 1777

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MSL
ANDREOLI

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