

BRAZIL

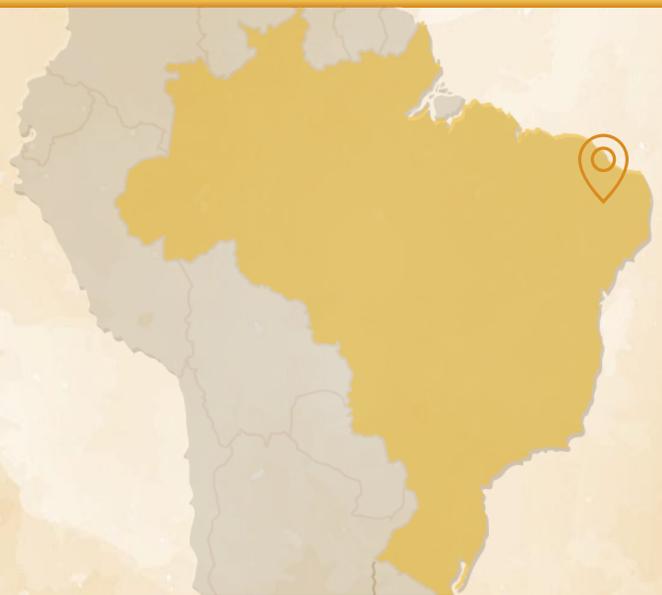


Mission of ECOARARIPE

The Association of Agroecological Farmers of the Araripe Territory (ECOARARIPE) is linked to the dynamics of the Araripe Network, generating and disseminating knowledge obtained in concrete initiatives involving 48 productive groups.

Map

The initiative takes place in the central part of the Brazilian semi-arid region, which until the mid-1980s was noted as having potential for arboreal and herbaceous cotton production. It is now recognized that due to climatic irregularities, this region has a high risk of losses of rainfall-dependent crops, with low and poorly distributed rainfall over time and space. Soil conditions are also varied; most are shallow and contain little organic matter. Combined with high temperatures, the conditions for retention and storage of water in soils are poor.



Context



ECOARARIPE was created in 2012 with 11 groups of farming families and has 428 active members in 48 groups of agroecological farming families, organized by geographical proximity, covering all 10 municipalities in the territory of Araripe. ECOARARIPE is an organization of family farmers who constitute the Participatory Body for the Assessment of Organic Conformity (OPAC).



Description

The creation of ECOARARIPE is the result of shared **agroecological knowledge** by family farmers with the support of partners. ECOARARIPE holds a Certification Seal of Organic Products that are produced by its members, who are obliged to engage and cooperate in the context of the regulations associated with the Law for Organics (2003). The products are differentiated **cultivation of cotton**, with cultivation in consortia, processing, and marketing to companies that work in **fair and just trade**.

The inputs used in the initiative come from the farming families and their groups, which own the **Creole seed bank** and produce their **fertilizers**. The **cotton** is usually processed (cores taken and plume packaged) by collective effort in which members of the productive groups participate. The consortia also produce corns, beans, pumpkins, sorghum etc. that are consumed by families and the surplus is sold in the communities and in local and territorial agroecology markets.



428 families
involved in the
consortia



More than 500 ha

Trajectory

2012 : creation
of ECOARARIPE

2017 : restructuring
meeting

2019 : sesame
processing



Results and Benefits

An increasing number of families is producing in accordance with agroecology principles, resulting in increased income generation, dissemination of family farming products, new relationships between producers and consumers, expansion of the appreciation and visibility of the work of women and young people, and an increased supply of a diverse range of quality food to people in the countryside and cities.



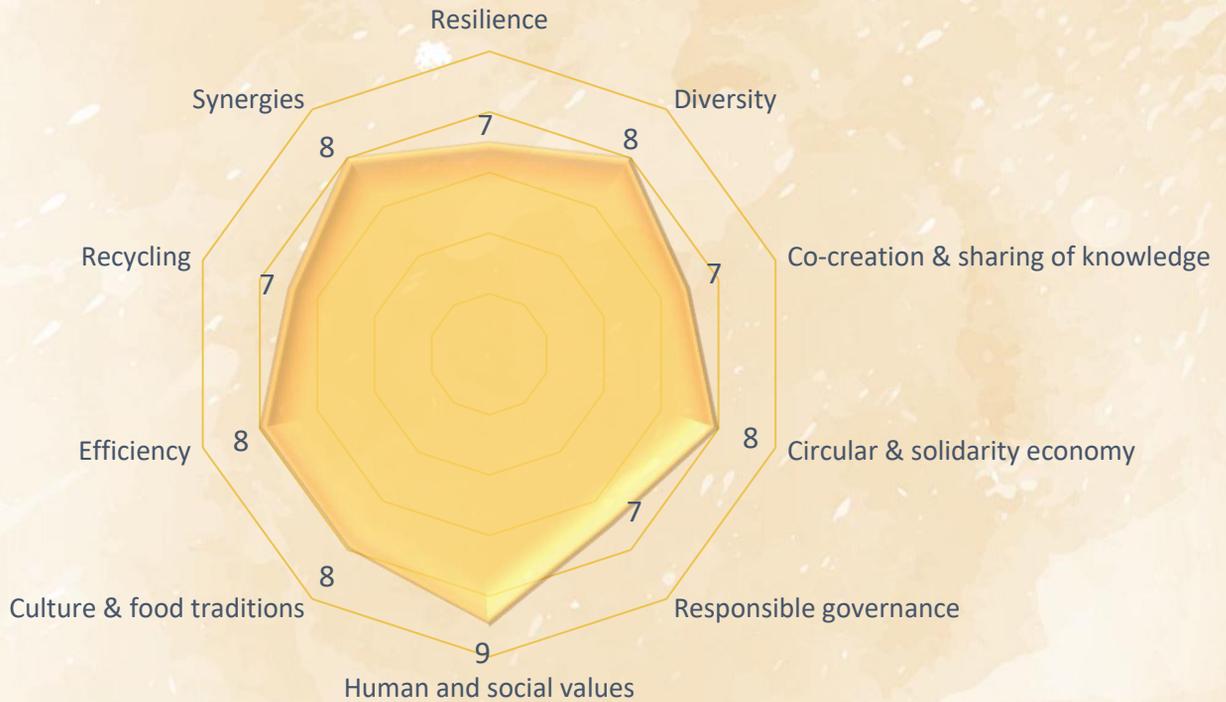
Cotton consortia with agri-food crops have enabled significant advances in the transition processes of traditional and conventional agriculture to agroecological standards. This has led to environmental, social and economic benefits such as enhanced soil fertility, establishment of a Creole seed bank, crop diversification, etc.

The consortia provide opportunities for farmers to obtain to advantageous conditions in comparison to the conventional market, with prices that cover the costs of agroecological production and processing. Fair and just trade has fairly recompensed families for their work and as such has sparked the interest of farmers to join the activity.



The initiative develops a holistic view of agroecosystems and their relations with traditional and academic knowledge. This increased emphasis on agroecosystem management, with soil as a basic element and conservation and improvement techniques such as level planting, incorporation of plant remains, fertilization trenches with manure-based biofertilizers and planting of legumes.

Lessons learned and reflected FAO principles



Resilience : 7

The strategy of agri-food consortia enables greater functionality of the systemic functions of the environment. It contributes to nutrient cycling through conservation practices, to the production of healthy food as well as to income generation, all of which build resilience of the agroecosystem and of the community.

Human & Social Values : 9

Production and agroecological base has brought significant improvements in the quality of life of farming families, especially more active participation of women and young people. Values-based community relations strengthen solidarity, respect, reciprocity and cooperation and build self-esteem.

Diversity : 8

The Participatory Guarantee System is linked to the dynamics of the Araripe Network, generating and disseminating practical and organisational knowledge from all 48 groups in different locations. Agrobiodiversity underpins the entire system.

Cultural & Food Traditions : 8

The importance of autonomy in access to diverse and healthy food consumed by families is recognized in the consortia, and enabled by diversified production of both traditional and innovative nutritional foods in swiddens and productive backyards.

Co-creation & Knowledge Sharing : 7

The validation of the certification requires a movement of visits where groups interact with each other and with partners who carry out experimentation and build knowledge through exchanges. This is a 'farmer-to-farmer' approach.

Efficiency : 8

The consortia use Creole seeds from individual/community seed banks, inputs (fertilizers). Also the families are stimulated to experiment new instruments and methods.

Synergies : 8

The interaction in agroecological consortia provides a systemic balance, by the very format of consortia with commercial and food crops. Ecological management provides also synergy of environmental gains.

Responsible Governance : 7

The production format of consortia in the certification process requires social control and governance, through participatory planning in the family sphere and within the agroecology groups. For this, they use tools that contribute to planning agroecosystems.

Recycling : 7

Recycling in consortia occurs by incorporation of organic matter and animal manure in the soil, organic fertilizer production, storage of produce in PET bottles.

Circular & Solidarity economy : 8

Agroecological consortia promote product recycling by turning them into inputs for the production process. Marketing of the agri-food surplus is carried out in fair environment such as local communities, agroecological markets etc;

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The Avaclim project aims to create the necessary conditions for the deployment of agroecology in arid areas.

For more information : www.avaclim.org

Financial partners :



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
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Operational partners :



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