

Organic Production on a Large Scale is Definitely Possible!

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According to a United Nations (UN) projection, in the world there will be about 11 billion people in 2,100. So, the question arises, how will this population be feed? Increasing productivity, expanding production area, improving access and avoiding waste are all possibilities to consider. What about the quality of the food produced? This doubt is often not even raised. Another question rarely considered is the possibility of organic production to meet this need.

Losses that occur at harvest stage are often damaged by a lack of specific equipment and machinery, making it a challenge to produce organics on a large scale. Strengthening the connection among organic food producers, as is already the case with conventional ones, is another challenge to consider. Without a strong platform for collaboration, development and support among producers, everything becomes more difficult.

In this thesis, Badue (2007) highlighted, that the main difficulties of the organic system are related to the change in the patterns of production and consumption. This is coupled with a lack of effective public actions, mainly, in the liberation of credit for the producers to move to organic production. The initial costs are high because they require adaptations over conventional methods. This conversion of agriculture translates into the change of productive infrastructure, the acquisition of implements, adequate materials and seeds, the introduction of preparation practices and soil conservation and technical assistance to name but a few (Campanhola, *et al.* 2001).

Despite these major difficulties, research, such as that being carried out by EMBRAPA in partnership with companies has shown that challenges can result in success. This has been the case with organic systems of different fruits production, based on experiments carried out in Chapada Diamantina (BA/Brazil). The result of this project undertaken in partnership with Bioenergia Orgânicos, which is experimenting with solutions for organic production on a large scale has been positive. The first production cycle showed higher than conventional productivity levels.

The example of the Native Company should not be over looked, where about 20,000 hectares of certified sugarcane plantations are organically processed by the São Francisco Farm, in a project known as "Green Sugarcane". According to Leontino Balbo Junior, director of Native, it is possible to apply organic agriculture technology, that he calls "revitalizing". This can be not only applied in cane fields, but as in other crops such as soybean, corn and cotton, reducing at least 70% of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, without affecting productivity.

Despite these positive developments, essentially, the question remains: Is there a lack of interest from relevant stakeholders in links to this production systems? For myths to be debunked, and a revolution in food production, to happen once and for all, this question must be answered and addressed explicitly [1-4].

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