

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 36 - AGROECOLOGIES SHAPING TERRITORIES:
INNOVATION AND AUTONOMY FOR A NEW AGENDA

**AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS OF TOMÉ-AÇU IN THE CONTEXT OF FAMILY
FARMING: AN EMERGENT PRACTICE**

Guilherme Pires De Campos Valvasori (guilherme.valvasori@gmail.com)

Celia Futemma (cfutemma@unicamp.br)

Eduardo Brondízio (ebrondiz@indiana.edu)

The experience of Agroforestry Systems (AFSs) in Tomé-Açu (PA), in the Brazilian Amazon, has attracted the attention of researchers worldwide. After their black pepper plantations were devastated by a disease - fusariosis (*Fusarium* sp.) - in the 1960s, farmers from the japanese colony drew inspiration from riverine communities' practices to develop their own AFS model. Today, the Agricultural Cooperative of Tomé-Açu (CAMTA) is considered a successful case, combining sustainability and profitability and exporting its products to several countries. The objective of this study is to understand how AFSs expanded within the context of family farming. Between July and December 2024, 100 rural properties were visited, where mixed questionnaires were applied to farmers practicing AFSs. The study identified two types of diffusion. The first is planned

diffusion, carried out by various organizations that actively sought to promote AFSs in the municipality. The second is organic (unplanned) diffusion, based on informal networks. Our results indicate that, despite the predominance of organic diffusion, there is complementarity between the two types. Planned diffusion promotes the improvement of AFSs and encourages the expansion of cultivated areas through technical assistance and subsidies for the establishment of new areas. Organic diffusion, in turn, contributes to the popularization of AFSs among farmers by fostering the exchange of experiences between producers, the circulation of genetic material, and access to labor. Thus, the expansion of AFSs in the municipality is understood as an emergent practice - that is, a response by farmers to local realities - which does not necessarily follow the original plans of the diffusion projects. Thus, our case study contributes to understanding the diffusion of new technologies in rural areas and provides insights for initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices within the context of family farming.

Palavras-chave: agroforestry systems (afss); family farming; technology diffusion; emergent practices; tomé- açu.