

Mapping community's perception on the value of ecosystem services: The case study of Manioba community (Bahia, Brazil) and the production of passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*, Passifloraceae). (Poster)

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Introduction

The São Francisco Valley is the main region of passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*, Passifloraceae) production in Brazil. Manioba community - one of the most important producing communities of the area - is basically formed by small agriculture properties. Preliminary studies indicate that the Manioba plantations are suffering from pollinator population decline. This decline determines the need for the use of manual pollination techniques which increases production costs.

Objectives

This work is aimed at mapping Manioba community perception of the value of ecosystem services related to passion fruit production.

Methods

Fourteen producers were selected, according to prior established criteria. Data was collected using a semi-structured interview, previously tested. Data analysis was based on eight categories about the value of ecosystem services related to passion fruit production. Data was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Results

The analysed data shows a very intricate knowledge about environmental factors that influence passion fruit production. Community knowledge on the value of ecosystem services is uniform specially concerning pollination services and its relations to other local intertwining factors. However, data shows that community perception of production costs is poor and limited basically by a non-systematic evaluation of passion fruit production through the years. It suggests that local community management of passion fruit production is probably non-efficient and simple protocols for production management could increase passion fruit production in the area.

Conclusion

This work is part of a larger project in which the main goal is the increase in passion fruit production without a subsequent increase in environmental impact and in production costs. We believe that this goal could be achieved through the sustainable management of passion fruit pollinator in the area. Based on the information obtained in this work we are now planning discussions and workshops as means of producing a community based protocol for the management of the passion fruit pollinator in Manioba community.

Keywords: Ecosystem management, production costs, Ethnoecology

Selected References

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