

Environment, Production and Conservation: Mani oba Community's perception of nature and the production of passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis*, Passifloraceae) (Poster)

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Introduction

Preliminary studies indicate that the culture is suffering from pollinator population decline. This decline determines the need for manual pollination and consequently higher production costs. Small agriculture properties form most of Mani oba's community. Mani oba's production is responsible for the most part of the passion fruit production in the irrigated São Francisco Valley region. This region is the largest passion fruit (*Passiflora edulis* Sims – Passifloraceae) productive area in Brazil.

Objectives

Our main objective was to identify Mani oba community's perception of environmental aspects of productivity and sustainable management of ecosystems in relation to passion fruit production.

Methods

Fourteen producers were selected, according to prior established criteria. Data was collected using a semi-structured interview, previously tested. Seven categories concerning environmental factors of ecosystem management and nature conservation were considered for analysis. Data was analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Results

The producers demonstrated a very uniform knowledge which did not vary for five of the seven categories considered in analysis. They recognized and explained the close relationship of the pollinator (*Xylocopa* sp.) with the Caatinga bioma, the specific nesting wood, the injuries caused by other visitors bees, the importance of pesticides use for better production and its deadly effects on the passion fruit pollinator. Only 66% of the producers could explain *on detail* the pollinator behavior on passion fruit flower, and 58% of them demonstrated a clear perception of the Caatinga destruction.

Conclusion

This study will help future works on Mani oba's community for the production of a protocol for pollinator management in the area. This protocol will consider community knowledge of the system and is intended to maximize production gains - and also environmental conservation - in Manicoba's community.

Keywords: pollinator, ecosystem management, productivity

Selected References

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