

# ervaUna Quarterly Report 2006-4

Diversified Organic Agroforestry – an Innovation to Rural Development in Southern Bahia, Brazil

Report No. 7 1 October - 31 December 2006

19 January 2007

Authors: Richard Bolli & Barbara Suter, Swiss technical consultants, [info@ervauna.org](mailto:info@ervauna.org)  
Sources: Field Report No. 6 of 18.12.2006 (in Portuguese; see [www.ervauna.ch](http://www.ervauna.ch)) and personal communication by Fábio and Linde Nobre, field coordinators, Una, [fabio@ervauna.org](mailto:fabio@ervauna.org)

→ Capacity Building	→ Organic Farming	→ Diversification
→ Agroforestry	→ Rainforest Conservation	→ Medicinal Plants

Associação dos Pequenos Produtores da Queimada Grande e Jacão, Una

## Resumo

Neste trimestre foi particularmente difícil motivar o pessoal da *Associação dos Pequenos Produtores da Queimada Grande e Jacão* continuar com os trabalhos fundamentais na agricultura orgânica. Foram quase descontinuadas a compostagem e a plantação de feijão-de-porco, e não houve dias de campo. Muitas chuvas fortes e temperaturas baixas dificultaram os trabalhos e causaram alguns danos nas culturas da Queimada Grande. Além disso, os produtores alegaram que não querem continuar a plantação de feijão-de-porco antes de que os consultores Suíços cheguem. Foram plantadas verduras sem pré-cultura de feijão e assim sem melhora do solo e pouco êxito, e com a falta de composto as bananas-da-terra foram adubadas com esterco puro, o que é caro e assim aplicado sempre resulta na lavagem de nutrientes. No projeto galinha caipira ainda participam 5 famílias, no entanto as galinhas não produziram ovos. Os trabalhos se transferiram para os sub-projetos da associação com 24 participantes e estão avançando: O Projeto Geléia (9 mulheres; com experimentação do produto com cupuaçu, falhado), o Projeto Plantio Associado/banana-da-terra (4 famílias; 1000 mudas plantadas que estão desenvolvendo bem) e o Projeto Piaçava (9 famílias; em planejamento).

Os pedidos de visto para os consultores Suíços estão em preparação pelo Ministério de Trabalho em Brasília.

## Zusammenfassung

Während des 4. Quartals 2006 zeigte es sich als besonders schwierig, die Kleinbauern für die grundlegenden biologischen Anbaumethoden zu motivieren: Kompostieren und Bohnenpflanzungen sind fast zum Erliegen gekommen, und es fanden wiederum keine Feldtage statt. Neben häufigen heftigen Regenfällen, die einige Schäden im Gebiet der Queimada Grande anrichteten, wird die nun über ein Jahr dauernde Abwesenheit der Schweizer Biologen als der Hauptgrund für die Passivität der Bauern angegeben. Anstatt Jackbohnen zur Bodenverbesserung zu pflanzen, wurde gleich Gemüse angebaut (welches dann mehrheitlich misslang), und statt Komposte herzustellen, wurde Kuhmist gekauft und konzentriert ausgebracht, was stets zu grossen Auswaschungsverlusten führt. Im Legehennen-Projekt sind noch 5 Familien beteiligt, doch die Hühner legten im 4. Quartal keine Eier. Die Arbeiten haben sich zu den assoziations-eigenen drei Extensions-/Produktionsprogrammen verlagert, an denen 24 Kleinbäuerinnen und Kleinbauern beteiligt sind: Marmeladen-Projekt (9 Frauen; erste Testproduktion missraten), Bananen-Projekt (4 Familien; gestartet) und Palmfaser-Projekt (9 Familien; in Planung).

Die Visumsanträge für das Schweizer Projektleiterpaar sind beim Brasilianischen Ministerium für Arbeit in Bearbeitung.

Financial Report: 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2006 1.10.2006 to 31.12.2006	ervaUna Precursor Project all figures are in Brazilian Real R\$	Amount (R\$)	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 1.7. to 30.9.06
Balance, 1.10.06		9861,57	
Payment by <i>pro mata atlântica</i> , 14.11.06 (CHF 6755.- / € 4250,00)		11431,72	
Repayment of credit Bolli/Suter (17.5.06), 14.11.2006		-2970,00	
Expenses:			
A Personnel (local salaries: project coordinator)		3936,00	3936,00
B Field Operating (motorbike: gasoline, maintenance)		829,68	220,01
C Field Equipment (seeds, composting utilities etc.)		42,98	23,80
D Local Project Management (communication, administr., transports, courses)		76,75	439,18
E Charges for Services (translations, authentications) **		1026,95	174,04
F Expenditure for Special Projects (sub-projects of smallholders' association)		2317,01	-
Total Expenses		8229,37	4793,03
Balance, 31.12.2006		10093,92	
			1 R\$ = 0.47 USD = 0.59 CHF
** Additional Expenditure for Authentications in Switzerland		CHF 1'378.00	

24/24 Total number of farmers involved this/ last quarter	Working Plan	Realized Activities ✓ = milestones reached	Comments / Measures to take
Capacity Building with a focus on organic farming 04/11	Fostering and mentoring farmers in composting and planting of jack beans. 6 field days organized by smallholders' association. Local coordinator (Fábio N.) learns the basic PC utilities.	Only 3 farmers have continued with planting jack beans. In the 4th quarter no compost was produced, and no field day took place. Thus, progress in Capacity Building was almost zero. FN has acquired basic PC techniques. He is writing the field reports and communicating by e-mail. ✓	Composting activities will be revived in general and within the Banana-da-Terra Project in particular (see below). In 2007, 2 field days will be held every month (see Extension Programs). FN attended a course on growing tropical flowers and a COOPERUNA seminar on the future of rubber in the Una area.
Organic Farming 03/10	Jack Beans Project: Extending the planting of this nitrogen fixing plant from 9 active to many smallholders. Composting: Preparation of compost for the Banana-da-Terra Project of the Extension Programs.	The cultivation of jack beans ( <i>Canavalia ensiformis</i> ) has largely been discontinued. Only 3 farmers are presently working with this legume. The preparation of compost has almost completely been discontinued. Bananas were fertilized with pure cow dung (which is easily washed out) instead of compost.	As farmers are hardly practicing the methods of organic farming any more, the basis of the project is in danger. The smallholders' association will be asked whether or not they are still interested in the project and willing to take action according to their declarations made during the assessment phase. In January 2007 it will be discussed how to integrate the methods of organic farming. To motivate farmers, an organic cocoa fazenda of Una will be visited before the end of January.
Diversification 03/03	The Kitchen Garden Project with a range of vegetables will be expanded among more families.	1 farmer started a new kitchen garden. After a surgery, another farmer gave up her garden. Legumes planted in the banana project keep in part a balance. (✓)	9 farmers declared they would like to take up kitchen gardens. They will be assisted. Mixed cultures of legumes / banana (Ext. Progr.) will be monitored.
Agroforestry 12/14	The development of 4000 saplings of fruit trees, donated by the ESMAL field station last year, will be surveyed.	The young trees are developing well. Two farmers have abandoned their saplings. The overall monitoring of these agroforestry plantings has been postponed to January 2007.	The young fruit trees will be monitored during the 1st quarter 2007 and measures taken where necessary (for instance fertilizing with compost).
Extension Programs 20/15	Chicken Breeding (new race): production of 1000 eggs per month (5/8) Fish Farming: searching for cheap fodder (0/1) Women's group «Angelim» with Jam Project: start of test production (9/10) Banana Project: Planting bananas and rainforest trees, fertilizing with compost (4/5) Piaçava Palm Fiber Project: Planning (9/0)	There was no egg production, possibly owing to the rainy weather. Some of the farmers have eaten up their hens. No activities reported. Sr. Raimundo's big fishpond has broken after a storm. The Jam Project got started with a test production of cupuaçu, however failed owing to inadequate plastic cups. (✓) Banana Project: seedlings are planted on a total area of 3.5 ha, with different vegetables as neighbor plants. ✓ Piaçava Project: in the planning phase, with the assistance of José Inácio Moura of ESMAL field station. ✓	The situation will be analyzed by chicken farmers, especially regarding fodder quality and animal health. No further activity planned. With adequate glassware now at hand, the second test production will take place within the 1st quarter 2007. Composting on the sites; additional sowing with beans for better soil fertility. Plans for interplanting shade trees. 14 farmers claim to participate in this project, 9 defined their areas (approx. 10 hectares). Preparation of seedlings will be taught to farmers in field days.

Smallholders' Association, Community Matters and Social Life: The participation at the association meetings is low (below 15 participants), and cooperation among farmers in basic field work, namely composting and planting jack beans, has almost been absent. No single field day has taken place for more than 12 months. Three of five sub-projects organized by the association itself, however, are on course for realization. These projects are largely managed by farmers alone (see "Extension Programs" above).

Problems and Setbacks: Besides the difficulties motivating smallholders to participate in the basic activities of organic farming such as mulching, composting, abruptly changing and stormy weather produced some damage also in the Queimada Grande area, with two water ponds broken and a rubber plantation destroyed.

Donor and Public Relations, Network / We thank very much: The former Swiss association for phytotherapy PVS (Phytotherapie Verband Schweiz), who donated Fr. 6'195.50.

During the months of September and October, the ervaUna consultants Barbara Suter and Richard Bolli practiced organic farming at the Dottenfelderhof, a highly diversified organic-dynamic farm north of Frankfurt, Germany ([www.dottenfelderhof.de](http://www.dottenfelderhof.de)), who joined the ervaUna network.

Project formalities and visa for the Swiss technical consultants (B. Suter & R. Bolli) in progress: Further documents were submitted via Fundação Pau Brasil FUNPAB to the governmental authorities in Brasilia on 4<sup>th</sup> December. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Work asked for one further document.