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SOCIOECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROFILE OF RICE GROWERS IN SÃO MATEUS DO MARANHÃO MUNICIPALITY, MARANHÃO STATE, BRAZIL

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OBJECTIVE

To study the socioeconomic and technological profile of rice farmers in the municipality of São Mateus do Maranhão in order to gather important information for the management of rice cultivation in Maranhão, considering that this is an activity of economic interest for the region.

METHODOLOGY

Field survey in São Mateus do Maranhão municipality (Maranhão state, Brazil).

Population: 269 rice growing farms (Ag Census 2017).

Sample: 75 rice growers (95% of confidence level).

Descriptive statistics (SPSS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Farms:

- Small (61%), medium (37%) and large (1%);
- Mostly farms (73%) are organized in associations;
- Cropping system: mainly rainfed lowland (96%);
- Lack of labor: 55% of farms.

Farmers:

- Origin: 80% are of local origin (Maranhão);
- Sex: 87% male, 13% female;
- Farming experience before growing rice: 59% no, 41% yes;
- Farming as main source of income: 96% of sample;
- Educational level: 91% did not complete high school;
- Plan to remain in business: 88% (others are unsure).



CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

Marketing of production and acquisition of new technologies represent the main obstacles for producers, especially the small ones, who have difficulties in obtaining technologies to improve the activity and little access to marketing channels available in the region.

There is a need for public policies related to technical assistance directed at marketing channels and, above all, effective technical monitoring.

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