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EX-ANTE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF SMALL AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FARMS IN ANÁPOLIS, GOIÁS STATE, BRAZIL

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OBJECTIVE

To quantify the participatory adoption of technologies in generation and increase in income obtained by farmers and their families and assist in decision-making regarding new technologies.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was applied to small farms linked to the Association of Agroecological Producers (APROAR), in the municipality of Anápolis and region in the state of Goiás, Brazil, in 2019. The socioeconomic data obtained in the initial phase were analysed and allowed the identification of characteristics of interest, from the profile of the producer, with information on the agroecological agricultural production in use by the producers, the nutritional aspects, management and cost of the production system, related to the sustainability of the farms.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results showed a quite rational use of land and labour, a smooth generation change and family succession as well as opportunities for improvement in the modal cropping system, such as

a) the adoption of bean-maize-intercropping to improve income;
b) the use of organic compost and soil cover crops to reduce cost and improve soil fertility;
c) the mechanization of some activities to enable expansion of cultivation area with same labour force;
d) the training and adoption of farm management tools to improve overall farm' results; and
e) training of the labour force in agroecological agricultural practices to improve the cropping systems in a broader sense.

CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

With the Covid-19 pandemic, almost all farmers in the study started marketing their products using digital platforms.
So, there is a potential to develop those initiatives further to improve farmers' buying and selling possibilities.

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