



New Perspectives on the History of Brazilian Agriculture

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Carlos Francisco Ragassi | Uander Gonçalves dos Anjos | Rodrigo Montalvão Ferraz

*Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply*

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“Si hortum cum bibliotheca habes, nihil deerit.”

(“He who has a garden and a library lacks nothing.”)

Cicero
(Ad Famil. lib ix, epist. 4)

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So, what does this have to do with me?

This book attempts to recover a bit of the rich, varied and often hard to find history for the student of agriculture and related areas. Understanding a bit more of the history of Brazilian agriculture is not something that normally attracts the attention of students of the agricultural and environmental sciences, whether at the technician or university level. The excellent books available on the subject, such as the General History of Brazilian Agriculture, by Luis Amaral, give a detailed view of the evolution of agriculture, but they concentrate on the major cycles, they're hard to find, they require a careful reading due to the length and complexity with which the topics are covered, and they're not attractive to the internet generation, so they end up being read by few people – very few indeed. Therefore and thereby, we all miss out on such invaluable references and so does Brazil.

Studying a bit of history, and thereby understanding why we are where we are, and why we are what we are, also helps us to think about what has been done and to recognize that a country is built little by little. At the same time, it helps us to recognize the contributions made by so many people which over time end up becoming lost, giving us a good idea of our humble contributions, as big as they may be or appear to be, giving us the opportunity not to repeat mistakes, and, most importantly, giving us the opportunity to grow as citizens and as professionals.

A casual journey through centuries of cumbersome, difficult and often troubled development helps deepen our strategic vision of where we have been, where we are and where we are going. It helps us to understand our options for the future and thereby for our own individual space. That's why you, as someone interested in agriculture and the environment, have everything to do with this!

The authors.