



**Marketing of Water, Territorial Disputes and Social Conflicts in the Field in Lower
Jaguaribe-CE**

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Introduction: The process of diffusing farming in Brazil, based on the capitalist production model, has been bedded in as shown by Thomaz Junior (2009-2010), at the same time as hydro-agriculture. In his paper, it is the author's view that this process has been consolidated in the water business in the area which takes in the state of São Paulo, eastern Mato Grosso do Sul, north-west Paraná, Minas Gerais and south and south-west Goiás. This area is noted for the production of the sugar cane, eucalyptus, and soybean monocultures for export. Although to a lesser extent, this process can also be seen, from the mid-1990s, in practically every region of Brazil. Consequently, we are focusing our attention on the semi-arid zone of the north-east, specifically the state of Ceará, as one of the regions that has responded most to capitalist agricultural interests (fertile plains with available water) for the production of tropical fruit for export. The general aim of this research is to understand the territorial disputes and class conflicts in the agricultural area of Ceará stemming from the process of expanding the state's hydro-agriculture business. Thus we will also analyze the implementation of public political policies as well as conditions for access to land and water for rural communities affected by the hydro-agriculture business, as well as the role of social movements confronting the growth of the hydro-agriculture business in Ceará and mapping the conflicts for land and water in the diffused areas of hydro-agriculture. **Methodology and development:** The research is organized into three main areas: (1] Hydro-agricultural expansion in Ceará; 2] Public policies concerning access to land and water; 3] Conflicts and struggles for land and water in the hydro-agricultural expansion areas in Ceará), linked with research of the literature and the organization of a database, maps, graphs, cartograms and fieldwork. **Final points:** We start with the hypothesis that hydro-agriculture in the state of Ceará has intensified in a territorially selective manner, in just a few "privileged" territorial points, generally with the advantage of an infrastructure and natural conditions suited to production, and which respond more quickly to the needs of capitalist farming expansion. On the other hand, while expanding, it creates resistance and, consequently, a series of disputes concerning the most fundamental issues of food production: land and water. It is therefore important to state that disputes concerning hydro-agricultural expansion constitute a major opportunity to continue Thomaz Junior's research (2010) and will allow us to narrow the field of research to the theoretical, political, geographical and strategic significance for understanding the new territorial division of labour in Brazil, as well as the way in which the class struggle is unfolding, and political action concerning Agrarian Reform, the sovereignty of food and energy, as water disputes mount up in the field and in the new territories.

Key words: Hydro-agriculture; territorial conflicts; fruticulture; Ceará.