



CETAS

Hydroagronomy and its Impact on Water Resources in Western Bahia

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Introduction: The introduction of neoliberal policies linked with new technological standards dominant from the 1970s in western Bahia brought a new set of structures intended to serve the demands of exportational agriculture understood in this research project as hydroagronomy. Monopolization of land and water are inseparable from capital. Water is historically linked to the irrigation of large plantations geared to exportational agriculture at a pace of limitless destruction involved more recently in the production of electricity. It is these complex inter-relationships that we are seeking to understand in the ambit of hydroagronomy. We intend to study the impact caused by expansion and consolidation concerning water resources in western Bahia, considering territorial agrarian dynamics in the area of environmental degradation, expropriation and new forms of labour control in this field formulated through capital production in the 21st century. In view of these questions, the present investigation is based on the analysis of the following research areas: 1) Understanding the relationship between the control and ownership of land and water at its many levels, with the primary purpose of producing agricultural commodities; 2) An analysis of the impact on water resources, taking into account the current performance of the agricultural model deployed; 3) A consideration of the agrarian structure, looking at agricultural production, work processes and job insecurity.

Development: The method of interpretation and analysis of the process we propose to study in this research will be supported by historical and dialectic material from the conception of the social process as evidence of uneven development combined with geographical space. This will enable us to consider the historical movement of any social process from actual life and the contradictions that have given rise to and sustained it: the struggle between the rural classes and their submission to the city. Seeking to understand this process from an analysis of the actors involved, particularly those concerned with peasant agriculture, hydroagronomy and the State. **Final thoughts:** This PhD thesis proposal is at an early stage and will not be defended until December 2017.

Key words: Hydroagronomy; work; water resources; western Bahia.