

Sustainable Agriculture in Brazil: ABC+ technologies, territorial evidence and global dynamics

1. Presentation

The Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural (RESR), in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), invites researchers to submit articles for the 2027 thematic dossier:

"Sustainable Agriculture in Brazil: ABC+ technologies, territorial evidence and global dynamics".

This proposal aims to structure a thematic dossier to be coordinated jointly by SOBER (Brazilian Society of Rural Economics and Sociology) and the Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural (RESR), in articulation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), focusing on the analysis of sustainable agriculture in Brazil.

The initiative is inspired by recent experiences of special issues dedicated to the analysis of public policies and proposes a specific deepening in the agricultural sector and in the sustainability agenda in agricultural production.

The dossier will have as its structuring axis the ABC+ Plan (Low Carbon Agriculture) and projects related to this public policy.

2. Contextualization

The transition to more sustainable agricultural systems has become one of the main contemporary challenges, especially in the face of growing pressures associated with climate change, biodiversity conservation and global food security. In this context, Brazil occupies a strategic position, both due to the relevance of its agricultural production and the central role that its biomes play in climate regulation and the provision of ecosystem services. The need to reconcile production, conservation, productive inclusion and economic development places the country at the center of the international debate on sustainability in the agri-food sector.

Over the last few decades, Brazil has developed a set of innovative public policies aimed at promoting low-carbon agriculture, among which the ABC Plan and its current phase, the ABC+ Plan, stand out. This is a structuring policy that articulates credit instruments, technical assistance, training and monitoring, with a focus on the adoption of sustainable technologies on a large scale. The recovery of degraded pastures, integrated production systems, no-till farming and the use of bioinputs are examples of promoted practices that combine productive gains with emission reductions and greater efficiency in the use of natural resources.

On the international stage, the Brazilian experience has often been highlighted as a relevant case of implementing public policies aimed at the decarbonization of agriculture in tropical countries. The territorial scale, the diversity of production systems and the integration between economic and environmental instruments give the country a unique position in

building solutions applicable to similar contexts. At the same time, the advancement of global agendas related to ESG criteria, carbon markets and socio-environmental requirements in production chains increases the importance of robust scientific evidence to support public and private decisions.

Given this context, this special issue proposes to gather contributions that deepen the understanding of sustainable agriculture in Brazil, with emphasis on the analysis of technologies and policies associated with the ABC+ Plan. The aim is to foster studies that articulate economic, social and environmental dimensions, based on empirical evidence, territorial analyses and prospective modeling. In doing so, it is intended not only to qualify the academic debate, but also to contribute to the improvement of public policies and to Brazil's positioning as a global reference in the transition to sustainable agricultural systems.

3. Objective

To gather scientific articles that contribute to:

- Evaluating the implementation and impacts of sustainable agriculture policies in Brazil
- Analyzing the adoption and effects of ABC+ technologies
- Developing methodologies and analytical and economic models applied to the low-emission productive transition
- Connecting the Brazilian experience to global dynamics of agricultural sustainability
- Proposing adjustments and solutions for the improvement of public policies for sustainable agriculture

4. Editorial guidelines

The dossier will adopt an international editorial standard, with:

- Publication of articles in Portuguese, English and Spanish
- Peer review process (double blind review)
- Submissions open to national and international researchers

These guidelines aim to broaden the reach of the dossier and position it as a reference in national and international literature on sustainable tropical agriculture.

5. Thematic scope

5.1 Territorial analysis of ABC+ technologies

- Adoption and diffusion of ABC+ Plan technologies
- Spatial distribution of sustainable practices
- Integration with territorial data (CAR, land use, remote sensing)
- Methodologies for monitoring, reporting and verification of technologies

5.2 Impact evaluation of public policies

Impacts of the ABC+ Plan and related projects on:

- greenhouse gas emissions
- agricultural productivity
- income and economic efficiency
- land use and land use change

Application of quantitative methods:

- counterfactual models
- difference-in-differences
- advanced econometric techniques

5.3 Economic instruments and financing

- Sustainable rural credit (e.g., RenovAgro/ABC+)
- Economic incentives for the adoption of low-emission technologies
- Integration with institutional instruments (CAR, CAF)
- Transition costs and barriers to adoption
- Alternative sources of financing for the transition

5.4 Economic modeling and scenarios

- Land use modeling and productive intensification
- Decarbonization scenarios for Brazilian agriculture
- Partial and general equilibrium models
- Analysis of trade-offs between production, income and emissions
- Impacts of climate policies on the competitiveness of Brazilian agriculture

5.5 Global trends in agricultural sustainability

- Brazil's insertion in sustainable global chains
- International regulatory and commercial pressures (ESG, carbon markets, etc.)
- Competitiveness of Brazilian agribusiness in the context of green transition
- International sustainability taxonomies and standards

5.6 Social dimension and productive inclusion

- Family farming and access to public policies
- Role and alternatives for technical assistance and rural extension
- Socioproductive organization and inclusion in sustainable chains
- Distributive impacts of policies

5.7 Suggested data, metrics and methodologies

Integration with:

- CAR (Rural Environmental Registry)
- SICOR (rural credit)
- territorial and environmental databases

Development of indicators:

- emission intensity
- environmental productive efficiency and avoided deforestation
- emission abatement cost

6. Reference technologies (ABC+ Plan)

The dossier should encourage analyses based on the main technologies of the ABC+ Plan, including:

- Recovery of degraded pastures
- No-till farming
- Crop-Livestock-Forest Integration (ILPF)
- Agroforestry systems
- Planted forests
- Bioinputs
- Sustainable irrigation
- Management of animal production waste
- Intensive finishing
- Increased productivity in livestock

These technologies offer an empirical basis for measuring economic, productive and environmental impacts at scale.

As a complementary suggestion, the PRS Cerrado databases will be available for researchers to access through the project website (<https://www.ruralsustentavel.org/author/prs-cerrado/>) or by contacting Kamila Rocha (t-kamila.rocha@iabs.org.br)

7. Strategic positioning

The dossier seeks to consolidate Brazil as a national and international reference in the analysis of the transition to low-emission agriculture, articulating:

- territorial evidence
- rigorous evaluation of public policies
- applied economic modeling
- connection with global sustainability dynamics

8. Timeline and submission

Stage	Deadline
Call launch	October 2026
Article submission	Until February 2027
Evaluation and revisions	October 2026 to June 2027
Expected publication	Until September 2027

The realization of this special issue will have institutional support from the Sustainable Rural Project -- Cerrado (PRS Cerrado), which will assume the costs associated with the editorial process, in partnership with Editora Cubo. This cooperation enables the broad dissemination of scientific results, ensuring qualified and accessible publication of the works, in line with the objectives of strengthening the production of knowledge applied to sustainable agriculture in Brazil.

Articles must follow the editorial guidelines and instructions established at: (<https://revistasober.org/instructions>) and be submitted through the Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural system itself (<https://submission.scielo.br/index.php/resr/submission>).

IMPORTANT: at the time of submission, authors must mandatorily insert in the system a complementary file titled "submission identification letter for the dossier (MAPA)", informing that the manuscript is being submitted for evaluation in the referred dossier.

Articles may be submitted in Portuguese, Spanish and English. They will be evaluated by peers, blindly, according to the editorial policy of RESR. We emphasize that articles submitted for evaluation in the dossier are exempt from the submission fee and, if approved, from the publication fee. Accepted articles will be published in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish and English.