



## Agroecology – Traditions and New Knowledge on the Lands of the West of Rio Grande do Norte

### What is it about?

Improving the quality of life of the peasant families settled in the areas of agrarian reform on the lands of the West of Rio Grande do Norte, through the implementation of technologies of cohabitation with the semi-arid and agro-ecological production, to thus ensure their food sovereignty and to strengthen their spaces for articulation, selling and decision-making.

### What problem emerged?

The West of Rio Grande do Norte has been characterised by the agribusiness of fruit farming since the 80s. Families have been subjected to the agribusiness project and to the production of fruit with the management imposed by the companies: the use of pesticides. Many families haven't participated in the debate on agroecology and food sovereignty.

### What has been the impact?

Around 350 families from settlements of the agrarian reform in the region decided to strengthen their organisations in order to confront the agribusiness, rescue the forms of production of their ancestors, feed themselves with healthy products and to protect nature.

# KNOW-HOW 3000

## Experience

## AT A GLANCE

### Why did it happen?

CPT made a plan together with the communities. 36 offices, 384 follow-up visits and meetings of the implementation of the production yards, management of the Caatinga, beekeeping and goat farming were carried out, in addition to 6 monitoring and 3 evaluation meetings of the process. With this, the families began the implementation of the experiences and, after 3 years, 355 production yards, 5 areas of management of the Caatinga and organisation of the family seed banks, and the creation of 8 women's groups were set up.

### What are the key messages and lessons learned?

- 350 families from settlements
- Rural workers' trade unions
- People from other communities / settlements of the western region of the State of Rio Grande do Norte

### Who could be interested in the experience?

Communities and other groups that produce whilst using pesticides or that wish to improve their form of production, in addition to communities that live in regions with little rain.

### Who is already using it?

The following institutions are already applying the agroecology methodology:

- ASPTA - Advice and Services to Alternative Agriculture and Technology Projects
- CENTRAC – Centre for Cultural Action

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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**Sector:** Rural Development and Management of Natural Resources

**Period:** 2010 – 2013

**Organization:** CPT – Pastoral Land Commission

**Additional material:** "I Learned Another Way to Live" Booklet

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