

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: ABC Plus - Brazil's New Climate Change Adaptation and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture Plan

Country: Brazil

Post: Brasilia

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

Prepared By: Camila Aquino

Approved By: Oliver Flake

Report Highlights:

On April 20, 2021, the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply (MAPA) announced the Sectoral Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture Seeking Sustainable Development (2020-2030), called ABC+. The plan builds on a previous edition (ABC 2010-2020) and seeks to consolidate Brazilian agriculture on the basis of sustainable, resilient, and productive systems. MAPA sees the ABC+ Plan as an instrument that promotes sustainable agriculture through strategies of adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. A forthcoming document that will set the actions and quantitative goals for the Plan will be released in the third quarter of 2021.

On April 20, 2021, the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply, Tereza Cristina Dias, announced the release of the Sectoral Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture Seeking Sustainable Development (2020-2030), called ABC+, which is a new iteration of the previous low carbon emission plan, the ABC Plan. In her opening remarks on the plan, Minister Dias noted that over the past 50 years, Brazil became an agricultural-environmental power and that with its innovative production systems, Brazil's national food, fiber, and energy production is on solid sustainable basis. The ABC+ 2020-2030 Plan seeks to establish new and improved strategies for the entire country, based on technological innovation for sustainable food production. Minister Dias stated that the plan's goals will be met by 2030. The objective is to allow Brazil to continue the transformation started in the ABC Plan 2010-2020.

In 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply (MAPA) created the ABC Plan, a National Plan for Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture, which was scheduled to last for a decade, with a total budget of R\$ 3.15 billion (US\$ 1.5 billion). The ABC Plan centered on government-backed loans for producers to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in agriculture by improving the efficient use of natural resources, increasing the resilience of productive systems and rural communities, and enabling the agricultural sector to adapt to climate change. The plan codified commitments on reforestation, as well as degraded pasturelands, and integrated farming.

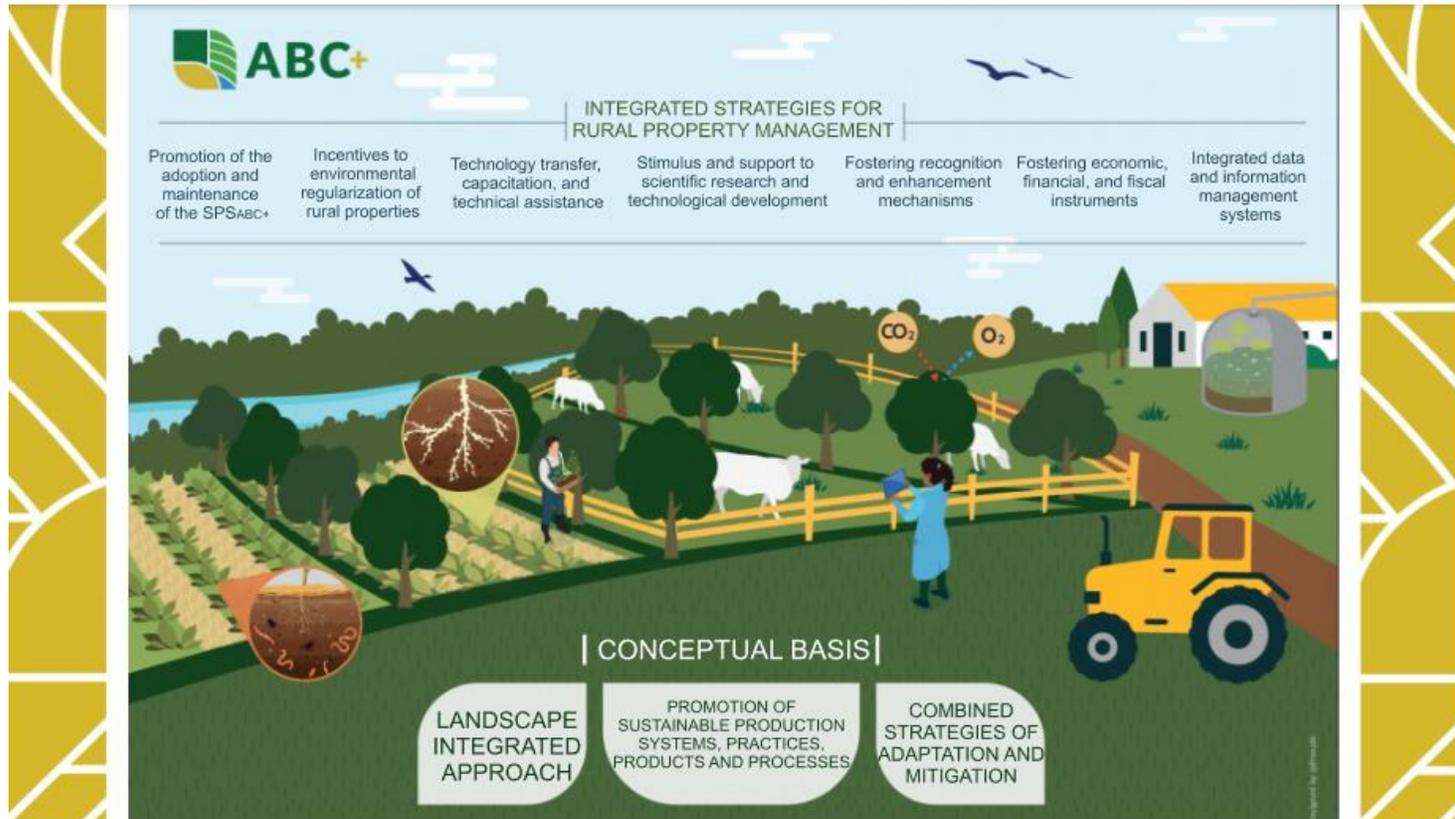
By the end of 2018, Brazil had exceeded the targets of some of the Plan's benchmarks, including reaching nearly 6 million hectares of integrated farming systems, 10 million hectares of no-till production, and treating 4.5 million cubic meters of animal waste. However, it fell significantly short in other areas such as meeting rehabilitation of degraded pastureland and re-forestation targets. In fact, only about one-third of the targeted degraded pastureland was rehabilitated. Notably, there were no formal enforcement or monitoring tools included in the ABC Plan.

The ABC+ plan seeks to make Brazilian agriculture more sustainable and resilient. In this second phase, MAPA believes the plan will continue to act as an instrument that promotes sustainable agriculture contributing to GHG mitigation. This will require reinforcement of the strategies adopted from the original ABC Plan, which were focused on stimulating the adoption of Sustainable Production Systems, Practices, Products and Processes (known by the acronym SPS_{ABC}) and based on technical and scientific innovation.

For the new cycle (2020-2030), monitoring and evaluation will be a priority. Monitoring, reporting and verification mechanisms, aligned to internationally-approved scientific criteria will serve to establish economic incentives to reward sustainable production systems. An important goal will be communication of the contributions of Brazilian agriculture to sustainability, hence, improving Brazil's image both domestically and internationally.

ABC+ will prioritize actions at the national level. The Brazilian Government believes that technological innovation is key to sustainable food production. The government believes that Brazil has the means, at the end of the ABC+ period, to increase productive area that utilizes sustainable technologies. This could set the path, in the long-term, for Brazilian agricultural area to be under sustainable production. As the Plan jointly promotes actions towards adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the rural sector, the ABC+ will remain as one of the most important national public policies in the fight against climate change.

The following image, translated from Portuguese by Post, illustrates the conceptual basis for the ABC+ plan:



The ABC+ strategies to be adopted will be separated into 7 broad categories, which are:

- 1 – Maintaining stimulus for the adoption and maintenance of conservationist and sustainable agricultural production systems, with increased productivity and revenue, and greenhouse gas emissions control.
- 2 – Strengthening technology transfer and diffusion, training, and technical assistance.
- 3 – Stimulate and support applied research for the development or improvement of sustainable production systems, practices, products, and processes focusing on increasing resilience, productivity, and revenue, and controlling greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4 – Create and strengthen mechanisms which make it possible to value products that adopt sustainable production systems, practices, products, and processes.
- 5 – Fostering, increasing and diversifying economic, financial, and fiscal sources and instruments linked to sustainable production systems, practices, products, and processes.
- 6 – Improving the ABC+ information management system to make effective monitoring, report and verification, and monitoring and evaluation of its action and results.

7 – Fostering landscape integrated agriculture, so as to incentivize environmental regularization of rural properties and sustainable production in agricultural areas.

In the closing remarks of the plan, MAPA states that ABC+ is a unique initiative in its scope and coverage. It is presented as a commitment of the Brazilian agricultural sector to join the worldwide effort towards fighting climate change. MAPA presented the plan as a way to foster the use of production technologies adapted to tropical conditions and continuous improvement of food production systems on a sustainable basis. The Brazilian Government stated that the plan will be based on strong scientific principles that will allow for environmental gains at the same time as agricultural productivity growth. More details on the plan will be forthcoming in a document entitled “ABC+ Operative Plan”, which will be released at the beginning of the third quarter of 2021 with actions and quantitative goals needed to operationalize the ABC+ plan.

Attachments:

No Attachments.