

# Puxirum

## Building Partnerships and Networks for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Promotion of Socio-Biodiversity Product Chains in the Brazilian Amazon region: local sustainable economies and value chains of extractivist products – the case of the Brazil nut

### The challenge

Sustainable forest management is a widely-accepted approach for promoting the economic and social development of local communities, while at the same time helping to conserve tropical forests. Within this debate, several studies emphasize the significance of the inclusion of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as a central component of a profitable and sustainable forest management strategy. Hence, it seems that the economic potential of NTFPs and its positive impacts on sustainable forest management have not been sufficiently met yet. On the other hand, studies on the practical implementation of the commercialisation of NTFPs at the local level have fallen short of expectations.

The Brazilian government addresses this complex situation with its National Plan for Promotion of Socio-Biodiversity Product Chains (Plano Nacional de Promoção das Cadeias de Produtos da Sociobiodiversidade – PNPSB), released in 2009. The obstacles that its implementation faces range from legal conditions and a lack of infrastructure to restrictions of access to land, property rights, credits, markets, information and education at the local level. In addition, small scale farmers face problems concerning the appropriate production, transportation, processing and commercialisation of the products due to hygienic and legal constraints. The lack of economic incentives further hinders the inclusion of the private sector in extractivist activities.

### Our approach

The objective of this project is to support the implementation of the Brazilian National Plan for Promoting Socio-Biodiversity Products (PNPSB) by facilitating and strengthening partnerships and networks. More specifically, the project analyses the valorisation of socio-biodiversity products and their potential for promoting sustainable forest management and innovative economic instruments, using the Brazil nut as a case study. It creates and analyses existing synergies with initiatives related to extractivist activities in order to identify their impediments and potential opportunities to enhance instruments for successful market integration and sustainable development of the region in question.

#### Building Networks and Partnerships

In order to enhance communication, discussions, coordination and cooperation, a series of specific workshops on local, regional and national level were held to enforce the construction of reliable and sustainable networks and partnerships, which are supposed to bundle existing experiences and information as well as develop new and innovative instruments which support the implementation of the Brazilian National Plan for Promoting Socio-Biodiversity Products (PNPSB).

#### Research activities

The involved scientists and students in this project worked on the scientific analysis of their specific questions. They prepared scientific papers on specific topics of value chains of NTFP (especially Brazil nut).



Foto 1 : Brazil nuts

Foto 2 : Exportadora Florenzano Ltda.  
(Oriximiná), Brazil nut processing

Fotos by Sabine Schulz Blank

## Dissemination of results

At the end of the project all the research and workshop results were disseminated at conferences in Berlin and in Belém. The networking and research activities resulted in the elaboration of proposals of viable, sustainable strategies of capacity building, cooperation, knowledge management and steering in the context of the promotion of value chains for NTFP (especially Brazil nut). Those proposals were presented at a workshop on national level with political actors, private sector and civil society in Brasília and summarized in a policy briefing (Cunha et al. 2013). All information related to Brazil nuts in Brazil gathered by the project are compiled on a website (PUXIRUM 2013) which might be a starting point for a wider database or platform for knowledge management on that topic.

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Duration	01.11.2011 – 31.12.2013

## Our conclusions

The Plano SocioBio is an instrument with high potential for strengthening value chains of NTFPs.

The governance of the Plano SocioBio is not clearly defined and executed yet – from national to local level.

The implementation of the Plano SocioBio in Pará is relatively low. A clear methodology for the implementation on the level of federal states and municipalities is not yet developed. The financial means (and staff dedicated to it) for the implementation of the plan is very marginal.

Parallel activities on Brazil nut of civil society organizations are not being coordinated between each other. The municipality administrations are not necessarily informed of or involved in those activities.

NTFP-usage and extractivist activities are still neglected in official institutions. The sectoral responsibilities for that sector are still not clearly defined (environment, agriculture, forest?) – it seems to be an interface issue with undefined responsibilities.

Staff in public institutions (agriculture, forest, environment) is mostly not specifically trained in issues of NTFP. Those issues are mostly not included in curricula of related academic courses.

The Brazil nut value chain in the region functions mostly in traditional structures and still presents aspects of intransparency, dependence and to certain degree exploitation. The conditions for cooperation, cluster development and synergies are not yet sufficiently existing and/or developed. Social organization of *agro-extrativistas* is growing, but still remains a weakly articulated movement. Access to market information is limited.

The processing of Brazil nut in the region shows at present little innovations in subproducts. Regulations and measures in processing and selling of Brazil nuts are insufficient and do not correspond to the needs of the value chain actors. Certification of Brazil nut presents still a little explored potential, as is also especially the national market. The private sector has little incentives, but also little support and access to specific new market information to change its traditional way of buying, processing and selling the Brazil nut.

Brazil nut is currently a very relevant product in the livelihood of extrativistas. Other NTFP present still non-explored potential for extraction as well, e.g. *copaíba* and *andiroba*. The conditions for extraction, drying, harvesting, transporting and selling are diverse but in most cases precarious. Improvement of infrastructure, working capital and also knowledge on specific better adapted techniques (capacity building) are needed. Access to these natural resources is increasingly reduced due to deforestation, privatization of formerly common or state owned land and territorial conflicts (e.g. overlapping of indigenous reserves, environmental conservation zones and land of

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traditional forest user groups). Reforestation with Brazil nut trees is possible (Scoles/Gribel 2012) but not yet explored.

## Our recommendations

- Elaboration of a clear methodology for the implementation of the Plano SocioBio, especially for the federal states and municipalities.
- Definition of clear responsibilities between national, sub-national and municipal level in the implementation to increase the vertical coordination between those actors.
- Additional financial and personnel resources for the implementation of Plano SocioBio, especially on the level of federal states and municipalities.
- Dedication of specific financial resources for governance and steering mechanisms.
- Identification of synergies between research and development activities (conducted by governmental and non-governmental institutions) that are related to the Plano SocioBio, yet currently disconnected from one another. Formulation of a official recommendation for civil society organizations to always coordinate their activities with the administration of the municipality.
- Guarantee of secure and continuous access to the relevant natural resources by redefining/bargaining specific usage rights, fighting deforestation and *grilagem*.
- Creation of a decentralized Center for NTFPs to function as a center for capacity building for different audiences, access to information, networking, knowledge management, marketing and public relation.
- Integration of disciplines on extractivism and NTFP in curricula of decentralized extension courses (e.g. casa familiar rural), in standard curricula of graduate and/or post-graduate courses in agriculture and forest engineering and creation of specific courses (specialization/master) on extractivism/NTFP, especially in universities in the Amazon region.
- Reforestation with Brazil nut trees: integration of Brazil nut trees in public or communal tree nurseries and promotion of plantation events/programmes.
- Creation of a platform/database in the sector of NTFP in Brazil/Amazon region for knowledge management and better coordination.
- (Re)Formulation of necessary and adapted legislation and regulation considering processing, handling and trading Brazil nut.

- Provision of working capital, capacity building and adapted infrastructure for extractivists.
- Building up social capital (e.g. through increasing social ties and access to resources) for further equitable integration of marginalized *agro-extrativistas* who are willing to enter (new) markets while ensuring food security.
- Building up human capital (e.g. good practice courses in quality assurance techniques such as locally adapted certification systems) while co-designing mutual beneficial value adding strategies in the frame of NTFP value chains.
- Elaboration of incentives, support and information for the private sector in order to build sustainable and fair production and cooperation structures.
- The strengthening of value chains of NTFP should be seen in its total complexity (not only reduced to economic dimension) and understood as a participatory regional development strategy – including aspects of education, political participation, health, social security, culture, agriculture, etc.

## Our impact

Through conferences, workshops and meetings nourished by research activities to incentivate institutions of the public and private sector, as well as of the civil society in Pará the project was able to strengthen these institution's activities in the NTFP sector, with special focus on Brazil nut.

Some examples:

Ideflor – the focal point for the implementation of Plano SocioBio in Pará - organized a conference in 2012 together with PUXIRUM on the state of the implementation of Plano SocioBio. Public institutions, private sector, civil society and extractivists got in touch and some of them developed bilateral cooperation activities. Ideflor will organize a conference on Extractivism in Pará in 2014. (Segebart 2014)

SECTI (Secretaria Estadual do Pará de Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação) is planning to implement a NEXT (Núcleo de Extensão Tecnológica) in the region of Oriximiná/Santarém to strengthen a local based cluster development (*arranjos produtivos locais*) focussed on Brazil nut. A preparation workshop in Oriximiná was organized together with PUXIRUM.

The development of activities on ecological certification of Brazil Nut and good practices of management (*boas práticas de manejo*) between the extractivist association AMOCREQ and the enterprise MUNDIAL was supported by PUXIRUM through the common participation of all parties in the BioFair Latin America in São Paulo (2013) and a common workshop in Óbidos. A PUXIRUM research on certification (Dittrich 2013) has granted precious insights in this sector.

Based on a PUXIRUM research on the use of Brazil nut shells (Schulz Blank 2012), a workshop was organized to disseminate the knowledge of how to produce manual grinder and "pellet maker", especially for extractivists as well as for institutions who function as multipliers.

Workshops and interviews on extractivists livelihood, access to natural resources, value chains of Brazil nut and social organization incentivated organizing processes between the extractivists and enriched the academic research (Scoles 2012, Donovan et al 2013, Cunha forthcoming, Möckel 2014, Strehle 2014).

## Our outputs

- Book on Brazil nut in the Lower Amazon region with articles from authors from private, political and academic sector involved in PUXIRUM. (in work)
- **Cunha, M.; Scoles, R.; Segebart, D.; Yared, J.** (2013): Plano SocioBio – Implementação e Gestão – Briefing de Política. (forthcoming)
- Donovan, J., **Cunha, M.**, Franzel, S., Gyau, A. & Mithöfer, D. (2013): Guides for Value Chain Development – A Comparative Review, CTA & World Agroforestry Centre, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- **Krag, M.** (2014): Diagnóstico sobre a Castanha-do-Pará na região do Baixo Amazonas (em cooperação com GT Castanha/Imaflora) (forthcoming)
- **Scoles, R.** (2012): Parceria histórica entre comunidades tradicionais e os castanhais. Ver-a-Ciência. Tecnologia e Inovação do Estado do Pará 02: 8.
- **Scoles, R.; Gribel, R.** (2012): The regeneration of Brazil nut trees in relation to nut harvest intensity in the Trombetas River valley of Northern Amazonia, Brazil. Forest Ecology Management 265 (1): 11.
- **SECTI** (2014): Experiências de arranjos produtivos locais no setor da castanha do Pará. Belém do Pará (forthcoming)
- **Segebart, D.** (2014): Rural governance in the Brazilian Amazon region – Plano SocioBio: governance for strengthening value chains of NTFP. In: Geographica Helvetica (forthcoming)

Bachelor, master and doctoral thesis

- **Cunha, M.** (2015): Problems and Scope for Mutually Beneficial Integration of *Agro-extrativistas'* Production into Market Systems in Amazonia: An Empirical Analysis. Freie Universität Berlin. (Doctoral thesis, forthcoming)
- **Dittrich, N.** (2013). The certification of non-timber forest products. A case study on the Brazil nut in Oriximiná. Universität Jena. (unpublished diploma thesis)
- **Ferreira, M.J.** (2013): Características ecofisiológicas de Clones de *Bertholletia excelsa* H. & B. em Plantios de Produção na Amazônia Central, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia – INPA, Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Manaus: 1-94. (doctoral thesis)
- **Möckel, Bianca** (2014). Gender aspects and extractivism of Brazil nut in Oriximiná. Freie Universität Berlin. (forthcoming, unpublished bachelor thesis)
- **Schulz Blank, S.** (2012). Brazil nut extractivism, sustainable rainforest use and the introduction of a new wild resource in Amazonia: A case study on Brazil nut residue briquettes. Freie Universität Berlin. (unpublished bachelor thesis)
- **Strehle, K.** (2014): Soziale Organisation in Amazonien. Fallstudie zu Paranuss-Kooperativen. Freie Universität Berlin (forthcoming master thesis)

Maps and weblinks

Website of the project Puxirum

[http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/geog/fachrichtungen/anthrogeog/gender/NoPa\\_Puxirum\\_Drittmittelprojekt/index.html](http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/geog/fachrichtungen/anthrogeog/gender/NoPa_Puxirum_Drittmittelprojekt/index.html)

Weblink data base on Bazilnut

[http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/geog/fachrichtungen/anthrogeog/gender/NoPa\\_Puxirum\\_Drittmittelprojekt/Datenbank-Paranuss/index.html](http://www.geo.fu-berlin.de/geog/fachrichtungen/anthrogeog/gender/NoPa_Puxirum_Drittmittelprojekt/Datenbank-Paranuss/index.html)

Website briquette project

<http://brazilianbriquettes.blogspot.de/>

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