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ABSTRACT

The field has been undergoing significant changes in the way of producing, in the techniques applied, and in the relations of production deriving, mainly, from the agricultural and agrarian policies implemented by the actions of the State, articulated with the interests of capital in multiple scales. In this sense, this research seeks to analyze the processes engendered by the metabolism of capital about the production and reproduction of agrarian space through the threads leading to the conflict between agribusiness and peasantry, having as spatial cut the municipalities of Simão Dias and Poço Verde in

Sergipe and Coruripe in Alagoas. The methodological procedures used in this work are the bibliographical research, mainly of texts of the discipline of Agrarian Theory taught in the Graduate Program in Geography – PPGeo, of the Federal University of Sergipe, and readings in the research group. The research was based on a Historical-Dialectical Materialist reading of the conflict between the logic of peasant production and the logic of agribusiness production, inscribed in the interaction between capital and labor. The advance of agribusiness restricts family peasant production with the establishment of monoculture as the only possible planting model and uses the logic of capitalist agriculture to submit peasant production to the market, at the same time, which makes work in the field precarious. In the case of Sergipe, the main conflict materializes through the submission of peasant income. And, in the case of Alagoas, the appropriation of the precariousness of work with the intensification of flywheel work.

Keywords: Capital, Agribusiness, Peasantry.

1 INTRODUCTION

From the second half of the twentieth century the field has been undergoing significant changes in the way of producing, in the techniques applied, and in the relations of production deriving, mainly, from the agricultural and agrarian policies implemented by the actions of the State, articulated with the interests of capital in multiple scales, seeking to expand and intensify the process of accumulation, both through the industrialization of agriculture and the export of *commodities*.

Since the advent of the Green Revolution in the post-World War II period, policies have operated in a way that modernizes the countryside through agricultural technologies and machinery. Based on the discourse of development and the necessary production of wealth, the agro-export monoculture model tends to perpetuate land concentration, the exploitation of labor power, the destruction of nature, and, consequently, the intensification of the unequal social and territorial division of labor.

In the 1990s, the debate on the advance of capital accumulation in the Brazilian countryside, which until then was based on the concepts of modernization of agriculture and the agro-industrial

complex, began to be guided by a new approach. "Agribusiness" enters the scene, determined by a complex articulation of capital linked to agricultural production processes structured through the public-private relationship, and the private strategies of capital accumulation circumscribed in the State-latifundia alliance (CAMPOS, 2011; DELGADO, 2012).

The advance of agribusiness restricts family peasant production with the establishment of monoculture as the only possible planting model and uses the logic of capitalist agriculture to submit peasant production to the market, at the same time, in which work in the field is precarious.

In this sense, this research seeks to analyze the processes engendered by the metabolism of capital about the production and reproduction of agrarian space through the threads leading to the conflict between agribusiness and peasantry, having as spatial cut the municipalities of Simão Dias and Poço Verde in Sergipe and Coruripe in Alagoas. In the case of Sergipe, the main conflict materializes through the submission of peasant income, while the process of subordination of the peasant worker to the dynamics of capital transforms his labor power into a commodity. And, in the case of Alagoas, the appropriation of the precariousness of work with the intensification of flywheel work.

To better achieve an understanding of these conflicts, it is important to analyze the process of peasant production from some theorists considered classics, such as Chayanov (1974), Kautsky (1980), Lenin (1985), and Shanin (2005), to apprehend the process of production and reproduction of the agrarian space, and the historical chain of appropriation and subordination of this logic of production by the capital. As well as analyzing this issue from the reading of contemporary authors such as Campos (2011), Conceição (2011), Delgado (2012), Graziano da Silva (1998), Marques (2008), Oliveira (2006, 2012), Souza Martins (1981), among others.

2 METHODOLOGY

The methodological procedures used in this work are the bibliographical research, mainly of texts of the discipline of Agrarian Theory taught in the Graduate Program in Geography – PPGeo, of the Federal University of Sergipe, and readings in the research group, and the survey and analysis of secondary data on the agrarian question in the municipalities studied.

The research was based on a Historical and Dialectical Materialist reading of the conflict between the logic of peasant production and the logic of agribusiness production, inscribed in the interaction between capital and labor. Understanding the existence of human beings within a historical context and according to the material relations of human society, that is, our present condition is the inheritance of a historical and material condition. Allowing the dialectical understanding of the procedural events that permeate the Brazilian countryside, from the onslaughts

of capital in the field and its spatialization, as well as the understanding of the relations that are established with the peasants.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The process known as the modernization of agriculture happened in the post-World War II period, linked to international capital and accumulation, and was intensified in Brazil from the 1960s. According to José Graziano da Silva (1998), these transformations allowed the constitution of a new synthesis in the so-called harmony of society-nature production, from then on, it was based on the knowledge and increasing control of nature and the artificial reproduction of the natural conditions of agricultural production.

According to Oliveira (2006), it is necessary to distinguish conceptually between agriculture and agribusiness, where the first refers to the millenary economic activities of production of the necessary and fundamental food to the existence of humanity and the second is an export monoculture activity, and corresponds to the economic activity of the production of *commodities* for the world market.

Campos (2011) and Delgado (2012), start from the premise that agribusiness cannot be understood in a simplified way by the free translation of the term *Agribusiness*, which refers to the operationalization of the production and distribution of agricultural or agricultural products. Agribusiness for Campos (2011, p. 109),

[...] should be understood as a complex articulation of capital directly and indirectly linked to agricultural production processes, which is consolidated in the neoliberal context under the hegemony of multinational groups and which, in alliance with the latifundia and the State, has transformed the interior of Brazil into a privileged *locus* of capitalist accumulation, simultaneously producing wealth for the few and poverty for the many and, therefore, intensifying the multiple socio-spatial inequalities.

Consistent with this perspective, Delgado (2012) diluted that in the Brazilian sense, agribusiness is "[...] an association of large agro-industrial capital with large landed property. This association carries out an economic strategy of financial capital, pursuing profit and land income, under the sponsorship of State policies" (DELGADO, 2012, p. 94).

However, in distinction to agribusiness, the peasantry presents itself in short, as diversified production in small areas and is characterized mainly by family work. The peasant production units, in the compendium, by using the labor power of the family members, are attuned to their social reproduction, which allows a rationality different from that imposed by the logic of capital, based on the extraction of surplus value.

The conception of Space discussed in this work used as a support to understand the production

of agrarian space, starts mainly from the elucubrations proposed by Smith (1988), because it conceives the production of space from the movements of history and, mainly made possible by the struggle of the antagonistic pair inscribed in the character of class and mediated by Work, where it is understood in its totality of social relations and domain, specifically between agribusiness and the peasantry, in the dialectical process of exploitation of labor, accumulation of capital and its reproduction.

While the peasantry produces, substantially for the production and reproduction of its social life, and manages part of this production to the market, in search of the continuation of the process of social reproduction, capital penetrates the countryside, establishes the logic of agribusiness production in search of profit extraction, from the super-exploitation of labor, allied to the appropriation of land rent.

Karl Marx (1997), in the nineteenth century, discusses in *Eighteen Brumaire* the concept of peasants, where he understood them as a basic unit of production, autonomous, of reproduction of social life and patriarchal family economy. In his view, the peasants constituted a group with considerable structural and political similarities, observed throughout history in various economic-social systems, from the slaveholders of the past to the period of the flourishing of capitalism.

Concisely, it is understood that the peasantry is created and recreated through family relationships and temporary wages. Several social, political, and economic dimensions are used to understand peasant practice. The work on the land and the production of food, constantly, is the main relations for the identification of the different types of peasantry, contributing to the understanding of this class.

Karl Kautsky (1980), starts from the assumption that the peasantry can no longer be treated as the self-sustaining group it was before capitalism. Given this, capital transforms the peasant into something other than that autonomous peasant, which practices subsistence agriculture.

Like this:

Wherever the peasant proprietors are, so is wealth. The tranquility, the confidence in the future, the independence that ensures happiness and virtue. The peasant who does with his children all the work of his little estate, who pays no rent to any lord, nor salary to any subaltern, who grades his produce and by his consumption, who eats his wheat, drinks his wine, who dresses himself in his hemp and his wool, cares little for the prices of the market; because it has little to sell and buy, and is never ruined by the revolutions of commerce (KAUTSKY, 1980, p. 30).

However, under capitalism, it is necessary to play a double role, now, at the same time that he is head of the family production, provides and works for the subsistence of the family, he will also be obliged to perform surplus labor and sell his production to have money, have income, and be able to survive in capitalist society.

Chayanov (1974) understood that rural exploitation was not homogeneous and that, in addition to the economic units of the family type, there were numerous semi-proletarian and semi-capitalist units. However, his analysis did not start from the principle of the organization of a universal theory that would encompass all forms of peasant production units but rather investigate all forms of organization of economic units of family exploitation in agriculture.

The peasantry is thus a process and a necessary part of a broader social history that inscribes it in a given historical time. The peasant does not cease to exist according to the evolution of the modes of production, because this reinvents itself, even from the capitalist mode of production itself, the peasant succumbs to the logic of production of capital to remain in/of the field (SHANIN, 2005).

In Brazil, the preamble of capital in the field can be analyzed from multiple determinations. The process of occupation of the Brazilian territory, going through the slave period, and industrialization, led to the logic of agribusiness.

Much is discussed about the pertinence of the use of the concept of Peasant in the present day, about a false idea of the suppression of such a condition in the face of the advance of agribusiness. However, it is understood here the relevant need to apprehend the concept in its complexity as a social class for the understanding of the concrete reality in the field that goes beyond new concepts proposed, such as family farmers, small farmers, etc.

Considering contemporary discussions, agribusiness assumes an antagonistic position to the logic of peasant production. And while the conception of the peasantry is constituted, the latifundia emerges as a dialectical pair.

Marques (2008) points out that

As long as the Brazilian countryside has the mark of extreme social inequality and the figure of the latifundia remains at the center of political and economic power - whether or not it is associated with industrial and financial capital -, the peasantry remains as a key concept to decipher the social and political processes that occur in this space and its contradictions (MARQUES, 2008, p. 58).

In Brazil, the concept of peasantry must be understood through the specificities *in loco* relating to the global historical context. Being located on the periphery of capitalism and the margins of the slave latifundia, it is marked by strong spatial mobility (MARQUES, 2008).

The Brazilian peasant is a migrant and his expropriation has not represented a total rupture of his ties with the land. Most of them maintain some relationship with the countryside, whether it is closer or more distant – direct work relationships, family ties, the relationship of origin, etc. This explains, in part, the permanence between them of a set of symbols and values that refer to a traditional moral or logical order and the possibility of access to land presenting itself as an alternative for the poor of the countryside and the city who seek to ensure their survival while maintaining the dignity of a worker (MARQUES, 2008, p. 65).

The direct conflict between the peasantry and agribusiness is established from the land, or rather, from the process of appropriation of its income, of its value. Since, for peasants, access to and control of land include the functions of housing, work, and life (RAMOS FILHO, 2015). According to the logic of the globalization of monopoly capital, this reality is marked through agricultural production that occupies a specific role and is structured in three pillars: in the production of *commodities*, in the commodity exchanges, and in the world monopolies (OLIVEIRA, 2012).

The alliances established between capital and the agents of the land, as the large landowners receive from the State total apparatus of appropriation. The issue of public financing can be seen as an example of the viability of land monopolization by speculation. This new stage of the development of capitalism in the countryside, according to Oliveira (2007) presents specific traits, such as the presence of large industrial complexes to integrate agricultural production. This continuous process of industrialization of the countryside brings with it transformations in the relations of production in agriculture, and consequently, redefines the entire socioeconomic and political structure in the countryside.

3.1 TESSITURAS OF CORN AGRIBUSINESS IN SIMÃO DIAS AND POÇO VERDE

The expansion of capitalism built on the movement of history presents itself as a process too intense, finding ways to expand through the various spheres of society, establishing its logic of production and extraction of profit, and suppressing pre-existing forms of (re)production of life. The condition for the development of capitalism is present in the need for an organized market on a world scale, so the consolidation of its socio-metabolic structure seeks to make the mode of production equally universal (SMITH, 1988).

In this contemporary context of capital accumulation, land has been given a differentiated content as a financial asset. In this way, the expansive dynamics of the industrial bourgeoisie that has an interest in reproducing its capital is consolidated, through the partnership relationship with the State and the implementation of economic policies aimed at the accumulation of wealth. The interests of the bourgeoisie are the same as those of the agrarian oligarchies which are nothing more than the reproduction of wealth and the subordination of the working class, only establishing a policy of reproduction of capital in the countryside (SHIMADA, 2010).

The dynamics of agriculture are determined, above all, by the pattern of capital accumulation, and the development of industry. A new pattern of production emerges in the field, oriented fundamentally to the increase of productivity with, according to Conceição (2011), consolidation of the tripod: State-capital-market in the process of the globalization of capital and the financialization of the economy, which came to be called the New Rural World.

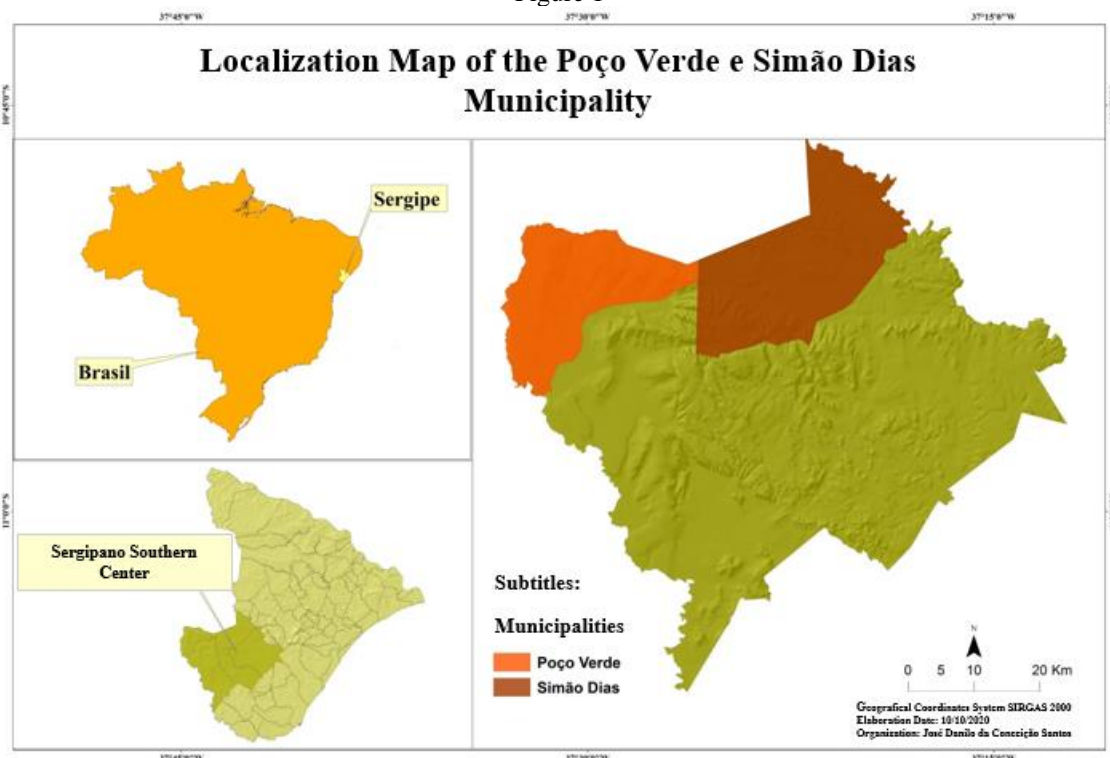
Thus,

Just as capital can appropriate labor, it can also appropriate land; it can cause it, which is neither the product of labor nor of capital, to appear dominated by the latter. But, just as the capitalist needs to pay a wage to appropriate the worker's labor power, he also needs to pay rent to appropriate the land (MARTINS, 1981, p. 160).

Just as labor power can be transformed into a commodity, so land is transformed into a commodity. And just as it is necessary to pay a wage to the worker for him to incorporate labor into the reproduction of capital, it is necessary to pay rent for the use of the land by capital or by the worker. That is, in agriculture, there is a difference between the rent that the land gives and the pure interest that money can give. Although the price of land is governed by the interest rate of the financial market, land allows those who appropriate it the right to charge the whole society a tribute, the capitalist rent of the land (OLIVEIRA, 2007).

According to Oliveira (2011), the increase in corn productivity in Sergipe was mainly caused by the change in the production pattern, adopting a technological package. Until then, corn was planted with traditional techniques, meeting the dynamics of peasant production, and now, being conditioned to subordination to the market. The modernization process began in 2003, in the municipality of Simão Dias, from the first experiments of competition of cultivars made by Embrapa Tabuleiros Costeiros, after this process spread to the other municipalities of the Territory and the state, such as Poço Verde:

Figure 1



According to the results of the last Agricultural Census (2017), the municipalities of Simão Dias and Poço Verde appear among the main producers of corn grain in the Central South Territory of Sergipe.

In the average productivity of corn in Sergipe there was subtle growth in recent years, according to data from IBGE – Municipal Agricultural Production (PAM, 2010-2019) in 2010 the average productivity was 4,123kg/ha, rising to 4,985kg/ha in 2017, presenting a decrease in 2019, with 4,838kg/ha. However, what draws attention is the increase in the level of production and yield of corn in the municipalities of Simão Dias and Poço Verde, the data for the year 2010 indicated a production yield equivalent to 5,000kg/ha and 2,773kg/ha, respectively. In 2019, they presented an increase of approximately 20% in less than ten years, with 6,000kg/ha and 3,600kg/ha, respectively.

Also according to IBGE data (PAN, 2010-2019), corn production in tons in the aforementioned municipalities showed a significant increase in the last decade: in 2010 Simão Dias and Poço Verde produced 150,000 and 38,711 tons, respectively. And in the year 2017, they produced 185,190 and 102,038 tons of corn in grains, mutually.

According to data released by IBGE, collected by the 2017 Agricultural Census, the Central South Sergipe Territory had about 5,000 establishments producing corn in grains, about 50% of these establishments are located in the municipalities of Simão Dias and Poço Verde. Likewise, they are among the five largest producers in the state of Sergipe, with production, respectively, of 26,179 and 8,876 tons, corresponding to approximately 22% of state production. This inscribes these municipalities as fundamental producers of corn agribusiness in the territory and the state.

The use of technological packages through the introduction and intensification of agribusiness has modified the relations in the countryside and the forms of land appropriation, both among the landowners and among the peasants, who hold smaller tracts of land. Santana (2019) Elucidates that,

The planting of corn in Sergipe has not only attracted large landowners but also small landowners, for production from the acquisition of technological packages, has distanced itself from the diversification of crops and invested in only one crop (SANTANA, 2019, p. 19).

This "attraction" can be better explained when it is understood that the replacement of the integrated cultivation of subsidy by the cultivation of corn is intrinsically related to the incentive policies on the part of the State for the adoption of technological packages, to also include the peasant producer as an instrument of maintaining competitiveness vis-à-vis the agribusiness system.

Agribusiness, following the logic of the capitalist system, finds ways to reproduce itself and perpetuate its accumulative, segregation, and super-exploitation character. The logic of agribusiness is inserted in the bowels of society, impacting the various sectors and layers.

In addition to the use of land on large properties, agribusiness restricts family peasant production, establishing monoculture as the only possible planting model, and uses the logic of capitalist agriculture to submit peasant production to the market, while making work in the field precarious. Land for capital functions as an element to be appropriated to extract surplus value from labor. For the peasants, the land pervades the dignity of the family, the protection of nature and its existence.

3.2 THE FACES OF SUGAR MONOCULTURE IN ALAGOAS

The process of the historical formation of the state of Alagoas has in its bowels remnants of an outdated mode of production, European commercial capitalism, which triggered a process of colonization, plundering, and development of agricultural export activities, based on a *plantation culture*. According to Menezes (2011, p. 18):

The occupation of Brazilian lands by the colonizers was initially carried out in the coastal regions, entering a narrow strip to the interior, if considered the dimension of the Brazilian territory, whether established by the hereditary captaincies, or the current one. In the colonial context, some points of the territory stood out due to economic and urban development, such as the Northeast region, which occupied an important position in the scenario of colonizing actions.

The economic activities that were developed in the period of colonization of Brazil shaped the states in their aspects of the organization of the social relations of production, in the case of Alagoas, the monoculture of sugarcane is a preponderant factor to understand the dynamics in which the state is configured.

According to (Araújo, 2011 apud Furtado, 1961, p. 100):

There would not be in an effective character another socioeconomic phenomenon in the country that better evidences the formation of our territorial identity, than sugar production, for having been the great motivator of the Portuguese for the colonization of the lands discovered by them due to the great navigations. Several state sugarcane policies were systematically constituted in Brazil, establishing themselves from the colonial mill to the time of modern sugarcane mills.

The spatial configuration of the Alagoas territory was built through economic activities that occurred almost half a century ago, however, such characteristics are still fully present in contemporaneity. In this sense, Vidal (2015), evidences that:

Alagoas is the largest northeastern producer of sugarcane, accounting for more than 40% of regional production, and a large percentage of this raw material is destined for sugar manufacturing. Thus, the State is also the largest producer of sugar in the Northeast, corresponding to more than 50% of the volume of this good produced in the Region. The growing demand for sugar in the world market and for ethanol in the domestic market, due to the increase in the fleet of flex-fuel vehicles, resulted in the growth of investments in the sugarcane production sector in Brazil in the 2000s (VIDAL, 2015, p. 35).

The following table presents the values regarding the production of specific cultivars in Alagoas.

Table 1 – Value of production of the main temporary and permanent crops in Alagoas, 2002 and 2012.

<i>Cultures</i>	<i>Production Value (thousand RS)</i>			<i>Participation (%)</i>	
	<i>2002</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>Var (%)</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>Temporary tillage</i>	<i>1.845.863</i>	<i>1.828.446</i>	<i>-0,9</i>	<i>94,5</i>	<i>96,6</i>
<i>Sugar cane</i>	<i>1.537.943</i>	<i>1.627.102</i>	<i>5,8</i>	<i>78,7</i>	<i>86,0</i>
<i>Cassava</i>	<i>108.084</i>	<i>139.151</i>	<i>28,7</i>	<i>5,5</i>	<i>7,4</i>
<i>Smoke</i>	<i>16.686</i>	<i>22.519</i>	<i>35,0</i>	<i>0,9</i>	<i>1,2</i>
<i>Sweet potato</i>	<i>11.935</i>	<i>14.743</i>	<i>23,5</i>	<i>0,6</i>	<i>0,8</i>
<i>Rice</i>	<i>12.374</i>	<i>7.737</i>	<i>-37,5</i>	<i>0,6</i>	<i>0,4</i>
<i>Bean</i>	<i>96.703</i>	<i>6.348</i>	<i>-93,4</i>	<i>5,0</i>	<i>0,3</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>62.137</i>	<i>10.846</i>	<i>-82,5</i>	<i>3,2</i>	<i>0,6</i>
<i>Permanent tillage</i>	<i>107.266</i>	<i>64.455</i>		<i>5,5</i>	<i>3,4</i>
<i>Banana</i>	<i>26.208</i>	<i>22.038</i>	<i>-15,9</i>	<i>1,3</i>	<i>1,2</i>
<i>Orange</i>	<i>52.145</i>	<i>18.112</i>	<i>-65,3</i>	<i>2,7</i>	<i>1,0</i>
<i>Coconut-of-the-bay</i>	<i>25.370</i>	<i>16.190</i>	<i>-36,2</i>	<i>1,3</i>	<i>0,9</i>
<i>Papaya</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>3.933</i>	<i>9.704,4</i>	<i>0,0</i>	<i>0,2</i>
<i>Sleeve</i>	<i>1.713</i>	<i>1.406</i>	<i>-17,9</i>	<i>0,1</i>	<i>0,1</i>
<i>Passion fruit</i>	<i>1.513</i>	<i>1.470</i>	<i>-2,8</i>	<i>0,1</i>	<i>0,1</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>1.306</i>	<i>371,5</i>	<i>0,0</i>	<i>0,1</i>

Source: Vidal (2015).

Note: Prepared by BNB/ETENE with data from IBGE (2014).

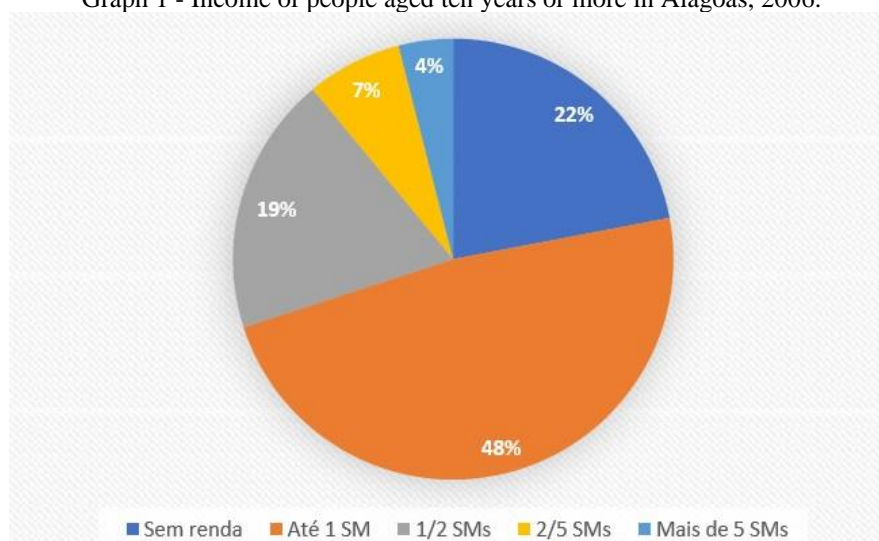
The agricultural economy of Alagoas has an enormous dependence on the production of sugarcane and derivatives since almost all agricultural production is circumscribed to the dynamics of sugar monoculture.

With an economy dependent on a single product, in an attempt to achieve a surplus and have a positive balance in the trade balance, state investments are concentrated in this activity which is the love of agribusiness.

Such activities end up boosting the social problems of this state since the large concentration of land destined for an export monoculture inhibits possible socioeconomic development and the guarantee of food security in the Alagoas.

To emphasize the social inequalities in Alagoas, which it is possible to infer that it is the result of the development of the historical process, the following graph presents an estimate of the per capita income of the Alagoas population.

Graph 1 - Income of people aged ten years or more in Alagoas, 2006.



Source: IBGE/PNAD (2006).

According to Carvalho (2008):

Poverty combined with poor income distribution is the determining element for understanding other regional phenomena. The state's economy has a small industrial park, agriculture with a few dynamic sectors, and a network of trade and services based on the informal economy, little developed, and therefore unable to generate more jobs. It also presents one of the most concentrated income distributions in Brazil (CARVALHO, 2008, p. 11).

There is a proportional relationship between the low dynamism of productive activities and the issue of social inequalities, considering that the economy of the state of Alagoas has a share of dependence on the agribusiness of sugarcane.

The following table presents a variation of the concentration of income in Alagoas.

Table 2 – Evolution of the HDI and Gini Index - Selected years - Alagoas, Northeast, and Brazil.

Human Development and Gini Indices	Alagoas	Northeast	Brazil
HDI (1991)	0,370	0,405	0,501
HDI (2010)	0,682	0,660	0,726
Gini Index (1990)	0,574	0,626	0,614
Gini Index (2013)	0,525	0,537	0,527

Source: IPEA (2014)

Note: Prepared by BNB/ETENE with data from IPEA/DATA.

The concentration of income and human development indicators has improved over the years in Alagoas. The sugar economy is present in several municipalities of the referred state, however, it is up to this part of the research to carry out a detailed observation of the municipality of Coruripe-

AL.

The municipality of Coruripe-AL in 2019 had a production of 2.83 million tons of sugarcane, making it the 47th largest producer in the country. According to IBGE, in 2019 the state of Alagoas had the largest sugarcane harvest of the last four years. Totaling 18.702 million tons produced in the state, constituting an increase of 11.7% when compared to the previous year. The amount produced makes Alagoas the seventh-largest producer of sugarcane in the country and the first in the Northeast region.



Source: Personal elaboration.

Since its process of economic and territorial formation, the state of Alagoas still has a very strong characteristic of what was the second economic cycle of the country, the sugar cycle. According to Vidal (2015), the share of sugar production reaches 86% in the temporary and permanent crop sectors. The state has a strong dependence on the sugar-energy sector, the following table shows the participation of this crop in Alagoas.

Table – 3 State agricultural production (temporary crop): over R\$ 100 million - BNB's area of operation – 2012.

PRODUCT	R\$ MILLION									
	AL	BA	EC	MA	PB	PE	PI	RN	IF	TOTAL
SUGAR CANE	1.627	430	124	240	407	909	52	287	231	4.653

Source: BNB/ETENE/Economic, Social, and Technological Information Cell, 2014.

The expansive participation of sugar monoculture in Alagoas can be understood as a dependence on the agro-export model polished by agribusiness. Such a model provides a problem for this state that already has an alarming social contrast. According to Carvalho (2008), the state has a society marked by a certain uncomfortable way: 62% of the population is considered poor, by the IPEA Social Radar survey, and more than half of its inhabitants benefit from the Bolsa Família program.

The most fertile and arable lands are in the southern region of the state, however, these large proportions of land are used for the practice of sugar monoculture, while agricultural activities aimed at ensuring the food security of Alagoas are inserted in the regions of Agreste and Sertão.

The tendency of the formulation of reconfiguration of the relations of production in the field promotes a conflict between agribusiness and the workers, to the extent that an expansion of arable land for the sugar monoculture is conditioned in this follow-up, determining that the agricultural activities of subsistência are located in regions of the semiarid region.

The modernization process applied to the countryside also altered the social and material relations of production in the agrarian space of Alagoas, initiating the precariousness of work and the dissemination of social ills. Therefore, the main thread of conflict between peasantry and agribusiness is circumscribed in the logic of the production of volatile labor.

4 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

With the development of the productive forces under capitalism and the constitution of the production model based on the extraction of profit in the countryside – agribusiness – the social relations in the agrarian space was considerably altered, since such forms of production have antagonistic forms of realization and objectives, results and unequal influences vis-à-vis the State.

They constitute founding elements of the conflict established between this double mold of production and reproduction in the countryside and the new (re)configurations of the agrarian space, the land, and its various territorial faces, of access, of management, of interaction, of appropriation of products, of commercialization, of the objectives of insertion of products in the market, of the disputes between the State and public policies. The conflict that is established between the peasant mode of production and agribusiness pervades, above all, the core of the Capital-Labor interaction.

There is a trend of increasing the power of agribusiness materialized in the expansion of *commodity* production, in the intensification of mechanization and use of pesticides, and in the intensification of the exploitation of the labor force with the increase in the outsourcing of rural labor, which implies in the aggravation of the agrarian question. The main conflict materializes through the submission of peasant income, while the process of subordination of the peasant worker to the dynamics of capital transforms his labor power into the commodity form, enabling the production of precarious and volatile labor.

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