

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2022

Belém - Pará - Brasil





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Director's Words

Welcome to TROPOC's fifth sustainability report. For 50 years we have been working in partnership with small farmers in the state of Pará, constantly seeking to improve the sustainable production of black pepper, valuing and encouraging good agricultural practices, local development and the promotion of social inclusion.

Known as the King of Spices, black pepper has been cultivated for centuries and is part of the Brazilian culture, besides being widely used in the world's cuisine. However, like any agricultural product, its cultivation must take into account possible environmental and social impacts. In this sense, TROPOC understands that it is essential to guarantee that black pepper production is carried out in a sustainable way, with responsible agricultural practices, in a socially fair manner, and with conscious management practices focused on the preservation of natural resources.

This report presents the company's actions regarding the sustainability of black pepper production, the partnership with small farmers in the state of Pará, as well as the results achieved and the challenges faced. Throughout the report, data and indicators related to the aspects of production traceability, environmental preservation and greenhouse gas emissions in TROPOC's production chain will be presented. Social responsibility policies, technical training, and the company's worker training programs will also be addressed.

"TROPOC PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARA BLACK PEPPER CHAIN"

GRI 2.13 | 2.22



TROPOC Considerations

Food quality and safety are fundamental aspects in the production and commercialization of black pepper. The quality of the product is related to properties such as aroma, flavor and appearance, as well as factors related to the content of piperine and volatile oil, the main components of black pepper. Food safety, on the other hand, is related to the guarantee that the product does not present risks to the consumers' health.

In order for these aspects to be fulfilled, black pepper production must be carried out in a responsible way, with the adequate use of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs, in order to guarantee the quality of the product and the preservation of the environment.

In addition, it is important that the farmers adopt adequate hygiene and handling practices during the harvest and processing of black pepper. This way, we can avoid contaminations that could compromise the food safety of our product.

In view of this, TROPOC has built a technical support network composed of professionals from the company and technicians from research and rural extension institutions who work in the field with farmers, transmitting knowledge of good agricultural practices, food safety, technological innovation, and production sustainability.

Our production process relies on state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, where processing processes are constantly monitored by trained professionals.

Currently, TROPOC is a national and international reference in quality and technology in black pepper processing, a source of pride for our entire team, which will continue to focus on improving and optimizing production processes, ensuring the quality and food safety of our product.

Arthur Vinícius Gonçalves
COO

GRI 2.13 | 2.22



Franciano Vieira
CEO



01 TROPOC

Founded in 1973, in the city of Castanhal, state of Pará, Brazil, TROPOC (Produtos Tropicais de Castanhal Ltda.) has built, over its 50-year history, a solid reputation as one of the largest buyers, processors and exporters of black pepper in Brazil.

The company supplies the national and international markets with black and white pepper classified according to the customers' needs, including products sterilized by saturated steam (ready-to-use), as well as red and green pepper in syrup.

TROPOC's production process is focused on the high quality of our products, respecting the norms and regulations of the most demanding markets (such as Europe and the United States) in terms of quality control and food safety.

We invest in projects and partnerships with public institutions of agricultural research and rural extension aiming to actively participate in the development of sustainable pipericulture in the state of Pará.

TROPOC positions itself as a solid bridge between researchers, rural extensionists and farmers, fostering and enabling the exchange of technical knowledge through technical visits, lectures and field days. This way, we intensify the incentive to the adoption of innovative technologies and good agricultural practices.

For this whole process to be executed, we rely on a qualified team of technicians, consultants, and researchers, who, led by the company's CEO, work together to establish the strategies, goals, and objectives to be achieved.

GRI 2.1 | 2.6 | 2.12 | 2.23

Established as a major player in the domestic market, TROPOC stands out for the high quality of its products and for its strict quality and production traceability program. It has nationally and internationally recognized certifications related to good production practices, environmental protection, quality, management, and ethics.

In 2022, the company supplied black pepper to food industry clients from 12 countries, distributed in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America.

PRODUCTS



The **Green Pepper** in syrup is the fruit that has not yet ripened, and has a very strong aroma, but a fresher and milder flavor than other peppers.



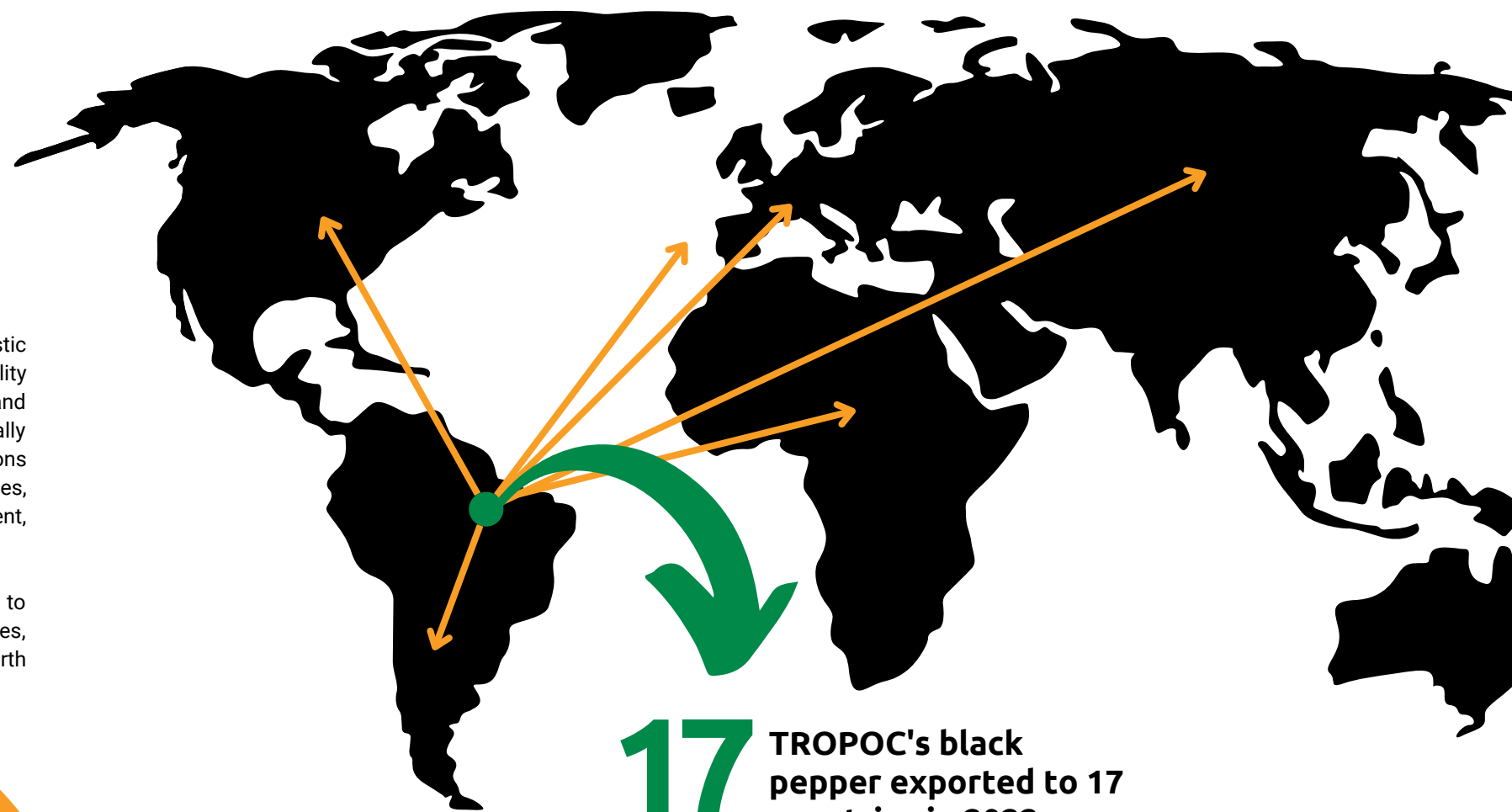
The **Black Pepper** is the sun-dried, non-irradiated bean. This is the most widely consumed variety in the world, and has a pungent, woody aroma.



The **White Pepper** is made from the ripe fruits. It is obtained by removing the outer skin of the fruit, leaving only the beans. This gives the white pepper a softer, more delicate and refined flavor.



The **Red Pepper** is produced from the dehydration of ripe fruits. Characterized by its intense red-orange color and its spicy flavor, it is milder than black pepper.



17 TROPOC's black pepper exported to 17 countries in 2022



+ than 1.200 traced farmers



HIGHLIGHT among companies in the sector

FOREST

preservation of biodiversity in the company's area



CERTIFIED in the most demanding quality standards

GRI 2.1 | 2.6

Purpose

We have established a responsible corporate culture based on the adoption of commitments that encompass the quality of our processes and products, as well as diligence and respect for human and environmental rights. In this way, we pursue excellence in the company's work routine. TROPOC is based on the following pillars:

Mission

- To assure our customers quality raw materials, guaranteed and recognized;
- To offer our customers a technical, logistical, and commercial differential;
- To provide rural farmers with business and income opportunities in the Amazon geoeconomic region;
- Offer our customers total transparency through TROPOC Total Traceability System;
- Offer customers a product based on a broad Sustainability Program.

Values

- Global presence and financial solidity;
- Commitment to our clients' needs, proposing solutions that encompass quality, innovation, and service;
- Commitment to the environment and the society in which we operate. Respect for employees, being a company where they are proud to work.

Vision

- To use the experience of 50 years of agribusiness activities in order to be recognized globally as a company with guaranteed quality and sustainability;
- To be the largest company in the segment in Latin America, supplying the global market with tracked, selected, and tested products, with quality and responsibility.

Objective

- We want TROPOC to be an example to other companies in the industry, being a reference in quality and food safety, while at the same time acting actively to enable the development of sustainable pipericulture in the state of Pará.

GRI 2.23



02 SUSTAINABILITY

Committed to promoting the sustainable supply chain of black pepper in the state of Pará, we structured the TROPOC Sustainability Program 5 years ago.

The TROPOC Sustainability Program includes social actions, internal and external training, in addition to the Traceability Programs, the TROPOC Geo Project, inventories of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and research conducted in the company's experimental field.

The guarantee of the product's quality goes through the monitoring of production from its origin, from the monitoring of the crops and technical support to farmers, to the monitoring of shipping controls in the shipment of the product and freight, after the industrial process.

Through a collaborative approach, we seek to generate positive impacts and make a difference in the sector, creating opportunities for small farmers and promoting local family farming. The program currently has 4 main projects, structured in such a way as to establish a connection between the company, research, and the field.

Our Sustainability Program is guided by the three main pillars of our company. We care about the **PEOPLE** involved in all stages of the production chain, from the family farmers to the final consumers. We seek to ensure the **QUALITY** of our products, which are exported to several countries, following the highest quality standards. And, finally, we are committed to caring for the **PLANET** and adopting sustainable practices in all our operations.



COMMUNITY CARE



PLANET RESPONSIBILITY



QUALITY ASSURANCE FROM FARM TO FORK

The TROPOC Sustainability Program takes into account the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which indicate 17 global objectives and 169 targets to eliminate poverty and hunger, provide quality education for all, protect the planet and promote peaceful and inclusive societies by 2030.

Taking into account the context and regional situation of the company's area of operation and influence, we adopted six SDGs as the basis for the TROPOC Sustainability Program, in order to guide decision making and establish clear purposes in topics related to agriculture, environment, society and sustainability.



SDGs chosen by TROPOC



GRI 2.12 | 2.23 | 3.3

Amazon - Pará - Brazil

Covering an area of 420 million hectares, the Amazon is the most biodiverse biome in the world, with 40 thousand plant species, over 300 mammal species and 1.3 thousand bird species. For the protection of fauna and flora, the Brazilian Amazon has 1,872 conservation units (UC), totaling an area of 154 million hectares.

On the other hand, socio-cultural riches are also present in the forest, with 173 ethnic groups living in the region, in places that together correspond to 27% of the vegetated area. In the Amazon 98% of the total area of demarcated Indigenous Lands (IT) of Brazil is concentrated (around 118 million hectares), thus becoming a primordial place for the maintenance and preservation of traditional peoples and indigenous culture.

With the growing global concern about climate change, we are directly involved in the research and promotion of good agricultural practices in 30 of the 144 municipalities in Pará.

The great reach and capillarity of the operations is obtained with the help of employees and technicians present in the regions where the company operates.

The state of Pará is covered in its entirety by the Amazon biome, with 80 protected areas and 54 Indigenous Lands, together totaling 75 million hectares - 60% of the state's total area. Rich in biodiversity and culture, the Paraense population's economy is based on agriculture, especially that carried out by small family farmers. This corresponds to 40% of the state's economy, with manioc, açaí, cocoa, orange, dendê palm and black pepper being the most important crops.

Pará is the second largest pepper farmer in Brazil, second only to the state of Espírito Santo. The Paraense pepper plants occupy 0.01% of the total area of the state. When discounting the main protected areas, composed of UCs and TIs, the pimentais occupy 0.03% of the territory. The production of black pepper in the state is solidly based on the production matrix of family farming, and the pimentais are implanted in areas of consolidated use.

GRI 3.3



According to the most recent data from FAO, in 2021, Brazil produced 118,000 tons of black pepper, ranking second in world production. In first place, Vietnam produced a total of 185,000 tons of the product. The cultivation of the species is highly labor intensive, especially the harvesting process, which is carried out manually and in a staggered manner, at different periods of fruit maturation. In Brazil, the activity generates approximately 30 thousand direct jobs during the year, and up to 80 thousand at harvest time, and is characterized as an important source of income for small rural farmers.

To achieve results with social, environmental and economic impact, the company invests human and financial resources in projects developed in partnership with research institutions, universities, agencies and public and private companies related to the pipericulture sector. The technical and scientific knowledge of the agents involved in the development of the black pepper production chain, added to the financial and technological investments made by TROPOC, enable and foster action plans focused on the development of the black pepper production chain.

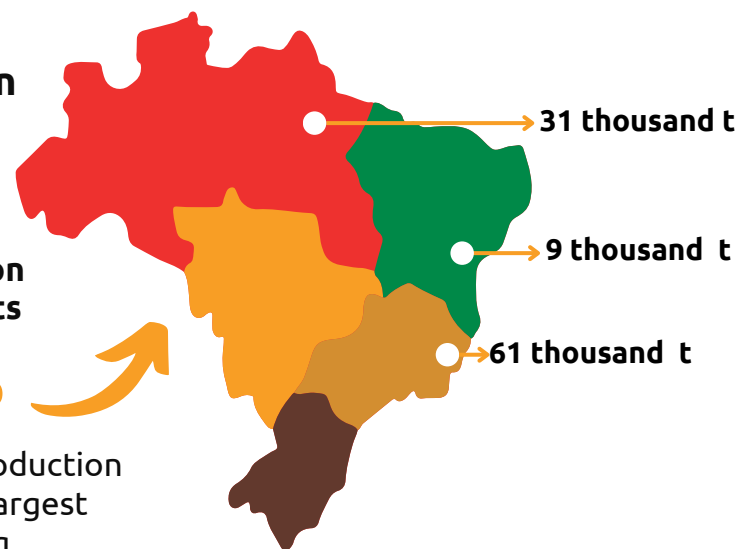
World black pepper production (thousand tons) in 2021

Vietnam	162
Brazil	101
Indonesia	89
India	60
China	30
Sri Lanka	24
Malaysia	22

Brazilian Production represents

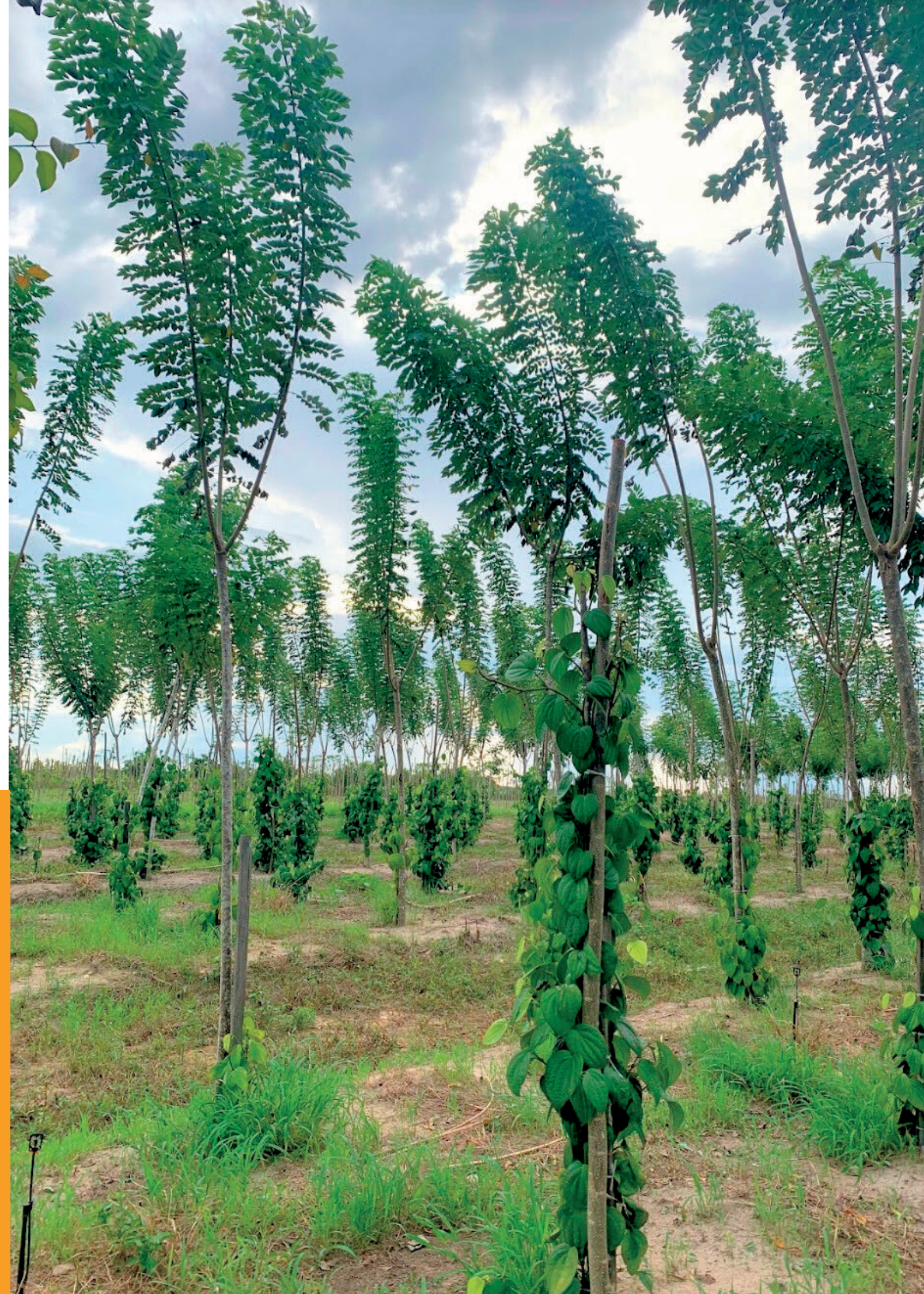
20%

of the production of the 7 largest producing countries



LAND USE DISTRIBUTION IN PARÁ STATE

pepper area in Brazil	37.376 ha
pepper area in Pará	16.395 ha
Participation of Pará in the pepper area in Brazil	43,86%
Pará Area	124.6 millions de ha
% of the Pará area covered with peppers	0,013%
Indigenous Land Areas in Pará (54)	34.1 millions of ha
Conservation Unit Areas in Pará (80)	40.8 millions of ha
Pará Area (except TI and UC)	49.6 millions of ha
% of the Pará area (except Indigenous Land and Conservation Units) covered by peppers	0,03%



03 TRACEABILITY

Our Traceability Program aims to individually identify the environmental, social and management parameters involved in the production of each farmer, with the objective of tracing the origin of the product.

TROPOC's traceability team is formed by collaborators with specific technical skills related to black pepper production and the commercialization chain, including the norms and requirements of global markets. They are known as trackers and establish a close relationship with farmers, addressing topics such as production management, environmental preservation and product quality. Trackers work closely with farmers, analyzing these issues in the context of each farm, so that the latest research and knowledge can be applied directly in the field.

Our relationship with the farmer is maintained through regular visits to register and update information regarding the crops. The organization of events, field days, and the dissemination of technical materials to support production, help ensure compliance with national and international laws and regulations, as well as the adoption of innovative agricultural practices by farmers.

By collecting data in the field, it is possible to create indicators and estimates about the volume, varieties grown, production quality, and environmental aspects of the property. In addition, the precise location (geolocation) of each farmer allows strategic planning of commercial actions, especially in regions where production is widely spread.

The trackers visit the small family property, the origin of the black pepper, and it is exactly in this place that the traceability begins, by means of an interview held in the pimental itself.

To make this possible, the program counts on an application as its main tool, which allows the data of each farmer to be registered and automatically generates a detailed report about the pimental and the property.

+680

new farmers traced in 2022

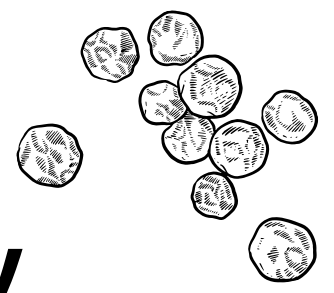
+1.100

farmers traced since 2018

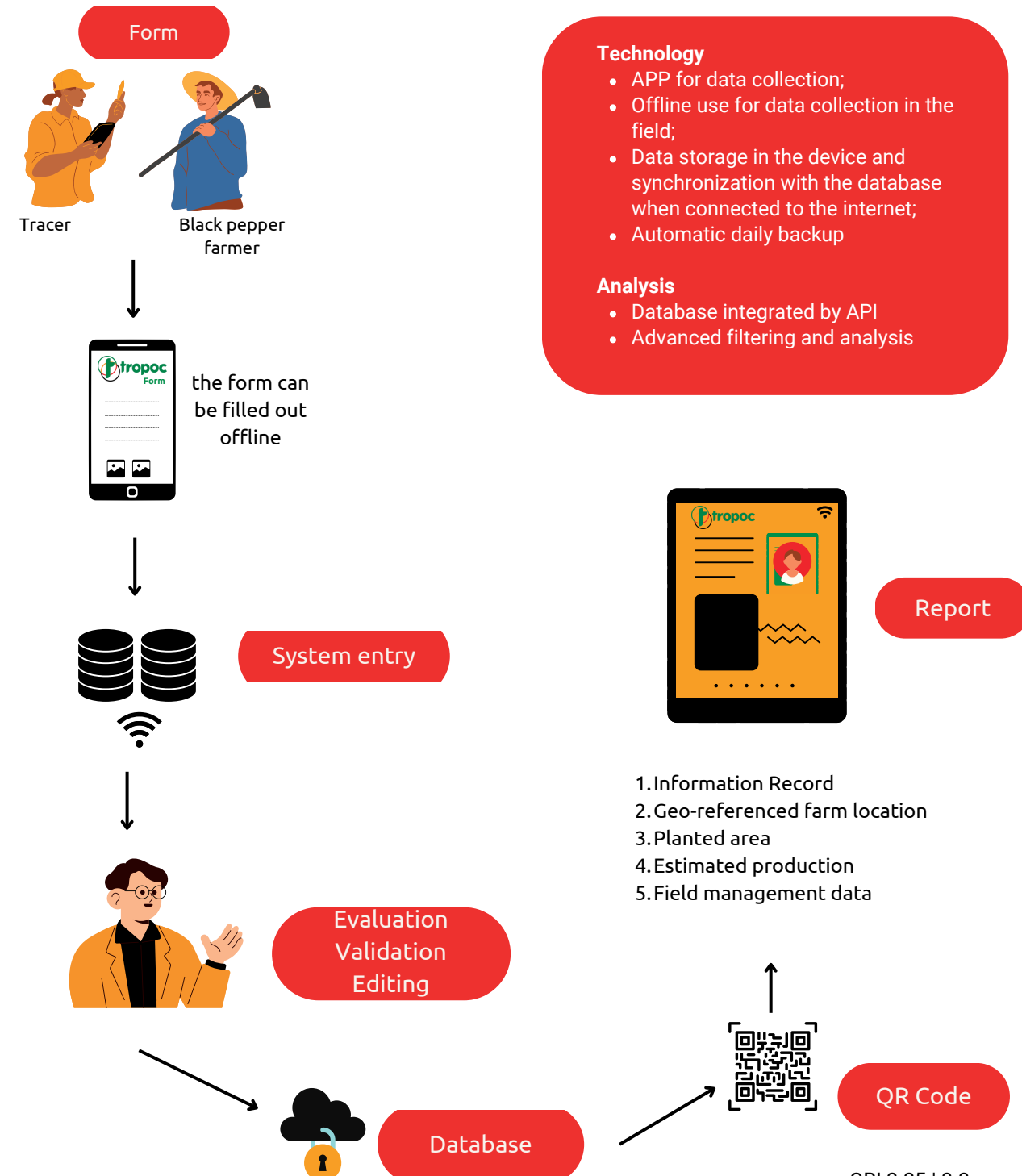
GRI 2.12 | 2.23 | 2.25 | 3.3



TROPOC Traceability Program



Operational Structure



GRI 2.25 | 3.3

04 GEO PROJECT

Using our own resources, in 2018 we launched the GEO TROPOC Project, aimed at monitoring forest conservation on properties identified by the company's Traceability Program. The project identifies land use and detects the occurrence of deforestation of forest vegetation on rural properties. In this way, we collaborate to maintain the environmental compliance of farmers through a continuous and rigorous monitoring system.

Using satellite images and artificial intelligence technologies, the vegetation monitoring is carried out in order to detect deforestation in registered suppliers. In addition, the project maps the occurrence of fire in the producing region and identifies changes in the coverage and use of the soil.

The project in question also aims to analyze the geographical distribution of supplier properties, in order to identify possible overlaps with protected areas, such as indigenous lands, quilombola lands, forest conservation units, geoparks, geological sites and other public areas intended for environmental protection.

The mapping is carried out annually by means of geoprocessing and its results are presented in an interactive geospatial intelligence platform, which is available to the company's managers. This data is used as the basis for planning strategic and commercial actions, in addition to guiding farmers regarding environmental legislation.

The assistance to farmers in the case of demands for adequacy are carried out in partnership with the Institute for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (EMATER-Pará), which provides technical guidance related to the necessary regularization processes.

GRI 2.25 | 3.3 | 304.2

How it works

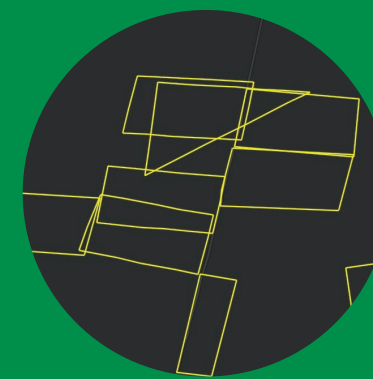
Satellite images are used, including images from the European Space Agency (ESA) and the United States Aerospace Agency (NASA), as a basis for the analysis of land use, such as agriculture, pasture, vegetation, urban areas, among other use classes. To identify the occurrence of deforestation on the properties, geoprocessing procedures and image classification using artificial intelligence techniques are applied.

Each tracked property has its polygon identified and mapped, thus creating an information bank of property boundaries. The land uses are mapped, including areas of native vegetation, perennial agriculture, water, pasture, and black pepper fields. Vegetation suppression is detected by comparing the vegetated areas identified in the analysis with the areas identified in the previous year. The data are organized and summarized by geographic regions, allowing local and regional analyses, serving as a basis for addressing actions.

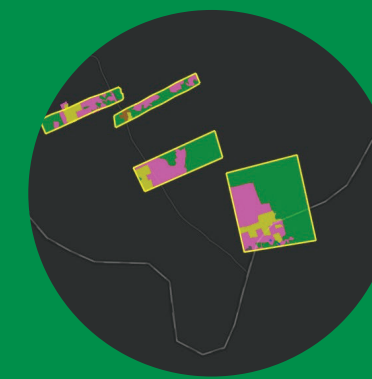
Analysis

The results of the Geo TROPOC Project are analyzed and in cases of deforestation detection or occurrence of fires, the information is made available to the responsible public agencies for field verification and forwarding of adjustment actions.

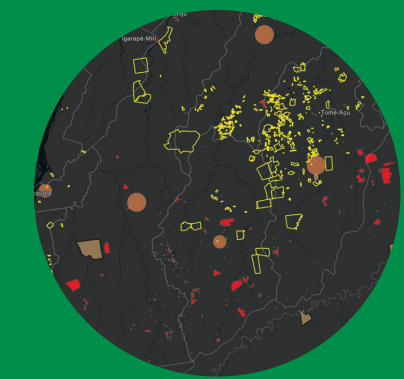
The project's data and results are accessed through the spatial geo-intelligence platform, which is constantly being updated, thus forming a historical base of cadastral, commercial and environmental information.



Overlap Analysis



Farm-level analysis



Regional and grouped analysis

The timeline with data on vegetation loss is important for supplier management, especially in relation to compliance with environmental regulations.

Analysis Levels

1 - OVERLAP ANALYSIS

- Indigenous Lands
- Quilombola Lands
- Protected environmental public areas
- Geoparks and geological sites

2 - ANALYSIS AT FARM LEVEL

- Fires
- Land use
- Deforestation
- Carbon stock

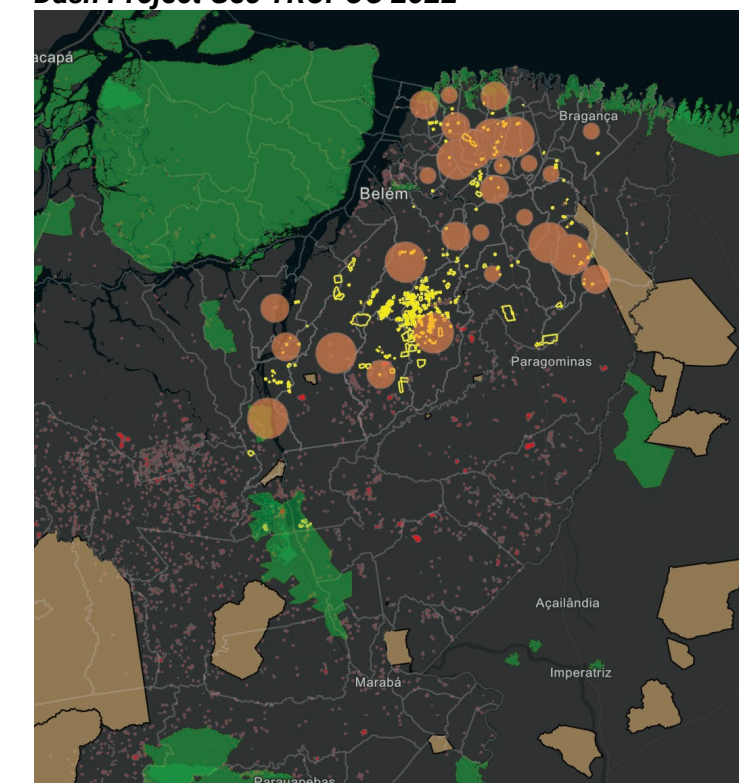
3 - REGIONAL AND GROUPED ANALYSIS

- Vegetation type
- Property size
- Region
- Municipality

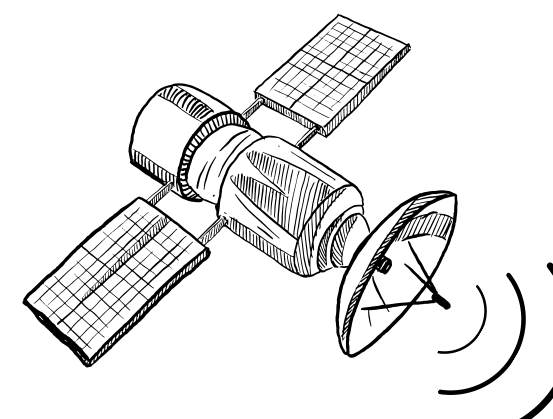
Importance of the Geo TROPOC Project

- To contribute to the protection of the Amazon forest and promote sustainable development
- Build capacity and make farmers aware of their important role in preservation
- Generate evidence that black pepper production is developed in consolidated areas
- To guarantee transparency with stakeholders about the origin of the product
- Comply with international standards regarding the production of commodities
- Provide information to guide environmental adequacy actions of black pepper farmers in Pará-Belém-Brazil
- Contribute to remote environmental inspection and collaborate with public agencies
- To build an environmental and historical database of farmers

Dash Project Geo TROPOC 2022



GRI 2.25 | 3.3 | 304.2



05 CORPORATE GEE INVENTORY

Given the growing and necessary concern of institutions and individuals in relation to global warming, the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) is becoming increasingly relevant. For this reason, we carry out the annual Corporate GHG Inventory, which considers the following scopes related to the production process:

- Scope 1: emissions where the company has direct responsibility
- Scope 2: emissions related to the consumption of electricity produced outside the company
- Scope 3: emissions for which the company has no direct responsibility

Although only scopes 1 and 2 are mandatory, the company strives to report all emissions by preparing a complete Corporate GHG Inventory that covers all three scopes. By recording the total number of CO₂eq emitted throughout the year, the company identifies the main emission sources from production, allowing it to act with precision in efforts to mitigate GHG emissions.

In this way, actions to reduce the impacts on the environment are part of the company's corporate strategy, collaborating in the fight against climate change. TROPOC uses the Corporate GHG Protocol methodology to calculate its GHG emissions, which is the most widely used protocol in the world. To make its emissions data public, the company participates in the Brazilian GHG Protocol Program and declares its emissions in the Public Emissions Registry, which can be accessed through the link: <https://registropublicodeemissoes.fgv.br/>.

Why do the Corporate GHG Inventory?

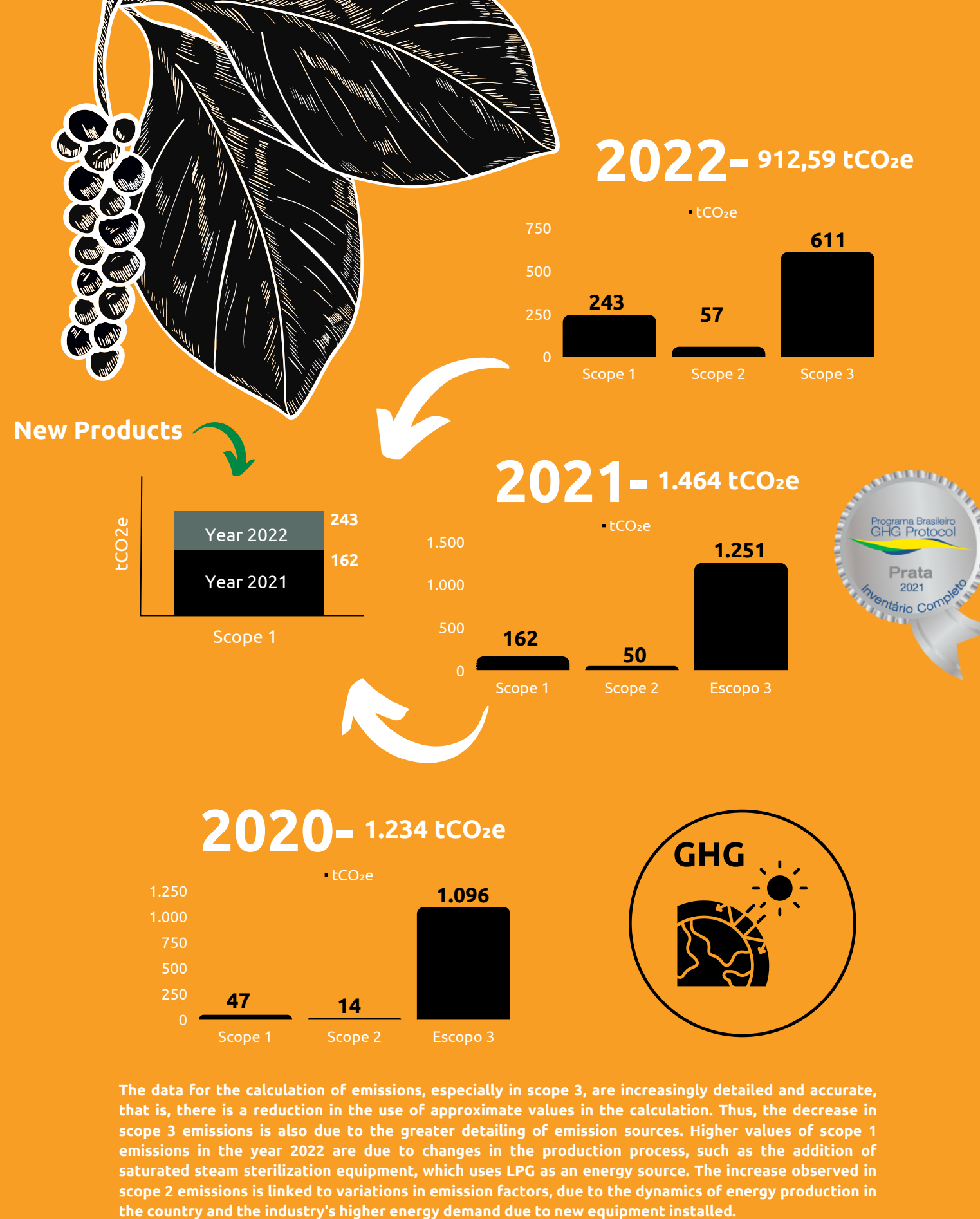
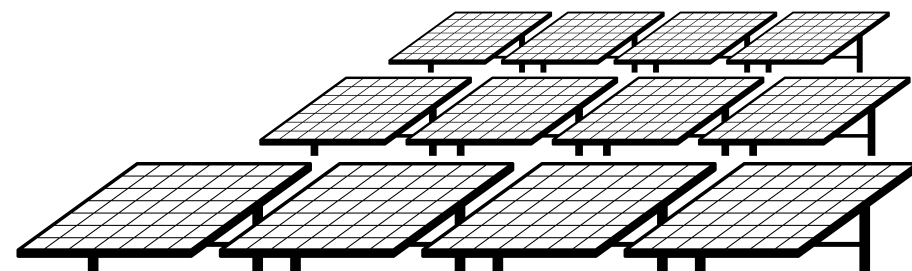
- Company commitment to greenhouse gas emissions
- Anticipation regarding future laws, rules and regulations related to sectorial policy and climate change
- Assessment of operational and strategic risks and opportunities;
- Meeting the expectations of customers and stakeholders;
- Possibility of entering the carbon market;
- Competitive advantages and prominence in the sector.

Corporate GHG Inventory 2022

In the year 2022, the main direct emissions were from stationary combustion, arising mainly from LPG consumption from the black pepper sterilization process.

One of the actions chosen as a strategy to achieve carbon neutral production is the installation of solar panels to generate electricity. The project for the installation of the system will start in 2023, with the objective of meeting all of the company's energy demand, thus neutralizing 100% of the scope 2 GHG emissions.

With regard to scope 3, there is a large reduction in emissions between the years 2020 and 2021, due to the increased use of public transportation by employees and the improvement of data collection for the calculation of emissions of this scope.



The Corporate GHG Emissions Inventory for the year 2022 will be submitted for publication in the Public Emissions Registry, a platform managed by Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV).

06 RESEARCH FIELD

In Pará, the staking of pepper plants is predominantly done with stakes of durable and resistant wood, with the Acapú tree (*Vuouacapua americana*) being the most commonly used. However, this practice can result in selective deforestation of the Amazon rainforest because the species used are native to the region.

In an initiative led and financed by TROPOC, a partnership was established with public research, development and extension agencies, such as the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), the Federal Rural University of the Amazon and the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company of the State of Pará (EMATER-PA), with the objective of creating the **Applied Research Field in Sustainable Black Pepper Production**, aiming to preserve biodiversity and prevent adverse climatic effects resulting from the removal of vegetation.

Aiming to be a technological reference unit (URT) and a base for agricultural studies, the project works to improve the management of black pepper, making the crop more productive and sustainable. The researchers, together with our collaborators, work to develop production technologies, including management practices, fertilization indications, and irrigation management protocols. In addition, the project seeks to adopt live *Gliricídia* (*Gliricídia sepium*) tutors as a substitute for hardwood cuttings.

Gliricídia is already introduced in the black pepper crops in some regions of Pará, and over the last years has been presenting positive results both for the environment and for the farmers.

The species did not present competition or invasion problems with other native species, and can be easily cultivated and managed at a low cost.

The use of *Gliricídia* as a live tutor in pipericulture brings several socioeconomic and environmental benefits. Besides contributing to the sustainability of the pipericulture production, the adoption of this method allows the reduction of wood removal from the forests, helping to preserve the native wood reserves and avoiding the emission of greenhouse gases. *Gliricídia* is an efficient and low cost alternative that can help maintain the ecological balance and sequester carbon during its growth.



TROPOC plays a fundamental role in the dissemination of the knowledge generated in the Experimental Field to the farmers. The incentive to plant black pepper with *gliricídia* tutoring is done through technical assistance provided by EMATER, EMBRAPA and TROPOC's own professionals, who have a close relationship with the grower. In addition, events are organized so that the farmers can get to know the Experimental Field and understand how this management works. To encourage the adoption of this practice by the growers, TROPOC financially bonuses the growers that supply black pepper from fields cultivated with *Gliricídia*, encouraging the diffusion of this type of planting system.

Benefits of adopting *Gliricídia*

- Avoids the removal of trees from the forest
- Well-being of the worker in the field, being protected from the sun by the shade of the trees
- Tutor of rapid growth
- Increase of organic matter in the soil due to the falling leaves and branches from pruning (natural mulching)
- Production of own seedlings for the formation of new tutors
- Income generation through the sale of surplus seedlings
- Removal of atmospheric CARBON

Soil Carbon

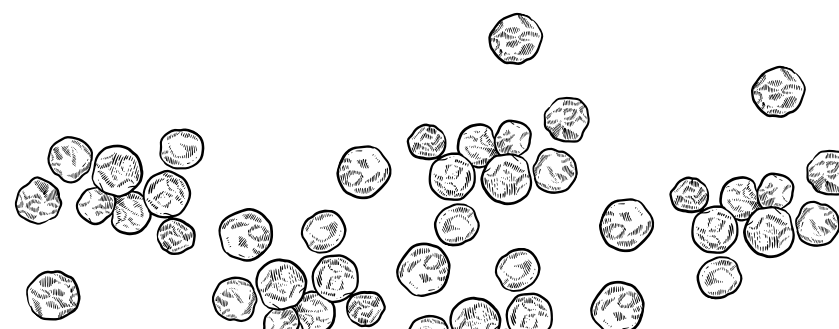
In the experimental field, soil samples were collected for measurement of carbon stocks in the soil in two black pepper cultivation systems: live stakes (*Gliricídia*) and dead stakes (estacão). The samples were sent to a specialized laboratory, following an internationally accepted analysis methodology.

The data collected will help establish a baseline of soil carbon stocks in the two systems, allowing the planning of goals and actions to promote more sustainable black pepper production.



GRI 2.25 | 3.3 | 304.2

GRI 3.3 | 304.2

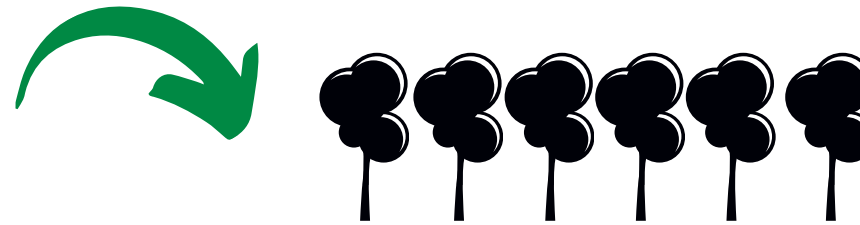


Research

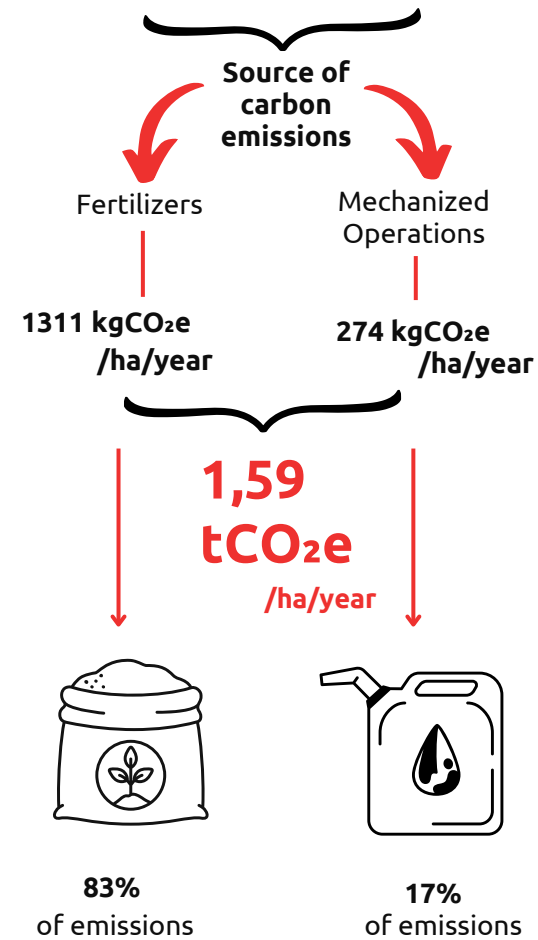
In 2022, Eduardo Pavão, coordinator of the TROPOC Sustainability Program, concluded his master's thesis in agribusiness at Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), which analyzed the advantages of gliricídia as a living guardian and simulated possible scenarios of carbon removal and storage in the soil. TROPOC provided financial support for the research, whose data will be used in future studies.

The simulated scenarios present potential removals (-) of: -0.75 to -1.5 tCO₂/ha/year by adopting the system. When the removals (-) are added to the emissions (+) of the black pepper production system, the use of Gliricídia can reduce CO₂ emissions by up to 96%, depending on the scenario analyzed.

Research in partnership with EMBRAPA in the Experimental Field shows the benefits of using Gliricídia as a tutor for black pepper. A recent research, published in September 2022 EMBRAPA Amazônia Ocidental, demonstrated that the use of the live guardian has positive effects on the growth and production of certain varieties of black pepper, making cultivation with gliricídia more advantageous than conventional cultivation.



Carbon emissions from conventional Black pepper plantation



Planting black pepper with Gliricídia

Emission of the black pepper plantation: **1,59 tCO₂e /ha/year**

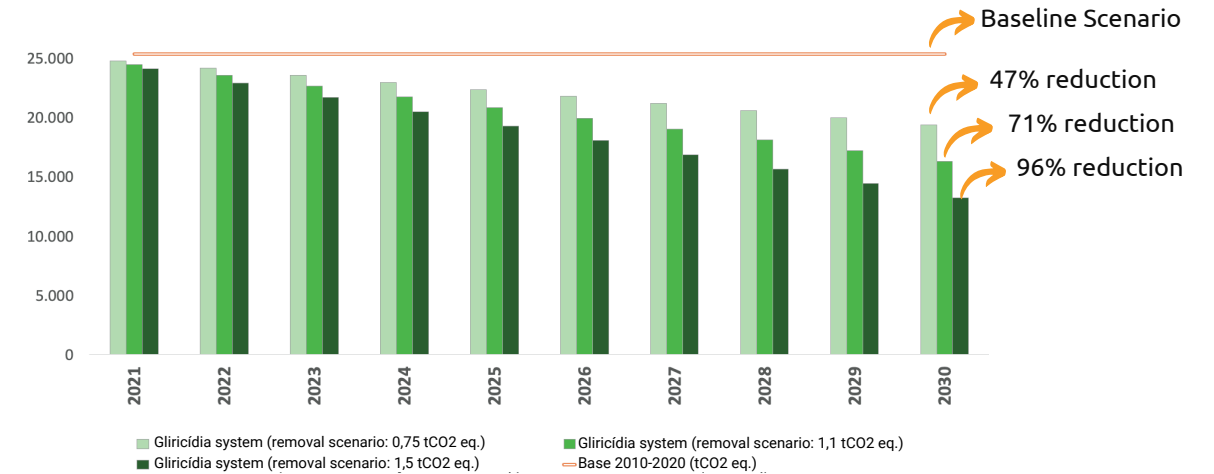
Removal Potential with Gliricídia: **-0,75 tCO₂e /ha/year**

Annual Balance of Emissions: **0,84 tCO₂e /ha/year**

47% of Reduction

In this way the use of the Gliricídia live stump makes the peppers remove a significant amount of atmospheric carbon, storing it in the soil and in the biomass of the plants. Besides the numbers presented, it is important to point out that Gliricídia (Gliricidia sepium) is part of the leguminous families, plants that fix nitrogen in the soil, reducing the need to use nitrogen fertilizers, which emit greenhouse gases.

IMPACTS GENERATED CONSIDERING THE THREE ADOPTION SCENARIOS OF THE GLIRICÍDIA SYSTEM



The study conducted by researcher Eduardo Pavão simulated three different carbon removal potentials by adopting Gliricídia as a living guardian, from the most conservative scenario (0.75 tCO₂eq/ha/year), moderate (1.1 tCO₂eq/ha/year) to optimistic (1.5 tCO₂eq/ha/year). The graph above presents the results of the projection considering the production of black pepper in Pará, with 16 thousand hectares planted in the state. The simulations indicate that, if each year 5% of the plantation area adopts the live staking system, in the year 2030, it will be possible to reduce up to 96% of carbon emissions of the system, reinforcing the environmental potential of the practice.



07 BLACK PEPPER - PARÁ

The states of Pará, Espírito Santo and Bahia stand out in the production of black pepper in Brazil. TROPOC concentrates its activities in the producing municipalities of Pará, especially in the Tomé-Açu and Castanhal regions, two important black pepper production centers in the country.

Family farming accounts for 85% of the national black pepper production. The cultivation of the species is highly labor intensive, especially in the harvesting process, which is done manually and in a staggered manner, at different periods of fruit maturation. In Brazil, the activity generates approximately 30 thousand direct jobs during the year, and up to 80 thousand at harvest time, and is characterized as an important source of income for small rural farmers.

The black pepper culture was introduced in the municipality of Tomé-Açu in 1933. The first years of production were characterized by small plantations and sales were restricted to local traders. Between 1945 and 1946, with the end of the Second World War, the price paid for black pepper went from 5 thousand to 100 thousand réis, which was a milestone for the intensification of production in the state.

The technology adopted by Japanese immigrants in the management of black pepper plants in the Tomé-Açu region, combined with the favorable climate and soil characteristics, generated relevant volumes of production of the spice, establishing the success of pipericulture in the state of Pará.



Para black peppers are generally grown on small family farms, where black pepper and other crops such as açai, cocoa, corn, manioc, and fruit species are cultivated.



GRI 2.1 | 2.6 | 3.3

Sun-drying

Black pepper, the main product processed and commercialized by TROPOC, is obtained from the drying of black pepper fruits.

In many production centers worldwide, the drying process is performed by means of dryers using direct or indirect fire, a process that, when inadequately performed, poses the risk of anthraquinone contamination.

A differential of the black pepper produced in Pará is the ground drying method, performed by small family farmers in the state. It is estimated that 95% of the Paraense pepper is sun dried.

The benefit of this process is the absence of firewood in the drying process and the consequent reduction of GHG emissions caused by the removal and burning of wood from the vegetation. In addition, it contributes to the maintenance of the biodiversity of the Amazon forest.

In order to take knowledge to the farmers, we invested in the dissemination of information, training and technical training, aiming at the adequacy of the drying facilities and adoption of preventive procedures for salmonella contamination.



For the production of a standard export batch (25 tons) 30 to 60m³ of wood is needed in the drying process.

Considering the volume of black pepper processed by TROPOC in 2022, emissions were avoided in the order of

16,9 thousand tCO₂e

It also avoids the deforestation of approximately

33 ha of forest

when compared to tumble drying, considering the same product volume

GRI 3.3 | 304.2

Farmers

According to recent information from IBGE (2021), 82 out of 144 municipalities in Pará produce black pepper. TROPOC, in turn, operates in about 40 municipalities located in the main producing region of this state.

The black pepper production in the region is predominantly conducted on small family farms located in the rural area. Besides black pepper, the farmers cultivate crops such as açai, cacao, corn, manioc, and fruit species.

Agroforestry and integrated systems (SAFs) are widely used on these farms, due to their versatility, environmental and financial benefits. SAFs are characterized by being production systems with high biodiversity and capable of sequestering atmospheric carbon, thus becoming an important strategy to combat and adapt to climate change. Moreover, these regenerative production systems have a high potential to provide additional income to farmers from carbon markets.



We recognize the importance of implementing Agroforestry Systems (SAFs) for the community and therefore we actively promote this practice among our farmers, and hold regular **Farmers' Meetings** to encourage the use of innovative planting systems and raise awareness about the importance of environmental protection. In the year 2022, 27 meetings were held, reaching a total of 1,042 farmers. In addition, we distributed informative materials addressing topics such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), slave labor, illegal hunting, instructions for the use of chemicals, and other relevant topics in relation to its sustainability principles.

Through the **"Whatsapp Business for farmers"**, TROPOC maintains close contact with farmers and makes frequent visits to the farms, always aiming to support the sustainable production of black pepper.

In the field, we work directly with the farmers, both in the acquisition of the pepper and in providing technical assistance. In partnership with EMBRAPA and EMATER, the companies' technicians visit the black pepper production properties to provide orientation on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and market standards and requirements regarding product quality, providing instructions related to crop management, hygiene and drying and transportation procedures.



GRI 2.6

GRI 2.6

08 TEAM

Governance

TROPOC's management is carried out by a group of highly qualified and experienced people in each sector of the company. Each of these professionals has specific skills, ranging from establishing close relationships with farmers to understanding all the certifications required for each product. The company's governance model is led by the CEO, Franciano Vieira, and by the COO and Quality Control Coordinator, Arthur Vinícius Gonçalves

TROPOC also counts on the technical and strategic assistance of expert researchers and professionals. These leaders coordinate a series of processes from the field to the final product, so that all stages are aligned with the pillars and concepts of sustainability in production.

For the choice of leaders, issues addressed by the main stakeholders are taken into consideration, so that the best management is chosen for the local context.

Strategy

Prioritizing the importance of preserving the Amazon biome and the need for collaborative efforts to promote improvements in the production chain, we have established solid partnerships and close relationships with key stakeholders in the industry. Thus, our strategic objective is to act as an active agent in the regional development of black pepper production and in the conservation of biodiversity.

Board of Directors

The company's directors and operational managers make up the board of strategic decisions related to the pillars of sustainability. Communication among decision-makers occurs continuously and constantly, linked to the company's day-to-day strategic and operational decisions.

TROPOC considers education as the basis for people's training and development. Aiming to actively collaborate in the professional and personal development of its employees, TROPOC provides incentives and enables training programs and courses in several areas.

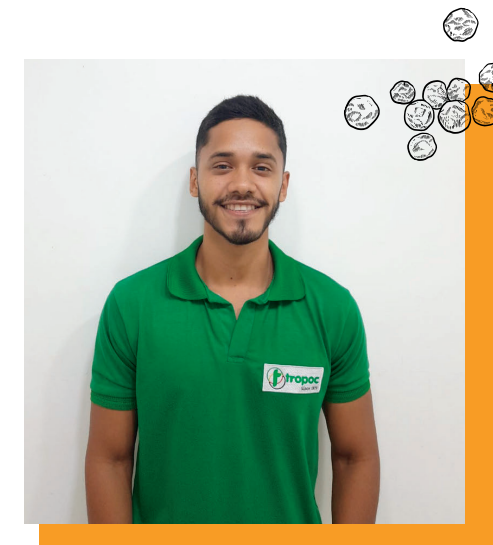


Iorrany Lima
Administrative Assistant

"Working here at TROPOC is a unique experience, I am very happy to be part of the company's team of employees. Here, every day is a new learning, which I had never experienced anywhere else, and I really appreciate the opportunity they are giving me."

João Vitor Andrade
Development Analyst

"I started my journey at TROPOC as a trainee in the literature research area, a period which was important for learning and maturing. At the end of the contract, I was hired, where I developed several relevant activities in the R&D area and also in quality control. I thank TROPOC for all the knowledge, growth, and professional and personal evolution that I am acquiring. It is an honor to be part of this team and to be able to contribute to it."



GRI 2.9 | 2.10 | 2.11 | 2.12 | 2.15 | 2.16 | 2.17 | 2.23



Collaborators

GRI 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.30

TROPOC works with local employees hired under the rules and specifications of the collective bargaining of the Food Industry Workers Union of Castanhal and Region - PA, with only temporary workers being hired during the green pepper production season.*

Employees by type of labor contract and gender:

86 permanent employees (14 female and 72 male)
17 temporary employees (all male - hired for the 2022 green pepper harvest)

Employees by type of labor contract and region:

All of TROPOC's 86 permanent and temporary employee(s) are residents of different cities in the state of Pará. Castanhal, Maracanã, Moju, São Domingos do Capim, São Francisco do Pará and São Miguel do Guamá.

All TROPOC's employees work full-time.

* the data was compiled directly by the company's Human Resources team.

Materiality

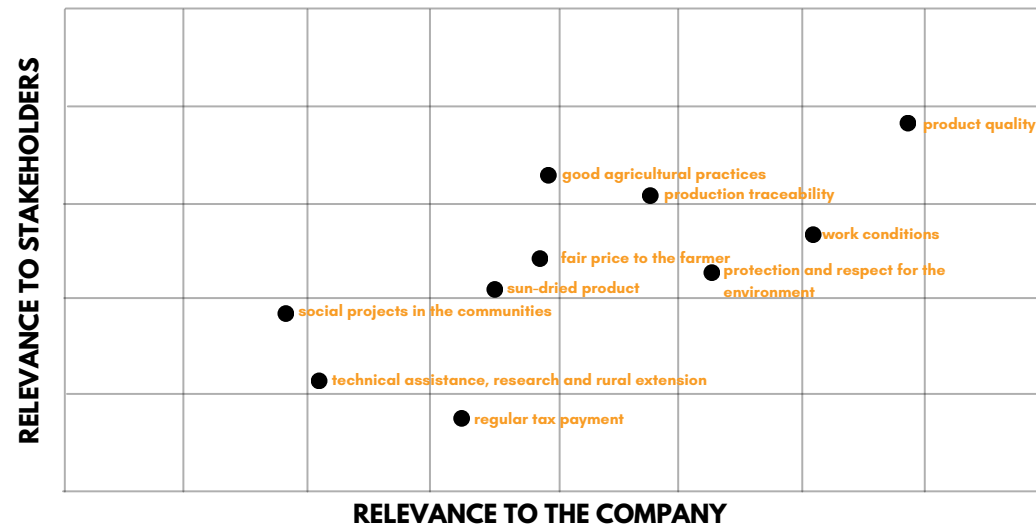
Stakeholders

We grouped the stakeholders by selecting the portion of society and institutions that are directly or indirectly influenced by our actions, in addition to the company's employees and the agents involved in the black pepper production chain, such as customers, suppliers, researchers, and farmers.

- Collaborators
- farmers
- Customers
- Community
- Government
- Universities and Educational Institutions
- Research Institutions

Materiality Matrix

The materiality matrix is prepared through a stakeholder survey to identify relevant topics when it comes to the company's business, as well as to determine which topics are essential for taking action. The matrix takes into consideration the social, environmental, and economic perspectives in a broad and comprehensive manner. In the case of our materiality matrix, we conducted a survey directed at 30 stakeholders related to the production and commercialization chain of black pepper, in addition to agents and entities of society.



Representativity

Our company promotes the inclusion of employees of different genders, religions and ethnicities in all its spheres. The company keeps its doors open to everyone and is willing to support those who need it most. Diversity is valued at all hierarchical levels of the company.

For us respect is fundamental, and the dialogue rounds between the governance team and the employees are an essential tool to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable to express their opinions.

High Governance

With a view to continuous improvement, governance performance assessments are carried out to identify the impacts of the company's actions on the environment and society. The company's managers constantly seek to improve organizational efficiency, taking into consideration the actions and the collective knowledge, skills, and practical experience.

TROPOC understands that strategic actions focused on sustainable development are essential for business excellence.

GRI 2.9 | 2.17 | 2.18 | 2.23 | 2.24 | 2.29

09 PROGRESS

Highlights 2022

Certifications: all certifications related to the production system, quality and food safety acquired in previous years were maintained.

New management: TROPOC, in 2022, is now managed by a new CEO, Franciano Vieira, who has implemented and structured a management system focused on results and process optimization to meet the demanding international market.

Traceability: 680 new farmers tracked in 2022 added to the 1,100 already registered previously in our database; information collection form restructured for better efficiency of information collection

Geo TROPOC Project: 30% increase in the number of farmers monitored. More than 500 farmers mapped by the year 2022.

Gliricidia System: research and dissemination of the results for farmers and the scientific community. It is estimated that there are already more than 500 thousand black pepper plants under gliricidia cultivation systems in the state of Pará second.

New canteen: Improvements in the equipment of the cafeteria, promoting greater comfort for employees.

International Highlight: presentation of the TROPOC Sustainability Program at the general meeting of the Sustainable Spices Initiative (SSI - IDH).



10 RESPONSIBILITY SOCIAL

The concern with social responsibility and the local community is one of the fundamental pillars for TROPOC. We believe that the sustainability and long-term success of a company are directly linked to the well-being of the communities in which we operate. Therefore, we constantly work to identify the needs of local people and organizations and contribute to the socioeconomic development of the region. Our commitment to social responsibility is a reflection of our corporate values and our mission to make a difference in people's lives. In the year 2022, our main activities were:

Partnerships

Joining forces with important institutions in the country, TROPOC aims to enable, improve and foster the sustainable development of black pepper culture in Pará. To this end, it is necessary to encourage research related to black pepper management technology, in addition to the joint work of working groups that bring together diverse knowledge of production, in order to train farmers and encourage the adoption of innovative practices and technologies in the field.



GRI 3.3 | 413.1

Through the Traceability Program and the Meetings with farmers and Field Days, TROPOC plays an important role in disseminating scientific knowledge to farmers, training them and encouraging them to adopt innovative practices and technologies. The objective of these collaborations is to promote the development of the sector, aiming at the production of a high quality product, environmental protection, and income generation for the farmer through increased productivity.

Meliponary

Installed on TROPOC's premises, the meliponary aims to bring knowledge about the management and benefits of honey production from native bees to local society, including environmental aspects and income generation for the farmer from honey production (meliponiculture).

It is of utmost importance to make the population aware of the crucial role that the pollination process plays in agriculture and in the preservation of biodiversity, both from a socioeconomic and ecological point of view.



Donation of water fountains to schools in the region

To disseminate this knowledge, TROPOC makes technical visits to the meliponary, where lectures and distribution of informative materials about the breeding and management of native bees are promoted.

The Iratama Meliponary project was conceived from a collaboration project with the Amazon Agroindustrial Science and Technology research group from the Pará State University (UEPA).

Fruit Cultivation

On TROPOC's property fruit trees are grown in a concession area of the power distribution company (below the transmission line). The fruit grown is harvested and served in the cafeteria to our employees.

Scientific Initiation

Our company supports research in the universities of the state of Pará, especially those of scientific initiation for undergraduate students. The company makes available data generated in international laboratories on relevant themes in the Brazilian context, allowing students to execute scientific methodologies and produce research.

For TROPOC's governance, it is crucial the role of the private sector to encourage education and national research, especially that which can bring valuable information to the local community and to the black pepper market.

Delivery of school kits and Christmas baskets



Soil analysis sponsored by TROPOC



TROPOC Iratama Meliponary



Sponsorship in sport

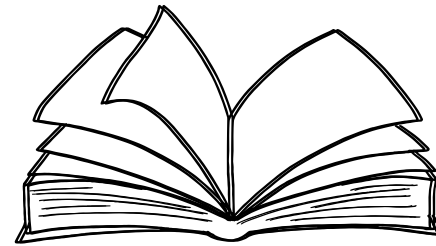


School Kits

One of the pillars of TROPOC's social responsibility is its concern for the education of children in the local community. Every year, the company donates educational and recreational materials, helping in the structure of schools and the needs of students.

In the year 2022, TROPOC donated more than 150 school kits to children in the region. These kits provide essential materials for children to use in school, promoting quality education.

In recent years, TROPOC has been acting frequently in schools, either by donating industrial drinking fountains, materials for sports promotion, uniforms, and other products that aim to meet local needs.



Main activities of 2022

- Local Community Support: Sesi Industry Running Circuit - Castanhal-PA;
- Sponsored by the runner Mr. Raimundo Olegário Sousa Filho (TROPOC Representative in the Community). He won 1st place in the COMMUNITY Category (46-55 years old);
- Distribution of 91 Christmas baskets to the community.
- Delivery of 150 school kits to children in the region;
- Sponsoring the runner Julia Hidaka - quality manager TROPOC, company representative in the Industry category. Julia won 4th place in the Overall Female category and 1st place in the Female Industry category (36-45 years old);



11 NUMBERS 2022

Water

TROPOC's water supply comes from artesian wells located on company property. The catchment follows all the norms and legislation for water withdrawal, and the artesian well has the appropriate withdrawal authorization, issued by the Pará State Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainability, in accordance with State Law 6831 and the National Water Resources Policy.

Water quality analysis is performed regularly following verification protocols established by the public environmental agency. The physical-chemical and microbiological analysis report is documented to comply with the requirements of current legislation and competent agencies.

Compared to 2021, there was an increase in water consumption in the year 2022 due to the higher demand in the saturated steam sterilization process and the installation of an irrigation system for the applied field research project focused on sustainable black pepper production.

Water consumed in 2022:
23,5 thousand m³



Energy

Brazil has the most sustainable energy matrix in the world, with **44.7% of its production coming from renewable sources**

- When it comes to **electric energy**, this figure is **82.9%**.
- Of all the electricity produced in Pará, **97.8% comes from renewable sources**.

The source of energy used in the company's area comes almost exclusively from hydroelectric plants, the main one being the Tucuruí-PA plant. The distribution of electricity is made by the company Equatorial Pará Distribuidora de Energia S.A., through a conventional energy supply line.

As a goal for 2023, TROPOC has committed to neutralize its emissions generated by electricity consumption by installing solar panels to generate energy.

Energy consumed in 2022:
Total 449.3 MWh
industrial process 395 MWh (88%)



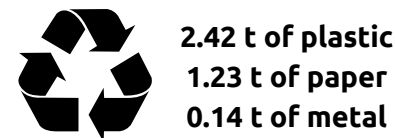
Residues

The activities performed at TROPOC's industrial area only generate recyclable waste, mainly from the product packaging processes. As for processing-related waste, TROPOC uses 100% of the product, generating only wastes related to foreign materials found during the black pepper cleaning process. These wastes are classified as Non Hazardous and inert - class II-A, i.e., they do not present biological, chemical or radiological hazards to the environment or to the employees' health.

All the residues generated in the plant facilities are separated and collected by a cooperative specialized in recycling and waste management, giving the materials the appropriate destination.

Regarding sanitary effluents, TROPOC has septic tanks for treatment - a practice indicated for rural areas. The organic residues and the debris are also collected by a company specialized in environmental management that performs the correct destination of these materials.

Industrial residues generated in 2022:

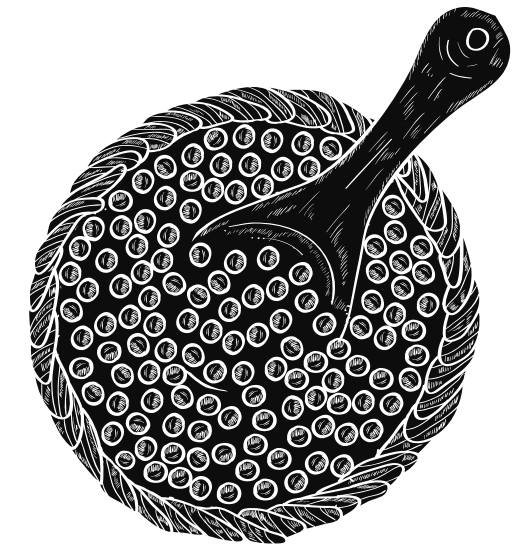


(100% of the generated residues receive correct destination according to the type of material)

Carbon Footprint Comparison

Meat: 27 to 99 tCO₂e / t meat⁽¹⁾
Soybeans: 2.5 to 5 tCO₂e / t soybean⁽²⁾
Pepper: 0.4 to 1 tCO₂e / t pepper⁽³⁾

(1) FGV, 2019
(2) E. Bayer Brasil
(3) Adapted from Pavão, E.M, 2022.



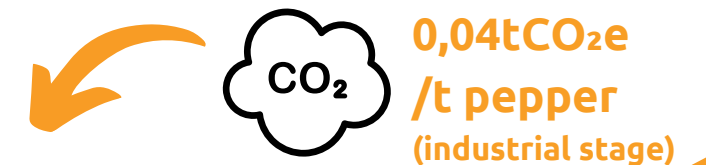
Carbon

Through the Corporate GHG Inventory, considering scopes 1 and 2 (mandatory/direct) and scope 3 (optional/indirect), TROPOC calculated its GHG emissions, totaling 912.59 tCO₂e.

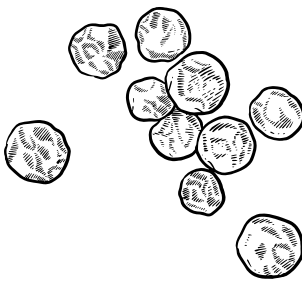
The company has in its planning, strategies and projects aimed at reducing GHG emissions, focusing on a carbon neutral pepper production.

Emitted GHG in 2022:

Direct emissions: 301.56 tCO₂e
Indirect emissions: 611.03 tCO₂e



12 QUALITY



TROPOC is internationally recognized for its work towards sustainability, being mentioned in reports by the CBI-EU (Center for Import Promotion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the European Union); as an example of the Sustainability Program of the FUCHS Gruppe. In addition, TROPOC was a featured case study at the SSI - Sustainable Spices Initiative event - one of the largest and most relevant global initiatives related to the responsible production of herbs and spices.

Assuming a commitment to the farmer and to the environment, the year 2022 was marked by the maintenance of certifications, which ensure a high quality and safe product, in addition to the respect to the rules in force and to the well-being and development of our employees. Currently, the company has 10 certifications that prove our commitment to our stakeholders. In addition, TROPOC has promoted occupational safety training sessions that took place during 2022.



We follow a strict quality protocol, which includes monitoring the entire process. We sample 100% of the product's bags upon receipt. Sampling is also performed in specific stages of the product processing process to check the following quality criteria, via laboratory analysis

- humidity
- density
- presence of foreign materials
- granulation

Pesticide, PAH, MOSH/MOAH, microbiological and aflatoxin and ochratoxin analyses are performed by internationally recognized laboratories, from samples of black pepper lots, according to the clients' requirements.

In addition to the rigorous procedures for control and verification of black pepper crops, the company has included in its protocols for visits to growers an approach dedicated to education and awareness raising on the use of biological pesticides for crop health management. These visits are conducted by our specialized technicians, together with EMBRAPA's rural extension agents, in the framework of the TROPOC Traceability Project.

DTROPOC has a modern system of sterilization by saturated steam, eliminating any type of microbiological contamination, meeting the standards and regulations of the demanding international markets and providing a safe product ready for consumption (ready-to-use).



Labor Safety	2021	2022
Number of work safety training courses	7	10
Number of course participants	79	171



13 5 YEARS OF THE TROPOC SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

ACHIEVEMENTS

5 GENDER EQUALITY Increase in the number of female employees, especially in administrative positions (2018: 2 - 2022: 14)

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Company growth reflected directly in the number of employees hired (2018: 20 - 2022: 86).

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Acting in 17 (year 2018) to more than 30 (year 2022) municipalities in the state of Pará.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Reformulation of the Traceability APP, with a more comprehensive form and a more robust database; Significant increase in the number of farmers tracked annually.

13 CLIMATE ACTION and **15 LIFE ON LAND** A increase in the number of properties monitored by the GeoTROPOC Project and insertion of image sources and satellite data, generating better results and improving the support bases for environmental and strategic analyses.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION and **15 LIFE ON LAND** Incentive to the use of Gliricídia as a live tutor for black pepper, collaborating in the combat against the selective removal of wood from native forests and reducing carbon emissions; Payment of a differential in the price of the pepper for the farmer who adopts the cultivation system with Gliricídia tutors.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION Since 2018, TROPOC has been acting directly in the region's schools, making donations of school supplies, donating drinking fountains, sponsoring sports activities, and promoting environmental education through the meliponary.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Donation of protective equipment against COVID-19 during the pandemic years.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Sponsorship for printing prostate cancer campaign folders in the context of the Blue November Public Health Campaign; Donation of 250 T-shirts for health agents in the vaccination campaign against polio.

2 ZERO HUNGER Throughout all the years of the Program there have been donations of food baskets to the local community.

13 CLIMATE ACTION and **15 LIFE ON LAND** Identification of the main emission sources of the production process, from the analysis generated by the Corporate GHG Inventory, to plan emission reduction actions and establish goals.

13 CLIMATE ACTION, **14 LIFE BELOW WATER**, and **15 LIFE ON LAND** Protection, conservation and identification of native forest species present in the TROPOC (forest inventory); Preservation of native forest areas beyond that required by law (surplus native vegetation)

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION, **13 CLIMATE ACTION**, and **15 LIFE ON LAND** Direct collaboration with the farmer through the Meetings with farmers and by the visit of TROPOC, EMATER, and E technicians to the black pepper producing farms.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION and **15 LIFE ON LAND** TROPOC foments and makes feasible the transmission of scientific knowledge related to black pepper production to small rural farmers, by means of field days and distribution of technical material about Good Agricultural Practices.





14 REPORT

The annual Sustainability Report presented refers to the year 2022, with the information presented relating to projects, actions and operations carried out in the period from January 1 to December 31. The last report made for TROPOC covers the year 2021 (January 1 to December 31).

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the GRI Standards: essential option. In presenting the content of the report, we adhere to the reporting principles of Stakeholder inclusion, sustainability context, materiality and completeness. The company's entire management team, as well as the contracted company specialized in sustainability projects, work together to improve data collection for future third-party verification. The automation of information and the daily control of data are already the first step in this trajectory. The highest governance body was responsible for analyzing and approving the reported information.

Disclaimer

We also sought to meet the quality guidelines, contemplating the principles of accuracy, balance, intelligibility, comparability and practicability, and updating information. All the text presented here has been created with great care, however, flaws may occur. All forward-looking statements are based on assumptions and estimates existing at the date of publication.

Content, Design, Text
Eduardo Pavão - Agronomic Engineer
Laura Vanini Polli - Biologist

Questions:
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GRI 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.14

15 GRI INDEX

GRI 1 - FUNDAMENTALS

GRI 2 - GENERAL CONTENTS

2.1 - 4, 5, 22, | FUCHS GRUPEE and Dieter Fuchs.

2.2 - No entity contained in the report.

2.3 - 42 | Confidentiality restriction. The company has chosen not to disclose the economic information in the public version of the report because it is strategic data. However, the data may be requested, and the company will evaluate whether or not disclosure is authorized.

2.4 - There was no restatement.

2.5 - 42

2.6 - 4, 5, 22, 24, 25

2.7 - 27

2.8 - All work under the company's control is from contract employees.

2.9 - 26, 27, 28

2.10 - 26

2.11 - 26

2.12 - 4, 8, 12, 26

2.13 - 2, 3

2.14 - 42

2.15 - 26

2.16 - 26 | Crucial concerns are brought to management on a recurring basis, and usually involve conflict between stakeholders regarding product pricing.

2.17 - 26, 28

2.18 - 28

2.19 - The company chose not to disclose the economic information in the public version of the report because it is strategic data. However, the data may be requested, and the company will evaluate whether or not disclosure is authorized.

2.20 - The process of developing remuneration policies and values is structured in conjunction with strategic stakeholders and specialist consultants. Members above TROPOC governance assist in overseeing the determination of compensation.

2.21 - The company has chosen not to disclose the economic information in the public version of the report, as this is strategic data. However, the data may be requested, and the company will assess whether or not disclosure is authorized.

GRI 2 - GENERAL CONTENTS

2.22 - 2, 3

2.23 - 4, 6, 8, 12, 26, 28, 36 | The identification, prevention, mitigation and accountability of damages that cause or contribute through its activities to operations throughout the production chain are part of the company's policy. Aiming at the welfare of all employees, TROPOC has as principle a fair and structured work based on human rights, especially those aiming at equality and non-discrimination, recognizing and protecting the dignity of all people.

2.24 - 28 | In all of its purchase and sale negotiations the commitments assumed by the company are encompassed, being essential in the choice of partnerships and in decision making within the company. The leaders of each sector are responsible for incorporating such norms in the processes they coordinate and that they are followed by the employees. In this way, each leader is committed to implementing the company's policies in the areas that they manage. The company's doors are always open for communication with its stakeholders, in addition to the training carried out by the certification that is encompassed in the company's policy guidelines.

2.25 - 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 34, 35 | TROPOC takes responsibility for the negative impacts it generates directly or indirectly, establishing actions and goals to reduce them. Direct communication between governance and stakeholders is a path that has become simple and highly accepted, making it easier to bring negative impacts to decision-makers. Thus, when actions are taken to minimize impacts, stakeholders have a key role in evaluating and reviewing them.

2.26 - Direct communication with the highest governance is essential for advice on how to implement the organization's policies and practices, as well as to show concerns and points of attention in business conduct.

2.27 - There were no cases, in the reporting period, of non-compliance with laws and regulations.



2.28 - Participation in national and international associations

2.29 - 28

2.30 - 27

GRI 3 - MATERIAL SUBJECTS

3.1 - The material themes were chosen together with the main stakeholders that are encompassed by each theme. The negative and positive impacts generated are identified by specialists in the area and/or during field visits with local stakeholders, closely verifying the actual and potential effects on the economy, the environment, and people. The material themes chosen are those of highest importance to the local reality and to the international black pepper market.

3.2 - Traceability, Geo Project, Corporate GHG Inventory, Research Field, Water, Energy, Waste Production and Management, Forest and Wildlife Protection, Social Projects. The material themes from previous years have been maintained and new ones have been incorporated.

3.3 - 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39

301.2 - 35

302.1 - 34

303.3 - 34

303.5 - 34

304.2 - 14, 15, 18, 19, 23

306.3 - 35

413.1 - 30, 31

