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[Multidimensional agroecological transition in large-scale Argentine production systems.]

Agriculture in the Argentine pampas has undergone multiple transformations, resulting in an agricultural model based on very low biodiversity and high incorporation of chemical inputs. However, in recent years, experiences have emerged that apply agroecology to produce grains and meat. Producer groups and socio-technical networks have been formed that seek to interact in order to apply the agroecological approach, and new markets and educational training have emerged. The author of this article, professionally accompanies a large number of these experiences in the province of Buenos Aires (Argentina), and has witnessed the developments generated by many large-scale producers.

In this article, we seek to take some of these cases and characterize them under the "theoretical lens" of agroecological transition in order to analyze the progress of the process and identify potentialities and limitations. In the described context of Pampean agriculture, there remains a mercantilist logic driven by the prices of the commodities produced, making agriculture increasingly more industrial than a production model based on biological processes. The advance of Agroecology poses the great challenge of not only establishing and consolidating productive strategies that allow independence from chemical inputs, strengthening and balancing the biology of the systems, but also seeking to redesign productive farms (which maintain a high uniformity of the landscape) and broaden the socio-economic vision of the food production process. This implies major changes in the people who sustain and coexist in the productive systems.

The analysis and description of the phases of the Agroecological Transition (Gliessman et al., 2007; Tittonell, 2019) helps us to identify and characterize these changes, as well as to evaluate possible scenarios that different farmers may go through and possible constraints that may arise to achieve it. The process of agroecological transition in productive terms, necessarily entails a redesign of agricultural systems and a change in the vision and values of the people involved, in order to sustain the new productive scenarios. There are clear technical-productive and social differences in the farmers who are going through the different phases of the agroecological transition.

Bibliographic references

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