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III.16 **An integrated research and development initiative towards sustainable management of family agriculture in Eastern Amazonia**

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The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) is carrying out an integrated project towards a sustainable future for the family agriculture-small farms in its Agroforestry Research Center of the Eastern Amazon (Embrapa Amazônia Oriental), headquartered in Belém, Pará State. The Eastern Amazon region, where planned rural settlement took place around a century ago, is an important study region due to its typical characteristic of humid tropical agriculture and the experiences of a systematic colonization process that transformed the region abruptly into an anthropogenic landscape. Nowadays, similar processes are found along the Trans-Amazon highway. Holding a joint venture with German institutions (mainly ZEF-University of Bonn; and University of Göttingen), under the umbrella of the bilateral SHIFT Program) and other local Amazonian and Brazilian institutions, including also regions, institutions and research groups from other countries, the activities are converged in a project named: "Improvement, validation and valuation of fallow management technologies for sustainable land use in Eastern Amazonia", which is being carried out from August 2000 to July 2004. The project consists of the following subprojects: 1) development, improvement and test of equipment used for fire-free land preparation in Eastern Amazonia, 2) improvement and validation of fire-free land preparation in Eastern Amazonia, 3) improvement and validation of alternative fallow techniques in Eastern Amazonia; 4) integration of bovine livestock in the fallow vegetation cycle in Eastern Amazonia; and 5) Socio-economic evaluation and valuation of technologies of fire-free land preparation and fallow enrichment. The main objectives of this joint initiative are: 1) to draw and implement technological alternatives towards improving environmental impacts and farmers life quality in the Brazilian Eastern Amazon, focusing on secondary vegetation management, and 2) to offer technical support and appropriate indicators to the formulation of public policies directed to promote sustainable development in the agricultural sector of the Brazilian Eastern Amazon. This could open up for a transversal use of these technologies in other agricultural scenarios or in other regions.