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# MILK PRODUCTION, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE EASTERN BRAZILIAN AMAZON

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## Abstract :

Milk production is an important component of farming systems in the Brazilian Amazon agricultural frontiers. Developed mainly by smallholders, this activity appears as a promising alternative to improve sustainability of these regions development. The regional milk chains dynamics and its impact on sustainable development have thus been analyzed since 1995 by an interdisciplinary research team composed of scientists from Embrapa Amazônia Oriental, UFPA and CIRAD at the different levels (micro-meso- macro). Parts of their results are presented here More than on technological constraints, long term sustainable smallholders milk production depends on the emergence of a local production and marketing milk chain. A comparative analysis of three contrasted regions in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon allows to underline the main determinants of such a chain development and to suggest some policies and support actions, which may favor sustainable milk production development.

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