



## Native seeds production for large-scale ecosystems restoration in Brazil: legal bottleneck<sup>(1)</sup>

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**Abstract** — Ecosystem restoration is a Nature-Based Solution to address climate change and biodiversity loss. In addition to environmental benefits, the restoration production chain represents an opportunity for sustainable socio-economic development, valuing conserved areas, indigenous and local communities, and their knowledge. At the base of the restoration chain is the harvesting, processing, storage, and trade of native species seeds (trees, shrubs, grass etc). In Brazil, these processes are regulated by Law, including the obligation for seed quality analysis in accredited laboratories by the Ministry of Agriculture before commercialization. This requirement hinders restoration production because (1) there are only 5 accredited laboratories for the analysis of native seeds in Brazil; (2) waiting time for analysis leads to reduced seed viability and delays, harming planting in the rainy season; and (3) it implies high costs. This requirement must be reviewed as it puts the restoration commitments and its benefits at risk. In this context, a coalition of seed collectors, networks, and specialists named Redário was created to strengthen and articulate the native seeds sector linking science, innovation, and fair trade. Currently, Redário gathers 22 community-based seed networks with more than 1,200 people. Among Redario's goals is to advocate for changes in the current legal requirements that disfavor native seed production chain, restoration practice, and seed collectors' livelihoods. The group proposes a simplified quality method that considers the high diversity of native seeds and their final use, ecosystem restoration, which unlike agriculture uses, does not require homogeneity.

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