



Another wave of Chinese machines for family farming comes to Brazil

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Fifty [family farming machines from China](#) were donated to Brazil through an agreement between China Agricultural University (CAU), the University of Brasilia (UnB) and the International Association for Popular Cooperation, also known as Baobab.

The donated machines—including harvesters, planters and fertilizers, among others, will be tested at the Água Limpa Farm of the University of Brasilia and in MST settlements under the Cooperation Agreement for Testing and Management of Agricultural Machines of the Brazil-China Science and Technology Residency.

China's arable land per capita is 0.08 hectares, which is significantly below the world average. For comparison, this figure in Brazil is more than three times higher, at 0.27, according to [2021 data from the World Bank](#). Along with the agrarian reform that began in 1949 with the establishment of the



People's Republic of China, the limited amount of agricultural land has spurred the development of machines for small-scale farming.

Current cooperation also involves the Brazil-China Science and Technology Residency, through which Brazilians will study in China and vice versa.

The vice president of China Agricultural University, Du Taisheng, stated that these partnerships address common questions that both Brazil and China must answer regarding the future of agriculture.

"Who will cultivate in the future?" Du asks, pointing out that this concern is central at CAU. He considers that the issue probably also applies to Brazil, as new generations may be less inclined to engage in traditional, labor-intensive agricultural practices. "Without modernization, agriculture may attract fewer and fewer people over time".

Recently, China Agricultural University held an event as part of the celebrations of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Brazil and the People's Republic of China, which included guests from universities, movements and government officials in Brazil.



Cooperation Agreement for Testing and Management of Agricultural Machines of the Brazil-China Science and Technology Residency, between UnB, BaoBab and CAU. Photo: Beijing, China / Chen Juan.



The Brazilian ambassador to China, Marcos Galvão, attended the event and emphasized that cooperation in the mechanization of family farming not only presents opportunities for investment and cooperation in Brazilian reindustrialization but also carries significant social implications. "This would not only increase the productivity of family farming, which is crucial for the diet of all Brazilians, but it would also improve the well-being of families engaged in this type of farming," said the ambassador. He added that mechanization makes the practice of family farming much less burdensome.

Agricultural machinery factories and experience for Brazil

The Brazilian delegation also participated in China at the China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition, from October 26th to 28th in Changsha, China, the largest fair in Asia.

"We are here to try to coordinate efforts to either produce some of these machines in Brazil or establish an import mechanism that can allow these machines to arrive to expand food production in Brazil", said the member of the Production Sector of MST, Beá.

Débora Nunes, from the National Coordination of the MST, noted that the fair, which featured more than two thousand Chinese companies in the sector, exemplifies how China prioritizes policies for its peasant population. "We are here to learn about the experiences of policies that benefit peasant agriculture", Nunes remarked.

Reducing the burden of labor is a primary concern among the organizations represented in China, especially for peasant women in the Northeast.

Mechanization in Brazilian family farming can have a positive impact, particularly for rural workers and peasants in the Northeast region, where the mechanization rate is among the lowest in the country, at less than 3%.

"We no longer even talk about double working hours, we talk about intensive working hours, because you can't separate the house from the field. While planting or preparing seedbeds, you are also making lunch, caring for children, and tending to chickens, the small-scale production", explains Conceição Dantas, an activist from the World March of Women.

Therefore, examining machines that create seedbeds, harvest fruit, or assist



in the fertilization process is "fundamental to reducing the hard labor of women in the fields" , says Dantas.

Family farming as a milestone for the next 50 years

China's approach to agriculture in the country involves scientific cooperation among researchers, science and technology entities, and government bodies, with companies seen as essential partners for the supply and improvement of machinery. This process is conducted in dialogue with the farmers who produce food and express their needs.

Both parties believe that partnerships of this nature will transform the character of Brazil-China relations over the next 50 years.

"For the next 50 years, I believe we are entering another golden age," says Du Taisheng, expressing optimism about the prospects for China-Brazil cooperation in agriculture. He affirmed that his university is committed to strengthening ties and collaboration with Brazilian universities, businesses, and rural communities.

Débora emphasized that the exchanges are important, because "historically, the Brazil-China relationship has always been based on relations with agribusiness, with this model of agriculture that has caused many problems in Brazil."

"We believe that the next 50 years need to prioritize and strengthen family farming (...) because it is the guarantee of combating hunger and inequality" , says the member of the MST's national coordination.

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