

Resum de Tesi Doctoral



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Títol de la tesi	<input type="text" value="SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION IN THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS. ARGENTINIAN AND PARAGUAYAN CASE STUDIES."/>
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(Mínim 1 i màxim 4, podeu veure els codis a <http://doctorat.upc.edu/gestio-academica/impresos/tesi-matricula-i-diposit/codis-unesco>)

Resum de la tesi de 4000 caràcters màxim (si supera els 4000 es tallarà automàticament)

To analyse the current situation of the Latin American subcontinent is to speak of a process of repression, as explained by Alberto Acosta when referring to the evil of abundance: countries rich in natural resources, whose economies are primarily sustained by their extraction and exportation, experience more difficulties in achieving development. Above all, those that depend on one or more primary products seem to be condemned to underdevelopment.

An example of this is the growth of agribusiness in South America. International demand for the production of cereals and oilseeds has made Argentina and Paraguay into the world's largest exporters of such products, occupying third and fourth place respectively with regards to the exportation of soya. In this way, Argentina was able to recover economically from the crisis of the previous decade. Paraguay represented a yearly increase of 15%, making it one of the world's most dynamic economies in 2011 at a time of global economic crisis.

The growth of agribusiness is unimaginable without the occupation and prior clearance of increasingly larger areas of land for agricultural use. The business model and opportunity appeal as much to the old large producers and landowners who were established decades ago as to new investors who may or may not come from an agricultural background; such investors increasingly act from the realm of finance.

The development of a technological package which sows transgenic seeds and potent pesticides as a direct result of technological innovations undertaken by both governmental and business sectors has facilitated the advance of agribusiness into regions which, due to their climatic and soil characteristics, have not traditionally been used for intensive agriculture and which maintain systems of production which have low socio-environmental impacts. The advance of agribusiness creates important tensions within peasant and indigenous communities located within the north-west of Argentina and eastern Paraguay.

The permanence of a business/agro-exporter elite at the foreground of economic activity also implies their involvement in the formation of public policies, given the development of a production model which has been accompanied by a technological jump which requires substantial public and private investment. This new technological package involves the use of physical, chemical and biological resources, as well as cultural, economic and social resources which, through their implementation in rural areas, affect the ability of the State to establish equilibrium between the accumulation of private capital, and local development - especially amongst peasant and indigenous populations.

The construction of an infrastructure which sustains the soya agribusiness development model is analysed, with the use of case studies taken from Argentina and Paraguay. The starting questions for this research are: How does the model for the development of soya-based agribusiness -based in the implementation of a technological package -affect economic, social and environmental sustainability within Argentina and Paraguay? Do differences exist depending on the level of development with regards to national institutions within both countries? What role is played by technology and technological innovation with regards to social acceptance of the agribusiness model? What is the role of business elites in the advent of the development of soya-based agribusiness?

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