

BRAZILIAN LIVESTOCK

MODERN, COMPETITIVE AND
SUSTAINABLE



Around 60% of the
natural areas are
preserved in Brazil

ABCZ AND ZEBU CATTLE

The Brazilian Association of Zebu Breeders (ABCZ, in the Portuguese abbreviation) has represented livestock farming in Brazil for 82 years, and it has over 20,000 members to date. It is the entity responsible for genealogical record, promotion and genetic improvement of zebu breeds in the country.



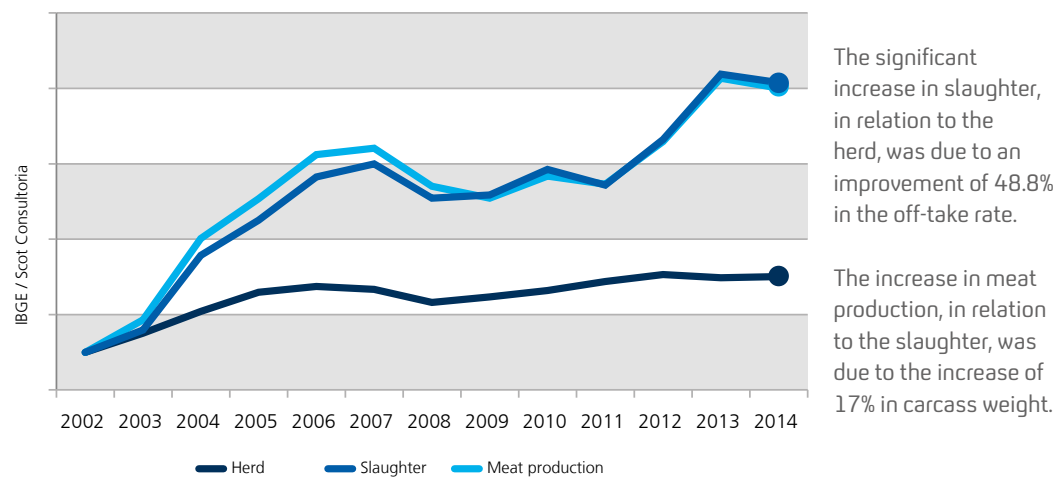
ECONOMIC

SUSTAINABILITY

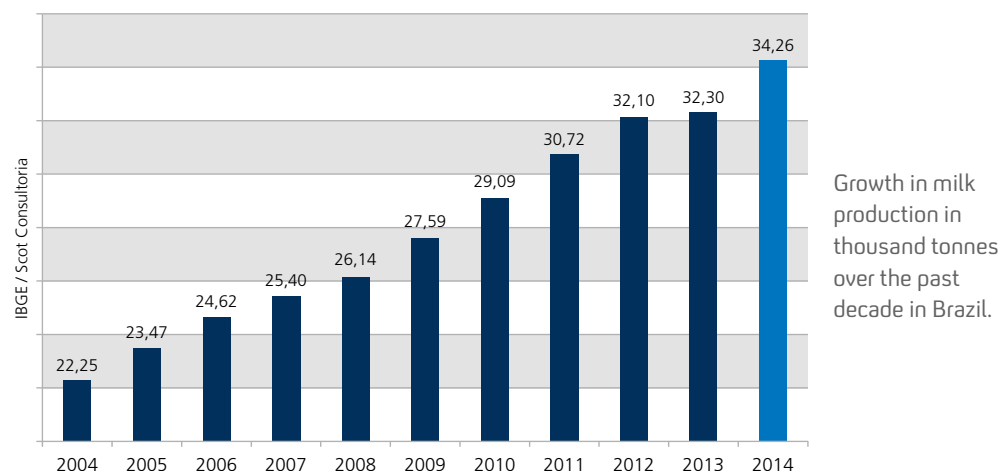
Given that Brazilian livestock farming is modern, competitive and sustainable, it is one of the most efficient in meat and milk production worldwide. Moreover, since zebu cattle are the basis of the Brazilian cattle herd, and since there have been investments in technological and professional structure, cattle breeding is able to reach significant levels of productivity, thus generating gains in social, economic and environmental areas of the country.

MEAT PRODUCTION

Productivity gains in beef production.



MILK PRODUCTION



BRAZILIAN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS:

- It is the largest commercial herd in the world, with about 197 million heads (ANUALPEC);
- General slaughter rate of 21.4%;
- Livestock production chain generated more than R\$ 380 billion in Brazil in 2013;
- Livestock farming provides raw material for 50 industrial sectors;
- Brazilian beef export closed 2014 at US\$ 7.2 billion, an increase 10 times higher than 15 years ago;
- In 10 years, the herd grew 1.9%, and meat production increased by 18.2%;
- Brazilian farmers produce meat to supply the domestic market, as well as a surplus for export;
- 42.07 million heads of cattle were slaughtered in Brazil in 2014, producing 10.07 million tons of carcass equivalent weight;
- The salaries and expenses of employees directly engaged in the sector (farms and industries) accounted for over R\$ 9.77 billion in 2013.

SOCIAL

SUSTAINABILITY

FOOD SAFETY WITH QUALITY:

In order to meet the needs of the world's population, which will consist of nine billion people by 2050 (UN), and in order to help feed the other 925 million starving people around the world (FAO), the Brazilian cattle industry has been challenged to double its production over the next thirty years, allowing everyone access to nutritious food.

Brazilian grassland farming skills and the efficiency of zebu cattle in producing grass-fed meat guarantee the supply of food rich in protein and other nutrients, which are essential to human health.

Not only was Brazil granted negligible risk status for BSE (Mad Cow Disease) by the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health - UN) last May, but the grass-fed meat and milk produced in Brazil also have a high concentration of omega 3 in comparison with omega 6.

Therefore, high quality, safe, affordable food is ensured to millions of people in Brazil and worldwide.



With about 3 million livestock establishments (IBGE), 85% of which are classified as small farms (INCRA/PNRA), the sector creates 7 million direct jobs. For instance, the dairy industry itself creates around 1.5 million jobs in its 1.3 million livestock establishments (IBGE: Census of Agriculture).

Constant innovation and a well-organized structure of technology transfer are factors that provide producers – particularly small and medium-scale producers – with access to tools that ensure their economic activity, leading to increasing investment in more modern and sustainable practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL

SUSTAINABILITY

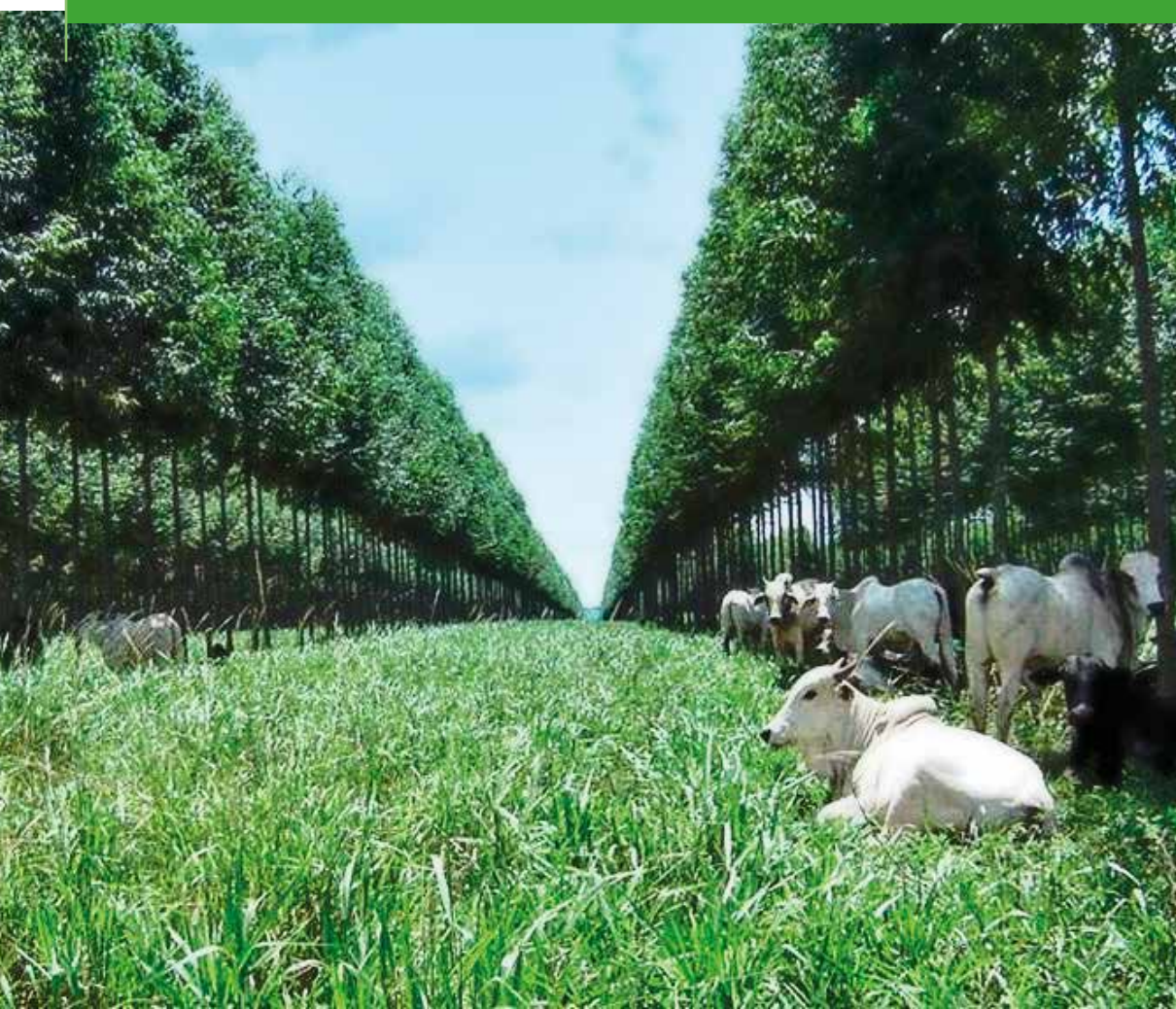
The introduction of zebu cattle into Brazilian livestock farming, more than 100 years ago, followed by the commitment of the producers, who have been supported by universities, institutions and research centers since then, were decisive for the selection of increasingly productive cattle and systems. The vertical integration process has been highlighted in the past three decades, with major investments in management, genetics, nutrition and stewardship.

The vertical integration of Brazilian livestock is as follows:

	Slaughter rate	Average carcass weight	Milk production
Thirty years ago	12,2%	200 kg	11.162.254 (thousands of liters)
Today	21,4%	270 kg	23.193.984 (thousands of liters)

Nowadays, Brazil has been facing a new reality regarding cattle breeding. Public policies for low-carbon agriculture and the implementation of best practices in rural properties by cattle breeders are one of the key factors ensuring the sustainability of the sector.

However, not only is the crop, livestock and forests integrated system an important means to increase the economic sustainability of livestock farming, but it also contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gases.



GENETICS

Imported from India in the nineteenth century, zebu breeds have played a major role in the success of livestock grazing. Due to their high adaptability and increasing levels of productivity, zebu cattle account for more than 80% of the Brazilian herd today.

The cutting-edge technologies applied to animal reproduction are one of the most developed in the last decade. Artificial Insemination (AI), In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and Embryo Transfer (ET) are tools that accelerate genetic improvement.

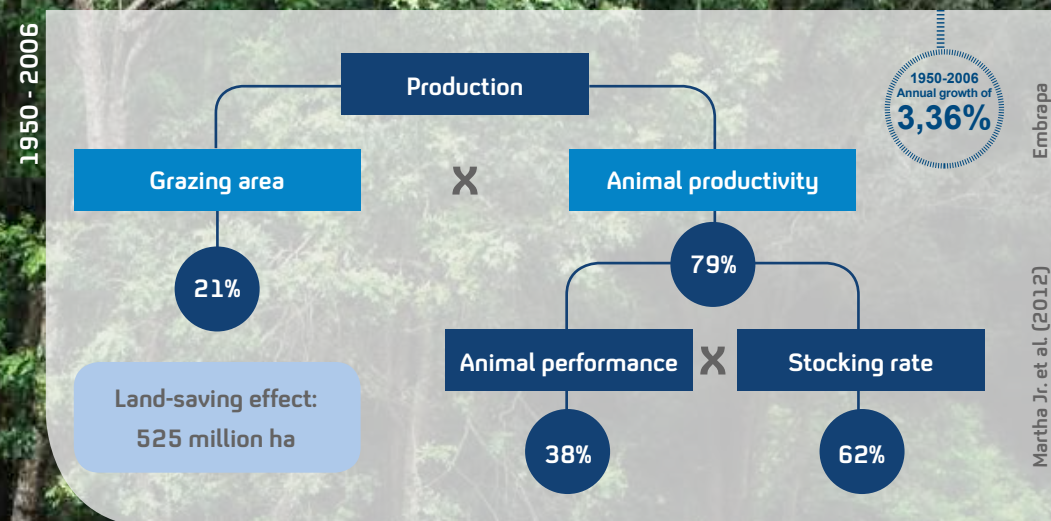
CARBON NEUTRAL MEAT

EMBRAPA has developed a project called CCN - Meat Carbon Neutral. It's goal is to certify the production of beef cattle on systems with the compulsory introduction of trees as differential. Thus, the meat gets a stamp proving its contribution in zero carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere.

PASTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEM

Livestock grazing is an important resource for the mitigation of greenhouse gases. Recent research has shown that well-managed pastures may sequester large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere, and that is a determining factor for a positive balance in the sector.

Investment in the quality of grassland and in integration techniques, such as the crop and livestock and crop, forest and livestock, contributes significantly to the voluntary commitment of the Brazilian Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 38.9% by 2020.



Between 1950 and 2006, the Brazilian cattle industry grew at a pace of 3.36% per year. However, despite this advance, 525 million hectares were spared, which accounts for approximately 60% of the entire Brazilian territory, hence the land-saving effect. Technology, research, management and genetic improvement allowed for the increase in the number of animals per hectare.



CONCLUSION:

Genetics, combined with good management practices, technological apparatus, sanitary control, proper nutrition and professional management, have made Brazilian livestock as competitive as, or even more competitive than, any other activity within agribusiness in any region of the country.

Productivity gains promote a huge land-saving effect, allowing for the conservation of native ecosystems. While modernizing and increasing its productivity levels, this activity provides areas for the expansion of agriculture, avoids the occupation of new frontiers and supports the enforcement of the rigorous Brazilian Forest Code.

Investment in a qualified workforce, accompanied by effective public policies, such as lines of credit for genetic improvement of livestock and pasture recovery, favors an increasingly modern and competitive livestock.

The Brazilian cattle industry has been growing day by day, primarily due to the increase in productivity, thus contributing to the economic, social and environmental development of the country.

ABCZ also operates in the following areas: supporting scientific research, higher education and technological innovation; promoting business environment and development of new markets; integrating livestock with the other stages of the production chain (meat and dairy supply chain); providing technical support to its members; and representing farmers in dealings with the government and the society. The international promotion of zebu breeds is performed by the Department of International Relations of ABCZ, through the Brazilian Cattle Project. Moreover, ABCZ is the first association of Brazilian livestock to have been certified by ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 standards.

The entity holds the world's largest database of zebu cattle, with more than 14 million registered animals, and over 600,000 zebu cattle registered every year. ABCZ monitors the genetic improvement of more than 3,600 herds across the country through PMGZ (Zebu Cattle Genetic Improvement Program). ABCZ currently has 22 offices throughout Brazil and pays more than 13,000 visits to rural properties a year. We are close to the farmer!





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