



**Fruit Growing in the North-East Semi-Arid Zone:
Internationalization, Territorial Conflict and Precarious Working Conditions**
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Introduction: The present research seeks to understand the development and impact of agribusiness in respect of the geographical dynamics of labour in the principal areas of expansion of fruit growing in the north-eastern hinterland. Capital expansion of agribusiness in north-eastern Brazil has brought about innumerable changes in socio-spatial dynamics, the expression of which is embodied by mobilization caused by the social and territorial division of labour. As a result, the rise of a new pattern of social inequalities has been seen, involving territorial conflicts between such agencies as supermarkets and multinational companies and workers organized in trade unions and other social movements struggling for land and water. **Methodology and Development:** The methodology was built around three operational axes: organizing a search of the available literature the construction of a statistical database linked to the development of a methodological matrix, and carrying out fieldwork. **Final thoughts:** The organization of a global network of fruit production created a central role for new economic agents, with particular attention to retailers (supermarkets) and their great influence in the marketing of fruit from producers, as well as supplying fruit for the consumption of foreign markets. The repercussions of consumption in the production areas, and, consequently, the geographical dynamics of work range from the expansion of land conflicts, the exclusion of small producers from the marketing channels, intensification of work to guarantee price policy (the discounts war), to changes in the production process due to customer demand. The corollary of this is the role of the supermarkets in the governance and control of production from merchandizing to audit and certification. In the regions analyzed, the recent creation of a formal labour market in the agriculture sector was observed, marked by seasonal employment contracts and the occurrence of numerous conflicts concerning exploitation of workers and extensive journeys, also cases of coercion, sexual and moral harassment, an increase in work-related accidents and instances of illness due to pesticide contamination in the work environment. With regard to the organization of workers, trade union representation is challenged by the existence of other organizations not directly connected to workers' concerns. Despite much difficulty, social movements have introduced patterns of struggle and demand, as well as enabling the takeover of land and bringing in new working practices in settlements, camps, coastal communities and the traditional lands of collective use.

Key words: Agribusiness, fruit, semi-arid zone, geographical dynamic of labour.