A Local Response to GMOs:

The Landless Workers' Movement and Biotechnology in Brazil



Kacy McKinney

Department of Geography University of Washington November 16th, 2007

What do I mean by GMOs and biotechnology?

- Crops
 Soybeans, Corn, Cotton
- Corporations

 Marketing, Technological Packets, Information
- Responses
 Policy, Resistance, Debate

What is the Landless Workers' Movement (MST)?

Land should be used to fulfill its "larger social function"

• Strategy:

Organization

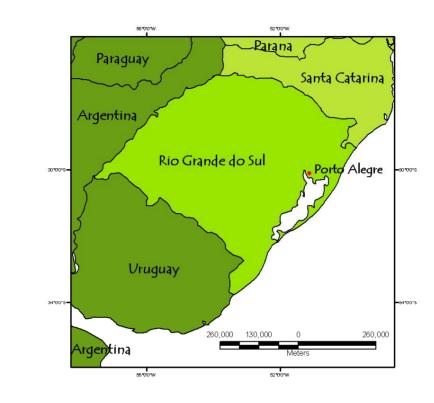
Occupation

Encampment

Settlement



Research Area





Authors: Julio C. Postigo & Kacy McKinney Date: 03/05/2006



Historical Background I

- Portuguese colony and then empire until 1889
- Slavery abolished in 1888
- State sponsored European immigration at turn of the century
- Republic since 1889, but periods of both military dictatorship and democracy
- Throughout this time land has been concentrated in the hands of a relatively small number of large landowners

Green Revolution and the 'gene revolution'

The Green Revolution resulted in increasingly high inputs, capital intensive production, and increased crop yields - but also highly unequal benefits and environmental degradation

In the late 1990s many small farmers, activists and social movements began to compare GMOs to the Green Revolution (environmental, social and economic impacts)

October 21, 2007



Photo by Sebastião Salgado

"On October 21 at 1:30 p.m., a Via Campesina encampment located at Syngenta's 127-hectare farm used for field trials of genetically modified crops in Santa Tereza do Oeste, in Paraná, Brazil, was attacked by an armed militia. During the brutal attack, a leader and activist from the Movement of Landless Workers (MST) and member of Via Campesina, Valmir Mota de Oliveira, 42 years old (known as "Keno,") was killed at point-blank range by two shots to the chest.

In order to ensure the punishment of those responsible for the aforementioned crimes—primarily those who ordered the attacks—as well as the disbandment of armed militias in the region, we are asking all friends and allies to send letters to the Syngenta headquarters in the United States, with a copy to the Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC."

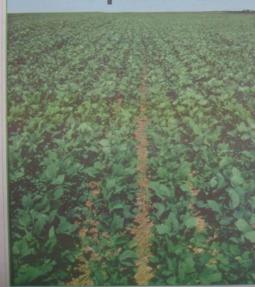
SENE 320.2...SOCIALISMO/COMUNISMO

Response since 1998

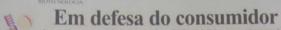




A semente da polêmica











SOBRE RODAS GUIA DA TV



Rumo a novos mercados

ara a husca de novos mercados em



CAMPO & LAVOURA

Deputados pedem rótulo para transgênicos



GREENPEACE



Conclusions

