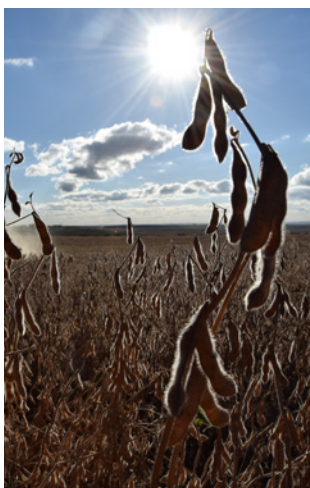




## Cooperativa Agrária Agroindustrial and ProTerra certification

Sustainability includes several aspects, involving environmental, economic and social pillars. Therefore, the **Cooperativa Agrária Agroindustrial**, located in the District of Entre Rios, in Guarapuava, Paraná, has actions that encourage its members to employ sustainable practices on their properties.

Agrária was founded in 1951 to offer the opportunity of a new life in southern Brazil to hundreds of Swabian immigrants, people of Germanic origin, expropriated from their land in Europe during World War II.



In seven decades, the Cooperative has become a powerhouse in agricultural production and industrialisation. In 2022 alone, its storage units received more than 2 million tons of grains, most of which were used as raw material for the six industries of Agrária. The significant result of R\$ 7.8 billion in revenue last year is directly linked to the research conducted by FAPA - Fundação Agrária de Pesquisa Agropecuária, and to programs that promote quality not only in the factories but from the beginning of the process, right at the gate.



Since 2006, the Cooperative has been providing guidance to its members by encouraging continuous improvement in the management of their properties. Ten years later, these activities have been consolidated into a single program: PAGR - Programa Agrária de Gestão Rural. Divided into five levels, the program establishes suitability criteria that must be applied on farms, covering environmental, labour and occupational safety issues, among others.

Also in 2016, the PAGR guidelines led Agrária to obtain ProTerra certification. This recognition is one of the world's most important tools for certifying the use of sustainable agricultural practices in the food production chain, ensuring compliance with the points contained in the Basel Criteria and the Soy Moratorium, fundamental requirements for responsible soy production.

According to James Dandolini, commercial coordinator for Seeds and Grains, obtaining certification was important for the Cooperative's products to be able to fly higher, and reach foreign markets. "With ProTerra, we were able to guarantee the traceability of the entire production chain, for both soybeans and soymeal. This allowed us to export to countries such as Germany, Belgium, Holland, Norway and Switzerland, adding value to the cooperative's production, which is our main objective," he comments.



Agrária uses the premises of the FSA (Farm Sustainability Assessment) of the SAI Platform as a basis for the code of sustainable agriculture that is adopted by the PAGR. These requirements fully take into account the scope of the commitments required for ProTerra certification, which contributes to maintaining the seal in revalidation audits.



Currently, 83% of Agrária's arable land is covered by the Rural Management Program. In addition to soybean planting, sustainable practices are used in barley, corn and wheat. Smaller volume crops, which are not yet commercialised by the internal team, also follow these procedures. "We have a great interaction between the PAGR team and the Technical Assistance department, which is in direct contact with the producer. This benefits both our cooperative members and the market, which receives a reliable product", explains Camila Musika, Quality Management Analyst working on the programme.



Bruno Dandolini, Agrária's Technical Assistance Coordinator, considers that PAGR is in a maturing process. Today, it goes beyond legal issues to provide technical advice to cooperative members, enabling them to use their land in a sustainable way. **"We are reaching a new level, working with more robust conservation practices for water and soil conservation and the efficient use of available resources,"** he adds.