

Chapter 8

Challenges for Embrapa

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Introduction

Peace-keeping, efficient justice and respect for human rights, based on the Rule of Law and effective governance of institutions, are fundamental to achieve sustainable development. These are the principles of the 16th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 16) presented in this book. Among 12 targets of this goal, Embrapa has been contributing directly or indirectly to 6.

For this chapter, we sought, firstly, to briefly recover a collection of actions already being conducted by Embrapa to contribute to reach each target. Secondly, based on the 2016-2019 actions in the Multi-Annual Plan of Embrapa (MAP) and the federal government which are aligned with SDG 16 for a program planned until 2042, we present the efforts made to reach these targets. Our commitment is based on concrete actions (Figure 1) which result in a better world we have the duty to build and the right to enjoy.



Photo: Julia Franco Stuchi

Figure 1. Riverside inhabitant crossing Araguari River, in Porto Grande, state of Amapá, in the mist, to bring participants for the workshop promoted by Embrapa Amapá.

Contributions of Embrapa

Target 16.a – Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime – covers issues related to the programs and projects that Embrapa has been conducting in international technical cooperation. These programs and projects lead to institutional improvement through governance and inclusion of local parties in the sustainable development process. For a long-term reach, Embrapa has been strengthening new partnership models based on creating or consolidating Laboratórios Multiusuário (Multi-user Laboratories – MultiLab), whose infrastructure is shared with national or international public or private organizations, and Unidades Mistas de Pesquisa (Mixed Research Units – Umips), equipped with laboratory facilities installed through institutional partnerships; Embrapa has also been reinforcing the new public-private partnerships models by creating or consolidating Núcleos Territoriais de Inovação e Referência Tecnológica (Territorial Nuclei for Innovation and Technological Reference – Nutir), to work with integrated sustainable production systems. Thus, these crosscutting actions are effective and rational means to provide peace and harmony, and to put away violence, terrorism and crime, keeping what was proposed in SDG.

Because of similar principles and solutions available by Embrapa, targets 16.5 – Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms – and 16.6 – Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels – were analyzed in the same chapter. Solutions that the Embrapa adopts and makes available to society in order to hold a dialogue and prevent corruption and bribery (among which its Ethics Committee and Ombudsman's Office stand out) were addressed. Its Internal Audit Services and Investigation Commission act to identify and combat actions harmful to the Company and to society. In order to promote institutional accountability and transparency, Embrapa has established Animal Ethics Committees, which assess research projects on the use of animals in research, based on several ethical principles. At the same time, in order to preserve the Brazilian genetic heritage, in its varied forms, Embrapa created structures in order to comply with pertinent norms and, thus, to contribute to combat biopiracy. For the future, Embrapa is strengthening partnerships with universities, institutes, state organizations and other public and private institutions within the coordination of the National Agricultural Research Organization (SNPA), and searching cooperation with national partners (ministries, S System services, cooperative companies, organizations and social movements) for agricultural

innovations, focusing on the role of local or regional networks. Developing innovative production systems for increasing Brazilian sustainable agricultural, forestry and aquaculture productivity is also among Embrapa priorities.

Issues related to governance and institutional accountability were addressed under target 16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. In this sense, responsiveness and accountability of Embrapa are revealed by several mechanisms linked to the Strategic Intelligence System, in which Embrapa records demands from several sectors of society to support its decision-making. For long-term reach, an Integrated Management System is being implemented at Embrapa, including tools for managing human resources and assets; efforts are also focused on instructing employees of Embrapa and State Agricultural Research Organizations (Oepas) by means of long- and short-term training courses on strategic technical-scientific knowledge, including those for higher administrative efficiency. It also seeks the integration of research and technical assistance and rural extension through solutions, training of agents and participation in governing bodies of the Agência Nacional de Assistência Técnica e Extensão Rural (National Agency for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension – Anater).

Embrapa has greatly contributed to achieve target 16.8 – Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in institutions of global governance – through its active participation in several discussion forums on Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) and the establishment of partnerships with several institutions which promote reduced conflicts provoked by lack of food and precarious agricultural production in several countries worldwide. In addition, Embrapa has aligned its institutional agenda in order to further meet sustainable development goals proposed by UN and committed to by the Brazilian government. As it expects to further contribute to meet this target, Embrapa aims to consolidate a network of international alliances through representatives, units, actions, partnerships and projects on scientific cooperation, technical cooperation, business deals or participation in forums.

Finally, issues related to transparency and information security, related to target 16.10 – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements – address citizenship in the sense of having the right to access information generated by a public institution. In turn, there is also concern for protecting public assets resulting from the final activities of Embrapa, i.e., the results of agricultural research. In this sense, Embrapa develops and implements mechanisms

compliant to the existing legal framework while encourages public service user participation and protection and defense of their rights. For the future, Embrapa aims to consolidate the Strategic Intelligence System of Embrapa (Agropensa) by providing information, scenarios and studies to support decision-making, strategy and public policy improvement. Concerning access to information, we aim to increase the production of scientific and technological knowledge, in order to:

- Improve the management and sustainable use of Brazilian biomes and their natural resources.
- Increase the resistance of native ecosystems and production systems, and increase the adaptability of Brazilian agriculture to climate change and water scarcity.
- Support public policy design and improvement.

Final considerations

Considering that, in a preliminary analysis, it is difficult to define which solutions from Embrapa could contribute to achieve SDG 16, several actions were mentioned in this chapter and many mechanisms that directly or indirectly meet the targets established in this goal were highlighted.

Obviously, these mechanisms need constant improvement, but, in general, Embrapa contributes to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, in Brazil and in other developing countries. It also provides access to information and, through its actions, support effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels for peace and global justice.