

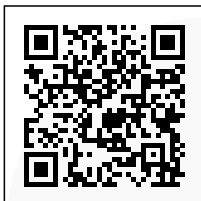
## Rio Grande do Sul: the land, the people and the potentialities

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## Rural extension does its work with its eyes on the future

**E**MATER/RS is present in 300 municipalities in Rio Grande do Sul through its municipal offices and plant classification posts.

The extension agents advise more than 360,000 farmers on the field, comprising men, women, youth and rural leaders.

Besides its linkage to the State Government, through the Agriculture and Supply Secretary, it is also linked to the Federal Government, through the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry and through specific agreements with municipalities, universities, cooperatives, farmworkers unions and other governmental and private institutions through a partnership system for the development of joint actions.

Another goal is the permanent quest for modernization through improvement of educational media utilization and computerization of its activities. Only so it can respond to the challenge of the 21st century, increasing the scope of its nonformal educational work carrying out Rural Extension in the State of Rio Grande do Sul.



### EMATER/RS

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SEMEANDO IDÉIAS  
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## Rio Grande do Sul



## The land, the people and the potentialities

Governo do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul  
 Secretaria da Agricultura e Abastecimento



## Rio Grande do Sul

### The land, the people and the potencialities

**R**io Grande do Sul is Brazil's southernmost State, bordering with Argentina and Uruguay, within the region called "America's Cone Sul" in Portuguese. Since the conquest of the territory (during the 18th century) the man of Rio Grande do Sul became used to a wide ranging outlook, motivated by the boundlessness of the "pampas" revealing ever more new horizons.

The origin of the "gaúcho" (like people of the State are called in Portuguese) is the result of the mingling of several ethnicities, beginning with the Indians, the Spaniards and the Portuguese. Then came the Germans, Italians and other minor migratory currents, but equally important for the building up of the people that today are represented by 9,200,000 inhabitants in an area of 280,000 square kilometers.

The State's economy, initially based on pastureland exploration followed by agriculture, today is intertwined with a diversified industrial complex, topped by important sectors like the metal-mechanical, shoemaking, electro-electronics, petrochemicals, agroindustries and other. It comprises also a dynamic and fast-growing business sector and an extended gamut in the area of services, based on the agroindustrial complex.

It's climate is subtropical and temperate, it's people is hospitable and enterprising, and the State presents, according to official data, an excellent quality of life. The State of Rio Grande do Sul occupies 3.2% of the Brazilian territory and it's Gross Internal Product reached the amount of US\$ 35 billion in 1992, equivalent to 8% of the Gross National Product (GNP).



### EMATER/RS implements the state's agricultural policies

**T**he organization Emater/RS develops important programs to assure the improvement of the quality of life for rural families, contributing to reduce their migration to the cities. To accomplish its main objective it follows four principal lines of action:

#### 1) Production and supply

- Increasing Crops Production and Productivity
- Vegetable Supply and Production
- Increasing Livestocks Production and Productivity
- Classification of Plant Products

#### 2) Production support

- Storage and Supply
- Rural Administration
- Irrigation and Drainage
- Agroindustry
- Agrarian Reform
- Farmers Professionalization

#### 3) Environmental protection

- Small Watersheds
- Soil and Reforestation
- Phytosanitary Protection

#### 4) Social promotion

- Social Welfare for Rural Families
- Rural Organization and Development
- Organization of Cooperatives and Unions
- Rural Youth

As an instrument to carry out the States Government programs, Emater/RS implements support actions in the following activities: Development of Small Farms Support Fund (FEAPER), Small Watersheds, Irrigation, Storage, Agrarian Reform, Citrus Growing, Rural Condominiums, Seeds Exchange, Environmental Recuperation of the Guaíba River Basin (PRO-GUAIBA). Further, Emater/RS develops sectorial diagnosis and proposals of the main agricultural products regarding the building up of the CONE-SUL COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUL).

### Promotion of rural families, the main objective

**T**he Rural Extension Service in Rio Grande do Sul was started in 1955. In its first phase its mission was diffusionist, i.e., delivering knowledge and technologies to farmers. In its second phase it adopted productivism aiming at increases in production and productivity of crops. Since 1985 it passes through the environmental phase, continues to do diffusion and productivism, but the main foundation of it's work is the recuperation and preservation of the environment carrying out specific programs and projects.

Emater/RS's work is based on nonformal education of small and medium size farmers, establishing a work plan with their participation. The extension agents visit farmers and demonstrate new home and agricultural practices. They promote meetings and trips, campaigns, result demonstrations, utilize mass media (radio, newspaper and TV), taking their educational messages to the general public.

