

8.4 Cangucu Region Environmental Conservation Oriented Sustainable Agriculture Promotion Program

8.4.1 Background

Municipality of Cangucu has the largest arable land in the Mar de Dentro area. However, in some situations, with permanent farming, a process of constant forest cuttings has occurred, or else, the clearing of native forests, fires, intensive farming, massive use of agricultural chemicals, an irrational use of the soil, and then totally 792 places were completely abandoned.

As shown in **Fig. 8.4-1**, the project area covers the whole of Cangucu city and consist of five districts. The area has a territorial extension of 3,250 km² and a population of 50,045 (1996). The actual land use in Cangucu region is shown in **Table 8.4-1**.

Table 8.4-1 Actual Land Use in Cangucu

Land Use	Area	
	(ha)	(%)
Arable Land	67,250	20.7
Fruit Farm	3,500	1.1
Natural Forest	36,056	11.1
Forestation	3,000	0.9
Natural Pasture	125,254	38.5
Improved Pasture	39,200	12.1
Others	50,740	15.6
Total	325,000	100.0

Source: PRORURAL/Cangucu

Average land tenure in the project is estimated at 28.3 ha. About 90% of total landowners (9,151 farmers) have less than 50 ha and their owned area is 47% of total arable land.