



🏠 Locality: São Gonçalo do Sapucaí
📅 Data: 20/03/2024
👤 Coffee farmer: Patrícia Borges

Fortaleza dos Borges Estate

VISIT REPORT

São Gonçalo do Sapucaí is a Brazilian municipality located in the Mantiqueira Geographic Region, in the southern region of Minas Gerais. It covers a total area of 516 km², with an average altitude of 1031 meters. The terrain is mainly hilly to mountainous, with a mild climate throughout the year. The coffee plantation spans 8000 hectares and is known for its specialty coffee production. The average annual production in the municipality is 243,000 bags, highlighting the region with an average productivity of 30-32 bags per hectare.

Mrs. Patrícia's property comprises approximately 242 hectares of land, with 40 hectares dedicated to coffee production. The yield reaches about 37 bags per hectare, which is considered excellent productivity, exceeding the municipal average of 30-32



bags/ha. Cultural practices are carried out by three professionals registered on the farm. During the harvest period, the producer hires external workers, who come from two regions of Brazil, the North of Minas and Bahia, staying housed on the farm and then returning to their hometowns.

The coffee grower receives technical assistance through the Minasul cooperative and sells her coffee in two ways: through cooperatives and directly under her own brand: Amarantha.

In terms of technical aspects, the plantations exhibit good health and adequate nutrition. The producer regularly conducts leaf and soil analysis, and weed control is done using chemical herbicides and tractor mowing, along with planting Brachiaria grass in the coffee rows. As part of modern soil conservation practices between rows, we recommend using a mix of seeds from non-commercial plants that benefit nutrient recycling, soil protection, increased green mass, and attraction and protection of natural pest enemies.

Biological products are already being used on the property, including biological insecticides on leaves and biological nematicides and fungicides in the soil. The use of biological products in agriculture contributes to the balance of agricultural systems and helps preserve insects of interest, such as natural enemies of pests and bees, which are threatened in various regions of the planet.



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Another point is to start replacing chemical fertilizers with organomineral fertilizers. The use of organomineral fertilizers provides greater sustainability to agricultural production by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers by up to 30%. Additionally, they contribute to carbon replenishment in the soil, with cumulative effects over the years, improving fertility levels and the presence of beneficial microorganisms.

The producer also mentioned that as she renovates her plantations, she opts for more productive and disease-resistant cultivars, optimizing the use of area and resources, reducing the use of chemical inputs, and bringing greater profitability to the same area. The farm also uses windbreaks, through continuous tree lines.

There is an extensive area of permanent preservation (APPs) and legal reserves, far exceeding the minimum required by our legislation. There is also concern for the conservation of hilltops and springs, setting a great example to be followed.

In conclusion, among the various attributes required in the sustainability report, we can consider it very satisfactory, but it is always necessary to pay attention and adapt to the constant changes in the technical, environmental, and social aspects of agriculture in our country.

Below are some images that illustrate our visit and the attributes addressed.



coffee drying patio.



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Planting brachiaria grass in the interrow of the coffee plantation.



Waste accommodation area, sorted by type of material



Exclusive area for the storage of agricultural pesticides



coffee washer-separator



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