

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	BRAZIL/CSC - Southern Cone
▪ TC Name:	Improving Amazon's sustainable development through technical education (TVET) course for açaí
▪ TC Number:	BR-T1531
▪ Team Leader/Members:	COSSI FERNANDES, JOAO PAULO (SCL/EDU) Team Leader; EMILIO LAGUILLO GUTIERREZ (SCL/EDU); BLASCO, IVANA (SCL/EDU); ROBERTA FELIX (CSC/CBR); VERISSIMO DA SILVA, CAROLINA (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	17 Oct 2022
▪ Beneficiary:	Students (youth and adults) from riverside communities in the state of Pará
▪ Executing Agency:	FUNDACAO ITAU PARA A EDUCACAO E CULTURA
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$710,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals; Firms; Not applicable
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/EDU - Education
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSC/CBR - Country Office Brazil
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality ; Environmental sustainability

II. Objective and Justification

2.1 Pilot TVET course regarding açaí production

2.2 Innovation in bioeconomy chains is rare in the Brazilian Amazon; and we often see companies from other regions of the country, and even from outside Brazil, taking advantage of innovation opportunities for regional raw materials. Lack of capital for larger investments combined with low technological and market knowledge are the main causes for this low development in several production chains in this region.

2.3 The açaí is another example of this reality. This berry is rich in polyphenols, with high antioxidant activity, and has recently incorporated by many people across the world with healthy diets. It is now considered the most important non-timber product in the region and the main source of income for riverside communities, making it essential to the regional economy. The fruit grows on palm trees which are irrigated and fertilized with the change of river tide. People from small communities, such as Chaves, in the Marajó Island, harvest the fruit and prepare the pulp at their own houses, with poor infrastructure and hygiene processes. Additionally, according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), açaí berry production grew 32% compared to last year, with 95% of its production being concentrated in the state of Pará.

- 2.4 However, the low efficiency in the harvest and production processes is a challenge. The State Agricultural Defense and Surveillance Agency estimates that most of the Açaí do Pará is lost at the foot of the tree. Consequently, there are two possible solutions to meet this increasing demand: improve productivity or deforest the Amazon, which should not be an option for many different reasons.
- 2.5 To improve the efficiency of these processes, the Department of Science, Technology and Technical Education of the State of Pará (SecTet), in partnership with local industries, will design a hybrid technical education (TVET) course to improve efficiency in the harvest, production and commercialization processes. The course will be part online and part in person. To solve the challenge of offering specialized education to low-density regions, SecTet will equip a truck-cart (see similar example in Picture 1, used by the state to offer other technical courses or public services to remote communities), which will be moved across the distant areas of the state. The course will be taken by students who are enrolled in regular high schools or by adults, who will have access to this portable laboratory near their own houses. In the context of High School Reform, which will expand technical education, and with SecTet's focus to expand this kind of course, this pilot will be used as reference in many other courses in the state, and around the Country.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Market Research and Curriculum Development.** It will finance: (i) market analysis to understand the demand from the industry and from the market; and (ii) Açaí related curricula development.
- 3.2 **Component II: Pilot course.** It will finance: (i) teacher training; (ii) truck-cart and equipment.
- 3.3 **Component III: Management and knowledge generation .** It will finance: (i) a diagnosis about other bottle neck in the açaí supply chain, and (ii) a robust impact evaluation of the project in the riverside, isolated communities regarding income, quality of the products and education. Randomization of families and communities is being discussed to evaluate the impact on education and economic variables. Qualitative research will be conducted to identify the perception of the families to stay in the communities and protect the forest.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Market Research and Curriculum Development	US\$100,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$100,000.00
Pilot course	US\$310,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$310,000.00
Management and knowledge generation	US\$300,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$300,000.00
Total	US\$710,000.00	US\$0.00	US\$710,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The executing agency will be Itau Educação e Trabalho (IET). SecTet will centralize the actions within the government. The project will have additional donations (equipment and in kind) from Açaí industries. The amount related to these donations is not presented in convergence, since it will not be provided by IET.
- 5.2 IET is a Brazilian NGO which supports governments to design TVET curricula and expand technical education enrollment, which will help to convey the learning from the project to other regions in the Country. IET is already used to IDB's policy, since it

executes an IDB project financed by the TVET Fund with the Economic Development Department of São Paulo (SDE-SP).

VI. Project Risks and Issues

6.1 No high medium or high risks or identified. The main risks of this project regards governance.

The first one occurs because in January will begin a new administraiton period (2023-2026), but the governor is the same and changes must be small. The second risk regards about aligning the different stakeholders: (i) IET (executing unity); (ii) SecTet government's counterpart; (iii) Açaí industries, which will provide equipment and in kind contributions.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".