

Agrarian Reform in Brazil

Raul Jungmann

Minister of Agrarian Reform

Brazil

July 20, 1999 at 4:00 PM

Minister Raul Jungmann is an economist from Pernambuco. He was director of IBAMA (Instituto Brasileiro de Recursos Renováveis e Meio Ambiente) before being appointed as Minister of Agrarian Reform (Política Fundiária) in the Fernando Henrique government. Previously, he served in the Ministry of Planning during the Itamar Franco government. Since becoming minister of agrarian reform, Ministro Jungmann has gained a reputation as an effective administrator and proponent of agrarian reform.

Minister Raul Jungmann's talk focuses on accomplishments and plans concerning agrarian reform during Fernando Henrique Cardoso's presidency. A period of questions and answers will follow his presentation.

Opening

Professor Mauricio A. Font

Director, NewAmericas Project

Queens College

Welcome

Dr. Allen Lee Sessoms

President, Queens College

Moderator

Professor Margaret Crahan

GSUC & Hunter College

This event has been organized in collaboration with the Núcleo de Estudo Agrário e Desenvolvimento (NEAD) and the SSRC - Social Science Research Council.

Location: Social Science Research Council

810 Seventh Avenue Conference Room (31st Floor)

AGRARIAN REFORM IN BRAZIL

Minister Raul Jungmann

NewAmericas Colloquium
Queens College and Graduate School
City University of New York

20 July 1999
4 to 6 P.M.

Social Science Research Council
Conference Room
810 Seventh Avenue, 31st floor
Manhattan, New York

AGRARIAN REFORM IN BRAZIL: PRESIDENCY OF FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1ST TERM, 1995-1998

- a) Acceleration of the Process of Agrarian Reform
- b) Agrarian Reform: A Major Social Program
- c) Changes in Legislation and New Programs
- d) Diminishing Land Conflicts and Deaths

II. MAIN DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES

(IN THE CONTEXT OF MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICIES AND MEASURES
RELATED TO ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND EXTERNAL SHOCKS OF
1998-1999)

III. THE 2ND TERM, 1999-2002: NEW AGRARIAN REFORM DIRECTIVES

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 1ST TERM, **1995-1998**

a) Acceleration of the Agrarian Reform Process

NUMBER OF SETTLEMENTS, NUMBER OF SETTLED FAMILIES, AREA OF EXPROPRIATED LAND, INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CREDITS GIVEN, 1994-1998

Settlements (N)	2,356
Settled families (N)	287,539*
Land expropriated (Hectares)	7,321,270 **
Credit (US \$)	427,551,315 ***
Infrastructure (US \$)	About 401,900,000

* Compare with the 218,000 families settled in the previous 30 years, from 1964 to 1993.

**Over 9 million, if we add to expropriated land other forms of land acquisition.

***About US \$ 457 million, if emergency credits given in 1998 due to severe drought in settlement areas are added.

b) Agrarian Reform: A Major Social Program during Fernando Henrique Cardoso's 1st Term

Evolution of the budget, 1995-1998

YEAR	BUDGETARY APPROPRIATION (Millions US \$)
1995	1,544
1996	1,510
1997	2,154
1998*	1,714

*The reduction from 1997 to 1998 is due to fiscal adjustments and to the lesser need for payment of court deposits (the amount available for investment actually grew).

c) Changes in Legislation and New Programs

Among other legislation reforms, we have:

- Simplified Procedure Act of 1996 (Lei do Rito Sumário)
- Change in the Rural Land Tax (ITR) and its effect on Agrarian Reform (rendering the maintenance of unproductive land unfeasible as reserve of value)
- Active Presence of the Office of the Public Prosecutor as a Mediator in Conflicts occurring during the Process of Agrarian Reform
- The Pilot Plan of the "Land Bill" (Cédula da Terra) in the Northeast, and the Creation of a Land Fund (the so-called "Land Bank")

d) Diminishing Land Conflicts and Deaths

LAND INVASIONS in highly conflictive areas DECREASED during the four years of the first term of FHC's presidency, in some cases, like in southern Pará State, by more than 50%.

Land Invasions in Southern Pará State, 1996-1998

1996	30
1997	17
1998	3

Source: Land Pastoral Commission for 1996 and 1997; data for 1998 – DFA/INCRA

Deaths in Agrarian Conflicts, 1995-1998

1995	41
1996	54
1997	30
1998*	26

* Until November

Source: Land Pastoral Commission

II. MAIN DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES **(PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING THE GENERAL** **MACRO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT)**

- THE AGRARIAN LAW OF 1964 AND AGRARIAN REFORM IN THE BRAZILIAN CONSTITUTION OF 1988

- HIPERCENTRALIZATION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROCESS, AND ITS BUREAUCRATIZATION

- LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THE AGRARIAN REFORM AND POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY FARMING

- SCARCITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO CONTINUE ACCELERATING THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM ADOPTING ONLY THE SAME FORMAT USED DURING FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO'S FIRST TERM

III. NEW DIRECTIVES IN AGRARIAN REFORM: FERNANDO HENRIQUE CARDOSO'S 2nd TERM

- DECENTRALIZATION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM PROCESS: THE EXPROPRIATION OF LAND CONTINUES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, WHILE EXECUTION OF THE OTHER PHASES OF AGRARIAN REFORM MOVES TO THE STATE AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS
- CREATION OF A NEW INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE TO IMPLEMENT DECENTRALIZATION: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATE AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS
 - Participation of the Social Movements
 - Strengthening of Local and Sustainable Development
- LINKING AGRARIAN REFORM TO PROGRAMS AIMING AT THE STRENGTHENING OF FAMILY FARMING
 - Agrarian Reform, a long-term process – Beginning the program of titling the land; titles of land and investment in the land; targets for titling in 1999
 - Unification of credit systems for settlers of the agrarian reform program (*PROCERA*) and for family farmers (*PRONAF*) in a single system.