

THE EU-MERCOSUR AGREEMENT

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO FOSTER TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FACTSHEET 3.3. AGRICULTURE PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The cooperation between the EU and Mercosur countries can positively create opportunities to use trade, technical assistance and investments as opportunities to generate even more win-win benefits on agricultural production.

In 2020, Brazil was the largest producer of soybean, coffee, sugar, orange, pulp and paper, besides having a wide production of other commodities, such as corn, cotton and meat from cattle, poultry and swine. This highlights its importance as an international trader and sustainability player to the achievement of SDGs.



1 Second and third crop areas

Brazil uses the technique of second and third crops areas, which helps keeping the soil fertility without generating additional environmental impacts. It represents around 30% of the total crops area in Brazil, and the second crop area has grown 156% since 1999.



2 Low Carbon Agriculture Plan (ABC+)

The ABC+ is a public policy that promotes low carbon and resilient agriculture as a strategy to foster innovation, investment and sustainable development.



Whitch are the partial results of the ABC+ Plan?

From 2010 to 2018, the adoption of low carbon agriculture technologies reached concrete results. It was implemented in 52 million hectares, an area compared to 1.5 times Germany's territory.

ABC Technologies	Goal	% of Partial Reach
Recovery of degraded pasture	15 (million ha)	70%
Crop-Livestock-Forest integration	4 (million ha)	146%
No-Tillage system	8 (million ha)	159%
Biological Nitrogen Fixation	5.5 (million ha)	193%
Planted Forests	3 (million ha)	26%
Animal Waste Treatment	4.4 (Million m ³)	103%

Source: MANZATTO et al. (2020).

3



Soil degradation reduction

Brazil has a prominence in the use of production techniques to reduce soil degradation caused by traditional agriculture. The no-till systems of soil management decrease the use and the impact of agricultural machinery, what creates organic soil and reduces GHG emissions.



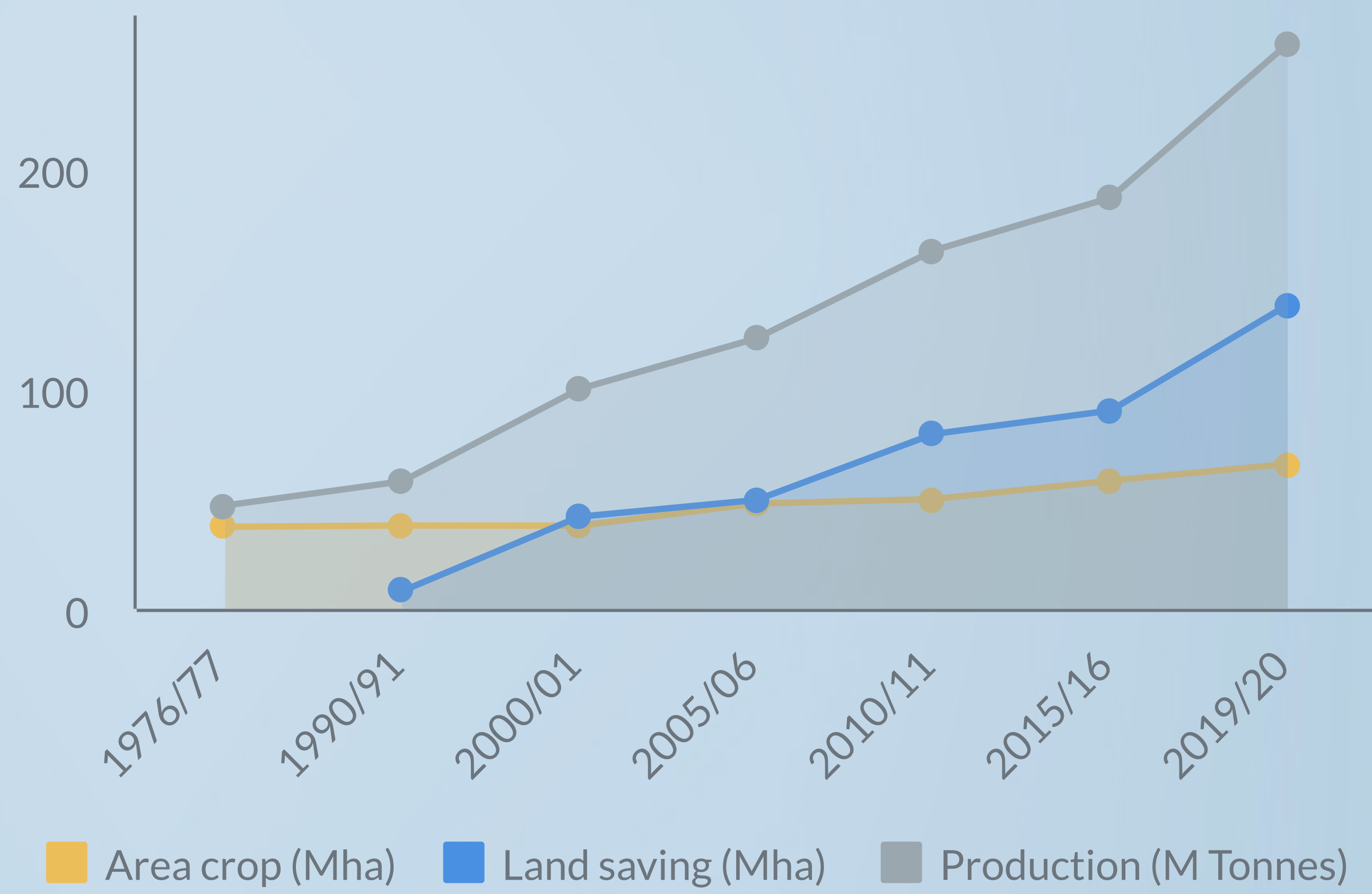
How many hectares has Brazil saved through productivity growth?

In the past 30 years, the pasture area used for livestock production reduced around 15% in Brazil, while productivity increased by more than 162%.

The significant increase in productivity saved a land equivalent to 138 million hectares and reduced emissions up to 170 Mg CO₂eq.

This increase has been the result of technological adoption and best production practices.

Land-saving effect between 1976/77 and 2019/20



Source: Elaborated based on data from Conab (2021).



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