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The challenges for artisanal fisheries communities in Northeastern Brazil in the post-covid cenarium

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Background: In Northeastern Brazil aquaculture represents an important economic activity besides source of protein and income. The region has surpassed about 151,240 tons in 2020 becoming the second most productive region due to its availability of water, land, favorable climate and labor. The covid-19 triggered a public health crisis followed by an economic crisis due to the restrictions imposed by sanitary measures which affected the supply chain in the region.

Objective: The objective of this study is to analyze the challenges for the aquaculture sector in the Northeast of Brazil in the post-covid scenario.

Methods: This study is exploratory in nature using bibliographic research provided by articles and publications addressing the keywords aquaculture, covid, Northeast Brazil, implications.

Results: The prolonged drought (2012-2017) caused a sharp drop in production and Northeastern aquaculture is still recovering from the losses. Aside from climatic risks, the sector in the first half of 2020 was affected due to the pandemic, closing bars and restaurants, causing prices to fall before the Holy Week. Also restriction measures imposed by quarantine decrees affected the livelihoods of many fish-dependent communities. The producers looked for other sales channels like supermarket chains. Sanitary measures to control the pandemic and the appreciation of the dollar caused the fall in imports of fished. Despite the negative scenario, the producers managed to recover the losses of the first part of the year, advancing and closing the financial statement in the blue.

Conclusion: Despite the year marked by uncertainties and challenges, Brazilian aquaculture in the Northeastern Region had a positive performance, with growth of 0.5% in the year. There are still many doubts in the future scenario, especially with regard to the duration and severity of the pandemic, but a prolonged slowdown in the market is likely to introduce long-term transformations in the sector.

Biography:

Érika Alves Tavares Marques has her expertise in Environment and passion in water resources and solid waste. Currently is doing postdoctoral studies in Civil Engineering by the Federal University of Pernambuco. Doctor from the Federal University of Pernambuco of the Postgraduate Program in Development and Environment. Completed a Master's degree in Environmental Technology at the Pernambuco Institute of Technology in 2010. Specialization in Management and Environmental Control from the University of Pernambuco (2007). She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences from the Federal Rural University of Pernambuco (2006).