

Suzano's Positioning

Land management at Veracel



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Veracel Celulose is a company established under the laws of Brazil, in which Suzano and Stora Enso each hold 50% interest. Veracel manages eucalyptus plantations and operates a pulp mill in Eunápolis, Bahia, with an annual production capacity of 1.12 million tons, creating over 2,900 direct and indirect jobs in the region.

Veracel has always been committed to forging strong relationships with local communities in the areas it works in and manage the land responsibly. When managing its land Veracel complies with the rigorous requirements of forestry certifications expected of it. Where appropriate, it has always obtained the required licenses from the relevant environmental agencies and it has also been conscious to hold all the necessary documentation for the land, where Veracel's planting projects existed historically.

In some cases, repossession of land has been necessary. In these situations, the entire process has been conducted sensitively by official authorities and in accordance with applicable laws. The occupants were duly notified in advance to enable them to remove their belongings and leave the occupied area voluntarily in advance. The company vehemently repudiates any act of violence or any abuse or arbitrary action.

Veracel believes that dialogue is always the best way and has a long history of cooperation with local communities. In recent years, it signed important agreements for the development of agrarian settlements in its territory, involving representatives of rural workers, social movements, government agencies, NGOs and academic entities, always considering the needs and interests of everyone involved.

The agreements and partnerships enable Veracel to achieve positive results in terms of food security, development of family farming based on agroecology, and sustainable rural development in the southern region of Bahia. Through two major agreements signed with local associations in 2011 and 2018, the company implemented a comprehensive program to foster family farming practices with support from academic institutions that ensure access to land, totaling approximately 20,000 hectares of land belonging to the company and benefiting 1,400 families of small family farmers.

The company has always honored its commitments under these agreements and has rolled out diverse initiatives to support the communities in the region where it operates. [Read more](#) about Veracel's initiatives for the landless workers movements in its Sustainability Report.

The company also has close relationships with stakeholders at all levels, including specialist consulting firms, community leaders and government agencies. For instance,

Veracel is part of the National Forest Dialogue and, at the regional level, the Bahia Forest Forum. These independent initiatives enable constant interaction between representatives of companies in the forest sector, environmental organizations and society in order to build common vision and agenda between these sectors.

The company has close relations with indigenous communities in order to maintain permanent dialogue with indigenous leaders and contribute to preserving their traditional culture. In this regard, it has made a series of investments, and has rolled out initiatives to generate income and improve the quality of education in the villages. Note that, although indigenous communities are located near Veracel's facilities, the company does not plant on areas declared as indigenous land.

Veracel Celulose and companies that provide services in the company's areas operate strictly in compliance with applicable laws and Veracel's [Code of Conduct](#), available on the company's website.

Apart from being one of the biggest employers and taxpayers in southern Bahia and financially supporting education and agriculture, Veracel has already restored over 7,000 hectares with native species that connected more than 65,000 hectares of natural areas, in a landscape plan that considers all existing fragments of native forests in the local landscape. To support the livelihoods of nearby communities, Veracel offers a part of its land to family farmers and provides technical training and support. The activities carried out in partnership with universities are mentioned in Veracel's [Sustainability Reports](#), available on the company's website.