



**CAMILO
CASTELO
BRANCO**
agrupamento de escolas

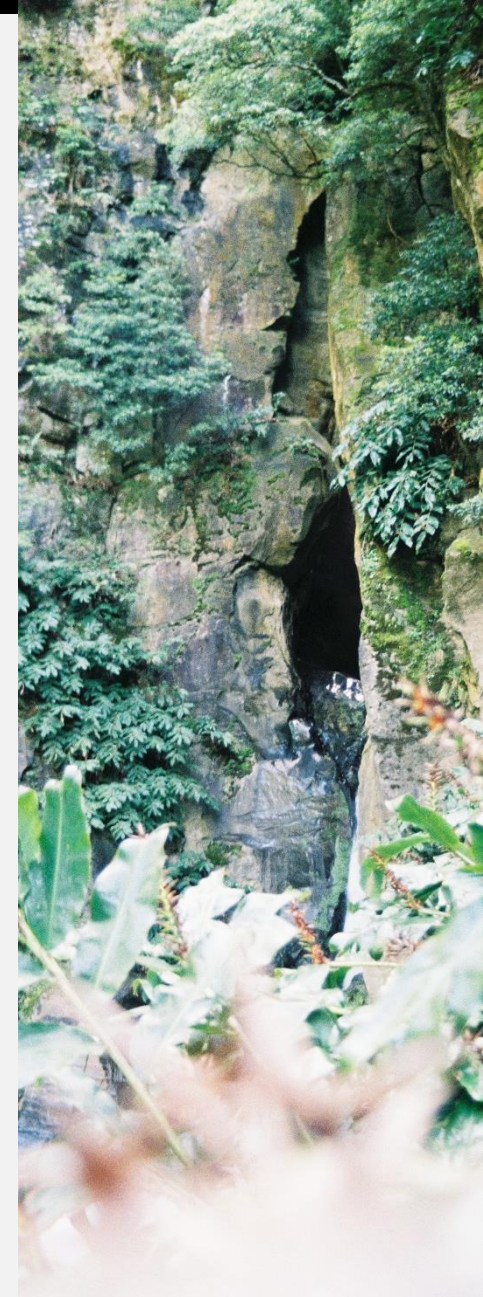


THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF S. MIGUEL

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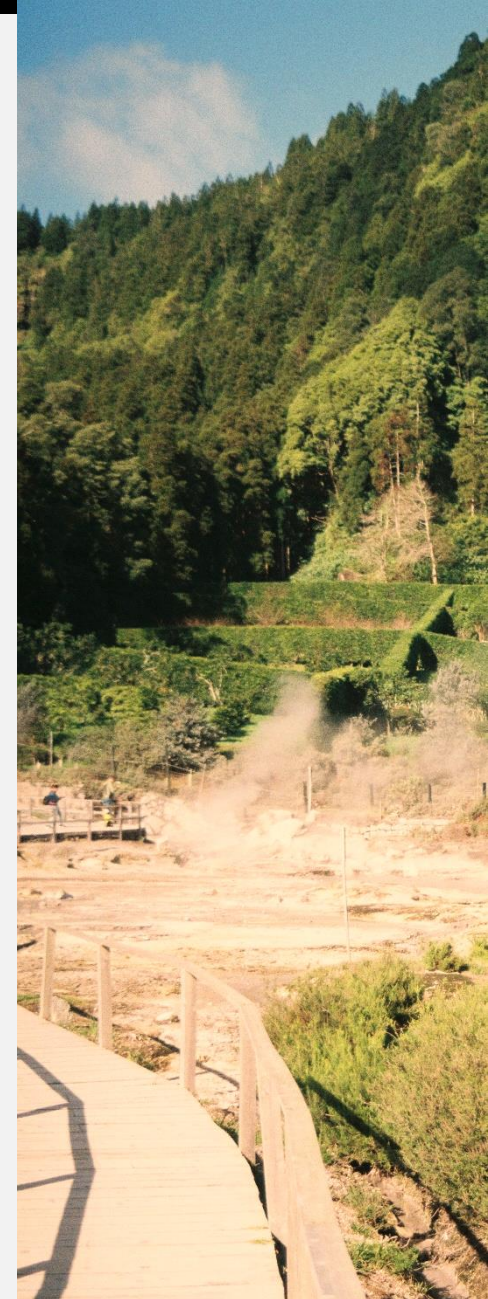
INTRODUCTION

- In this work we will talk about the main economic activities of S. Miguel, Azores.
- The tea plantation
- The raising of dairy cattle.



EMPLOYMENT IN THE AZORES (PEOPLE AGED 15-64), BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (IN THOUSANDS), IN 2015

Employment by economic activity	2015
Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	10,3
Industry (except construction)	9,5
Construction	6,6
Wholesale and retail trade, transport and accommodation and catering activities	25,7
Financial and insurance activities	No data
Real estate activities	No data
Information and communication	No data
Consulting, scientific, technical and similar activities; administrative activities and support services	4,9
Public administration, defense, education, health and social action	34,2
Artistic, show and recreational activities; other service activities; activities of families and extra territorial organisations and entities	9,8
Total	103,5



TEA PLANTATION.

History

- Was brought from China to the Azores around 1801.
- The Azoreans began to focus on tea production in the 19th century as a way out of the economic instability.
- Throughout the 20th century, tea production decreased rapidly and many of the factories were closed. Gorreana is one of the few remaining.



GORREANA TEA FACTORY

- This factory acts as a reminder of troubled times, of prosperity and even of innovation.
- At the beginning of the 20th century, the founder of this factory invested particularly in hydroelectric machinery, being the first to bring electricity to the Azores.
- The tea plantations stand out in the landscape of Gorreana, due to the picturesque shape of its luxurious green shrubs.
- This factory is open not only as a factory or shop that sells tea, but also as a museum.



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

- The production of dairy cattle is very important for the economy of the Azores. However, in general, agricultural producers have a low level of education and transport costs make agricultural products less competitive in terms of exports.



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

- The dairy sector is going through the worst crisis ever. And this is challenging a sector that was once the salvation of the Azores.
- "We are often selling below production cost, which makes things unsustainable. In twenty years, we've gone from 90.000 producers to 5300 throughout the country" - says Luís Vieira, ex-Secretary of State of Agriculture.
- One third of the milk consumed in the country comes from the islands. The sector directly represents nine percent of the archipelago's economy and is indirectly worth thirty percent of the Azores' GDP.



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

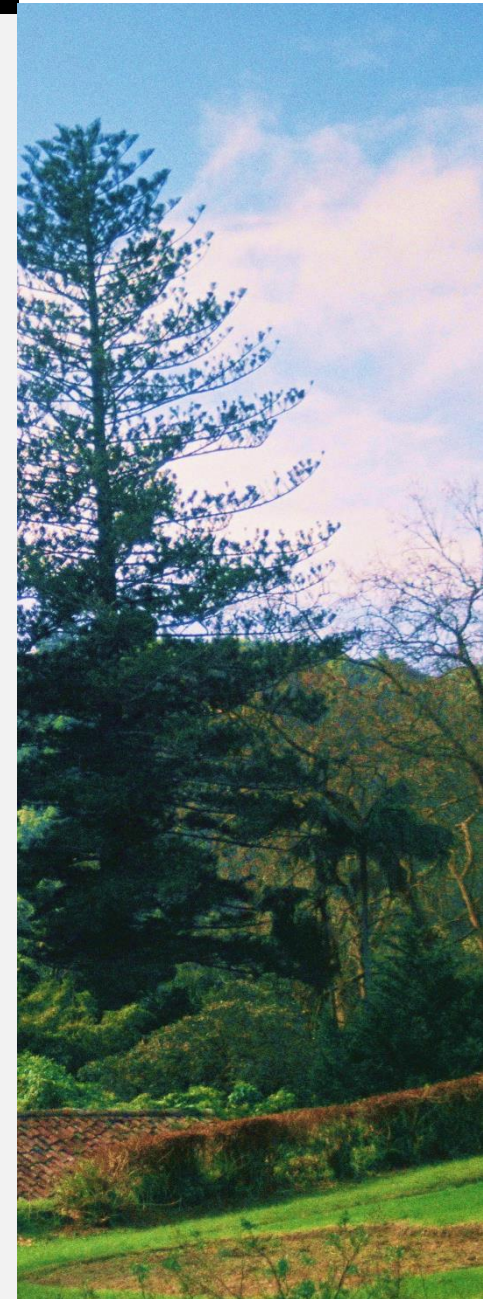
- Jorge Rita, the president of the São Miguel Farmers' Association, says there's a problem - the region's companies are small and family-based - and this has slowed down the modernisation and upgrading of the cowshops.
- It's hard to imagine the Azores without cows. They are more than the locals.
- "The fact that there are fewer producers doesn't mean a break in the cattle", says Jorge Rita. More than six hundred million litres of milk are produced annually in the archipelago.



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

Contextualization

- It's precisely because of a major agricultural crisis that cattle farming has become the basis of the Azorean economy. Until the beginning of the 19th century, the archipelago lived mainly from orange farming. Citrus-growing had been the main activity on the islands since the mid-16th century. However, in 1832, everything changed.
- Two lemon trees arriving on the island of Faial infested with cochineal were enough for the entire economy of the region to collapse. The alternative came through the voice of André do Canto, a farmer who in 1834 began to promote the introduction of cattle to the island.
- The Regional Archives of the Azores, in Ponta Delgada, keeps a copy of the first bulletin of "O Agricultor Micaelense", where Canto explained his theory: "The Ox is, of all animals, what provides us with the most services. He gives us milk, butter, cheeses, meat, leather, ploughs the land, carries his products and is always docile and patient".



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

- Only after Terceira, Pico, São Jorge and Faial farming reached the island of S. Miguel. The landscape also changes forever: "With the development of the pastures, many plots of land that used to be cultivated start to be used for cattle raising. And many uncultivated lands are plowed."
- It's at the beginning of the 20th century that the Azorean landscape becomes as we know it today. Cattle were not only the salvation of the people, they also determined the physiognomy of the territory.



DAIRY CATTLE FARMING

The producers, even though all the difficulties, always remained attached to the cattle.

Nobody wants to guess that Azorean milk will also come to an end one day. Especially because today, on the islands, there is no one who has grown up without seeing the cows in the pastures.

The Happy Cows project is a good sign.



CONCLUSION

Economic activities in S.Miguel

- Despite this controversial scenario, dairy cattle farming remains one of S. Miguel's most important economic activities, as well as the tea plantation, particularly in Gorreana.



THANK YOU

