

# V BRAZILIAN CONGRESS ON CACTUS PEAR AND OTHER CACTACEAE

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Cactus is a major fodder crop in the Brazilian semiarid. Spineless varieties are cultivated in approximately 600,000 ha and it is mainly used as forage for livestock. In 2007, the International Cactus Congress was held in Brazil, and during that time, it was created the Cactus Brazilian Association. From there on, every other year this Association promotes the Brazilian Cactus Congress. The first one happened in 2009, and in 7-8 August 2017 we had the fifth edition in Natal, RN, Brazil (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Congress site, showing hanging gardens of cactus at the main gate.

The congress was a success. Producers, students, scientists, developing agencies, and other major stakeholders participated in this meeting, resulting in 527 registered attendees and 145 abstracts presented during the meeting. Invited speakers presented during two days the most recent information on a variety of topics related to the use of cactus.



Figure 2. Poster presentation during the V Brazilian Cactus Congress, Brazil, Aug. 2017

During the meeting, several activities occurred including cactus demonstration plots (Figure 2) and machinery exposition and demonstration (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Cactus demonstration plots showing different varieties, intercropping, and drip irrigation on cactus.



Figure 3. Machinery exposition and demonstration during the V Brazilian Cactus Congress.

The next edition of the meeting will occur in Recife, in 2019. Put it in your agenda and do not miss it!