

## Space of urban farm counts with tailings of Samarco

Samarco has looked for some alternatives to advantageously use mining tailings, and among the studies promoted by the company, the use of this material for paving and coloring of the plastic wood was considered as a possibility.

From now on, these products can be seen in the BeGreen project, urban farm, inaugurated today (May, 11th) in Belo Horizonte.

Through the partnership established, Samarco provided sand tailings and sludge for the products that were used both in paving the space and in the furniture.

On site, organic vegetables are cultivated and commercialized, reducing the distance between producers and consumers.

The whole urbanist project of the farm, from paving the floor, designing the electrical installations to the furniture of the place, was conceived with the premise of using recyclable materials.

The sand tailings of Samarco were utilized for the production of interlocking blocks, used on the farm floor.

"The use of the sand tailing as a substitute for a part of the sand volume in the production of these blocks was technically proven as viable. It actually brings the same safety and durability of a block uniquely made of sand, besides being greener." Says José Eli Goulart, commercial manager of Uni-Stein, the company responsible for manufacturing the blocks used in the paving of BeGreen's farm.

Samarco also provided sludge for the production of plastic woods, used in the manufacturing of decks, tables and chairs for the space. Because it is non-organic, the sludge is used as a pigment considered as more durable in giving color to the wood that is made of plastic trimmings and vegetable fibers.

The parts were manufactured by Ecoblock, which, like Uni-Stein, participates in this initiative with Samarco. Well before the dam burst, the mining company was developing studies for the use of tailings with these companies.

The studies also counted on the partnership with the Institute of Science and Technology (CDTN). In 2013, an area of 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the municipality of Guarapari (ES) was paved with interlocking blocks similar to those of the BeGreen space.

Samarco has also used the same type of block in the reconstruction of the city of Barra Longa (MG), which is made of the sediment removed from the Risoleta Neves Hydroelectric Power Plant (Candonga).

From now on, the objective is to continue developing and consolidating new technologies to take advantage of the company's waste and tailings, including in the business development and the design of other products.

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