

# SOCIEDADE BRASILEIRA DE ECONOMIA, ADMINISTRAÇÃO E SOCIOLOGIA RURAL



## **The Role of the State in Building Sustainable, Healthy, Just and Inclusive Food Systems: Evidence and Pathways for Public Action**

### **Coordination**

Catia Grisa (UFRGS)

Maya Takagi (FAO)

Patrícia Chaves Gentil (SESAN-MDS)

Gisele Ane Bortolini (SESAN-MDS)

Marcia Machugata (SESAN-MDS)

Since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been a growing recognition that overcoming the multiple crises affecting contemporary food systems requires moving beyond sectoral and fragmented approaches. For several decades, actions—both by the State and by civil society—focused primarily on increasing agricultural production, expanding the supply and commercialization of food in urban areas, and addressing nutritional deficiencies among the most vulnerable social groups. Questions such as which foods were being produced and how; how these foods were being processed; how and by whom they were distributed; what changes were occurring in food environments and consumption patterns; and what the implications were for human and planetary health were issues addressed mainly by some researchers, certain social and environmental movements, and a limited number of activists.

Crises related to biodiversity loss, climate change, and increasing urbanization, the expansion of desertification, the rise in diseases associated with unhealthy diets, the persistence of hunger, and the reproduction of food inequalities across territories, social groups, gender, and race have increasingly highlighted the need to understand and address these issues in a systemic way. In this context, international organizations, expert panels, researchers, governments, and civil society organizations have increasingly referred to food systems—defined as the set of elements (environment, people, processes, infrastructure, institutions, organizations, etc.) and activities related to the production, processing, distribution, preparation, and consumption of food, as well as food loss

and waste, waste management, and their socioeconomic, environmental, health, and cultural outcomes—and to the need to build sustainable, healthy, just, and inclusive food systems.

The urgency of building sustainable, healthy, just, and inclusive food systems is a demand and a task that concerns all actors. Nevertheless, the role of the State and public policies is particularly important, given their capacity to induce and enforce changes, establish regulations, and organize productive and economic relations, governance among actors, and social life.

Considering the fundamental role of the State in building sustainable, healthy, just, and inclusive food systems, this special issue seeks to gather evidence that contributes to the formulation and improvement of public policies aimed at promoting food systems transitions, with a particular focus on ensuring food and nutrition security.

Organized by the *Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural* (RESR) in partnership with the National Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security of the Ministry of Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS), this special issue welcomes theoretical reflections, empirical analyses, and policy evaluations on national and local public policies in Brazil and other countries that contribute to building sustainable, healthy, just, and inclusive food systems. Authors are invited to contribute analyses and evidence regarding the success factors, challenges, and implementation barriers of these policies, as well as the possibilities for scaling up such initiatives, in order to support the actions of States at different scales and contexts.

The dossier is particularly interested in public policies aimed at:

- i) the production of healthy foods consistent with the definition of the new Brazilian basic food basket, national dietary guidelines, and cultural food patterns, produced on sustainable and agroecological bases;
- ii) food supply policies that prioritize short and inclusive supply chains that promote food and nutrition security and health;
- iii) public procurement from family farming, generating income in rural areas and increasing access to adequate and healthy food in both rural and urban contexts;
- iv) policies that promote access to water and access to and consumption of healthy and sustainable foods, supporting healthy food environments;
- v) the reduction of food loss and waste, fostering circular food systems and circular economies;
- vi) cities that promote the production, access, and consumption of adequate and healthy food, particularly in urban peripheries;
- vii) the articulation of actions that consider the urban–rural continuum in the construction of markets and territorial dynamics that expand access to adequate and healthy foods;
- viii) climate change mitigation and adaptation, responses to emergencies, and the conservation of sociobiodiversity;
- ix) addressing food inequalities related to gender, race, class, territories, and specific social groups, such as Indigenous peoples and traditional peoples and communities.

We also welcome reflections on institutional mechanisms and governance arrangements that foster intersectoral coordination in food and nutrition security policies.

Articles must follow the editorial guidelines of the journal (<https://revistasober.org/instructions>) and be submitted through the journal's submission system (<https://submission.scielo.br/index.php/resr/submission>).

**IMPORTANT:** At the time of submission, authors must upload a complementary file entitled “**submission identification letter for the dossier**”, indicating that the manuscript is being submitted for evaluation in this special issue.

Articles may be submitted in **Portuguese, Spanish, or English** and will be evaluated through a double-blind peer review process, in accordance with the journal's editorial policy. Articles submitted to this dossier are exempt from the submission fee, and if accepted, also exempt from the publication fee. Accepted articles will be published in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish, and English.

### **Timeline**

**Article submission deadline:** May 31, 2026

**Preliminary evaluation results and requests for revisions:** September–October 2026

**Publication of the Special Issue:** December 2026