

# The Zero Hunger Program in Brazil: Support for Family Farms

Cecilia Rocha, PhD

Centre for Studies in Food Security and School of Nutrition  
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

*Feeding the cities: an opportunity for family farming?*

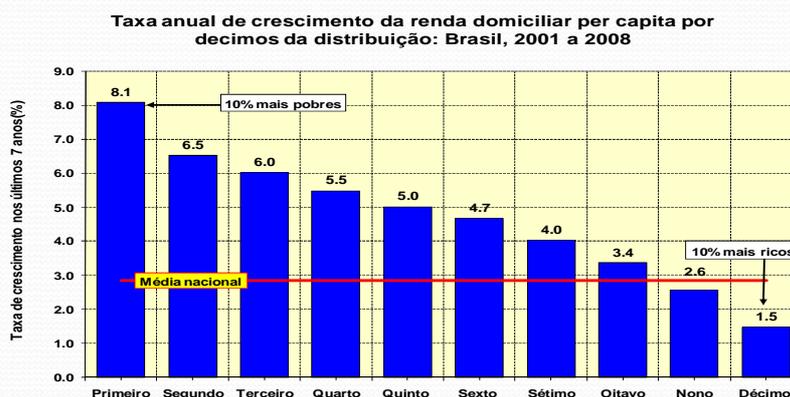
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## Why Brazil?

- Met the MDG-1 (reducing poverty and food insecurity by half) by the end of 2009 – six years ahead of 2015 deadline
- Extreme poverty fell 63.3% between 2002 and 2012.
- According to UNICEF (2012), child mortality rates declined 73% in Brazil since 1990 (global average = 40% decline)
- 3.5 million people raised out of poverty in 2012, despite low GDP growth

## Annual growth of per capita household income by deciles (poorest to richest): Brazil, 2001-2008



## The Zero Hunger Strategy

### I - Food access

- Bolsa Familia (BF)
- National School Meals Programme (PNAE)
- Food for Specific Groups
- Rainwater Cisterns
- Popular Restaurants and Community Kitchens
- Food Banks
- Urban Agriculture
- Food and Nutrition Surveillance System
- Distribution of Vitamin A
- Distribution of Iron
- Food and Nutrition for Indigenous People
- FN Education for Consumption
- Promotion of Healthy Habits/Healthy Diets
- Workers Food Programme (PAT)
- Basic Food Basket Tax Reduction

### II - Strengthening family agriculture

- National Programme for Family Agriculture (PRONAF)
- Harvest Insurance
- Family Farming Agriculture Insurance
- Food Procurement Programme (PAA)

### III - Income generation

- Social and Professional Training
- Solidarity Economy and Productive Inclusion
- Food Security and Local Development Consortium
- Food and Nutrition Security Organisation
- Cooperatives of Recyclable Material Collectors
- Guided Productive Micro-credit

### IV - Partnership and civil society mobilisation

- Social Assistance Reference Centre
- Social Mobilisation and Citizenship Education
- Social and Public Agents Capacity Building
- Volunteer Work and Donations
- Partnership with Private Sector and NGOs
- Social Development Councils

circa 2008

## Bolsa Familia (Family Grant)

- Conditional cash-transfer program
- Conditions related to children's education and health
- Highly targeted (families in situation of poverty or extreme poverty)
- Reaches 12 million families (48 million people – a quarter of the country's population)
- Responsible for a 19% reduction in poverty severity; 21% fall in the Gini (inequality) index
- 75% of transfers are spent on food
- Accounts for less than 0.5% of GDP

## The family-farm sector

- 84.4% of all rural enterprises
- Average size: 18.37 ha (compared to an average 309.18 ha in the agri-business sector)
- Covers 24.3% of all cultivated land
- Responsible for 38% of the agricultural value produced in the country
- **Employs 74.4% (12.3 million people) of all workers in the agricultural sector**
- Supplies 87% of manioc, 70% of beans, 46% of corn, 38% of coffee, 34% of rice, 58% of milk, 50% of poultry, 59% of pork, 30% of cattle

## Policies to Support Family Farms: Strengthening Production (PRONAF)

- The National Program for Strengthening Family Agriculture (PRONAF) was developed to support production by small farms (1996)
- Provides subsidized agricultural credit, crop insurance and technical assistance
- Ministry of Agrarian Development created in 1999 (distinct from the Ministry of Agriculture)
- 2 million farmers in 2011 benefiting from PRONAF

## Policies to Support Family Farms: The Food Acquisition Program (PAA)

- Developed to support the commercialization of products from small farms (2003)
- Promotes direct crop and milk purchases by the government for building food stocks and to be used in government food assistance programs (school meals, popular restaurants, community kitchens, food banks)
- In ten years: 3 million tons of food purchased from over 200,000 farmers
- Budget in 2013: R\$1.4 billion (US\$ 600 million)– less than 0.001% of Brazil's GDP

## School Meals Program (PNAE)

- Federal funds for school meals to children in the public school system (~ US\$1.7 billion/year)
- Covered 47 million children in 2009
- 2009 federal legislation requires 30% of funds to be spent on purchases from small family farms
- Main objectives:
  - Cover 15% of children's daily nutritional needs
  - Improve children's learning capacity
  - Promotion and preservation of local food habits
  - Support for local food production

## Urban policies for rural development:

### the case of Belo Horizonte

- Supporting local producers surrounding the city/facilitating direct interactions between small rural producers and urban consumers
- Helping to limit rural-urban migration
- Cities are important food buyers; they regulate, operate, and facilitate food markets
- Main programs: Abastecer, Straight from the country, farmers' markets, Popular Restaurants, School Meals
- Expenditures for all food programs in BH have been below 1% of the city's budget

## Challenges

- Supply-side impediments (education, health, infrastructure) -- Not many cities have been able to achieve the 30% purchase from family farms in the PNAE
- Lack of information and knowledge among small-scale farmers and marginalized groups
- Lack of appropriate training and education among potential representatives from civil society and the public sector
- Continuing inequalities in access to resources and public goods and services

## Factors favoring continuity

- Institutionalization of food and nutrition security as the responsibility of the State (*Right to Food* in the constitution; federal Law on Food and Nutrition Security)
- Development of a participatory model of governance – institutionalization of collaboration between the public sector (members of government and congress) and civil society
- Consolidation of a systemic view of the hunger and food insecurity issue
- Feasibility of state-driven structured demand for small farmers



Thank you!

Questions?

[crocha@ryerson.ca](mailto:crocha@ryerson.ca)

[www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity](http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity)

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