
Rural Social Security in Itabaiana-SE: introductory analysis**Seguridad Social Rural en Itabaiana-SE: análisis introductorio****Previdência Social Rural em Itabaiana-SE: análise introdutória**

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Abstract

The universalization right to rural retirement in Brazil is recent. The social protection system before the Federal Constitution of 1988 had requirements that segregated small family farmers. Given this, the present work seeks reflect, empirical-analytical bias, the historical process of rural social security in Brazil and its socioeconomic impacts on the life of family farmers in the municipality of Itabaiana-SE. The methodological procedures went through theoretical reflections, data collection and fieldwork. The spatial area studied in 2020, according the INSS, there were 2,989 urban retirees and 6,364 rural retirees. A fact that demonstrates the socioeconomic importance that social security has lives social actors who live in the rural areas of Itabaiana-SE and in the reduction of poverty in Brazil.

Keywords: Rural Social Security, Family Farmers and Rural Poverty.

Resumen

La universalización del derecho a la jubilación rural en Brasil es reciente. El sistema de protección social anterior la Constitución Federal de 1988 tenía requisitos que segregaban pequeños agricultores familiares. Ante esto, presente trabajo busca reflejar, sesgo empírico-analítico, proceso histórico seguridad social rural en Brasil y sus impactos socioeconómicos vida de agricultores familiares del municipio de Itabaiana-SE. Los procedimientos metodológicos pasaron por reflexiones teóricas, recolección de datos y trabajo de campo. En área espacial estudiada en 2020, según el INSS, había 2.989 jubilados urbanos y 6.364 jubilados rurales. Un hecho que demuestra la importancia socioeconómica que tiene la seguridad social en vida de actores sociales que viven las zonas rurales de Itabaiana-SE y en la reducción de pobreza en Brasil.

Palabras clave: Seguridad Social Rural, Agricultores Familiares y Pobreza Rural.

Resumo

A universalização do direito à aposentadoria rural no Brasil é recente. O sistema de proteção social antes da Constituição Federal de 1988 possuía exigências que segregava os pequenos agricultores familiares. Diante disso, o presente trabalho busca refletir num viés empírico-analítico, o processo histórico da previdência rural no Brasil e seus impactos socioeconômicos na vida dos agricultores familiares no município de Itabaiana-SE. Os procedimentos metodológicos perpassaram por reflexões teóricas, levantamentos de dados e trabalho de campo. No recorte espacial estudado em 2020, segundo o INSS, existiam 2.989 aposentados urbanos e 6.364 rurais. Fato que demonstra a importância socioeconômica que a previdência tem na vida dos atores sociais que vivem no meio rural de Itabaiana-SE e na redução da pobreza no Brasil.

Palavras-chave: Seguridade Social Rural, Agricultores Familiares e Pobreza Rural.

Introduction

The Brazilian rural environment has undergone several changes, which are motivated both by socio-productive aspects, as well as by achievements and access to rights considered basic for the human being. The scope of the rural in Brazil involves a broad debate of an academic and institutional nature, and it is imprecise to specify what is rural and urban. There is a debate, by the way, well consolidated to define what is urban and rural, but always starting from the institutional concept of the

Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), in which the urban is the municipality headquarters, and which in fact distorts in face of the having headquarters even with less than 1,000 inhabitants.

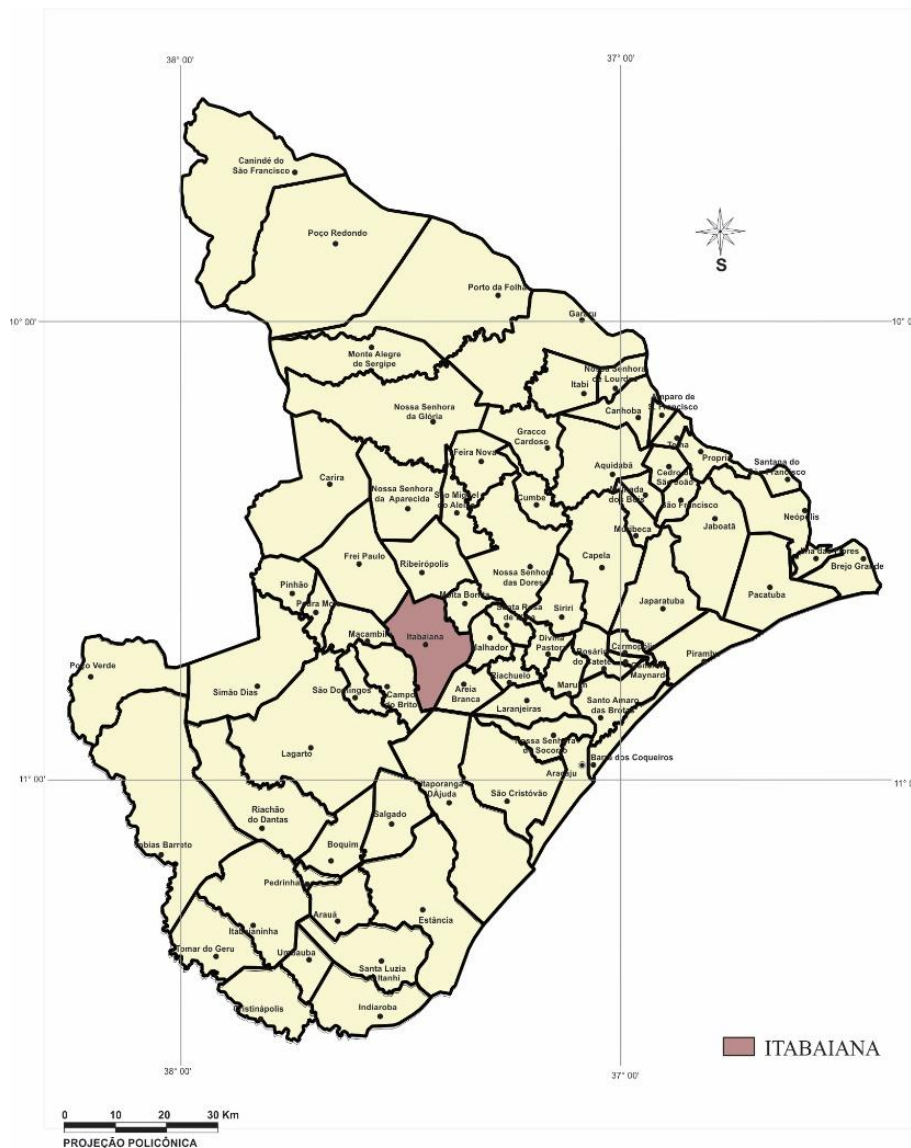
However, it is important to highlight that Brazilian rural spaces and family farming are not synonymous with backwardness or state dependence, but with particularities that, based on public policies, enhance local development, especially with non-agricultural incomes, such as pensions and rural pensions. Generically, rural space is composed of actors with multiple social, economic and cultural characteristics, involved in different historical contexts that materialize in space and also in social processes. Family farmers are actors in the production and organization of the Brazilian rural space, as they are subjects who cultivate most of the food consumed by the Brazilian population, fighting for environmental sustainability.

In this context, rural social security represents a historic achievement and a watershed of social security aimed at family farmers. This state public policy differs from any existing public policy in Brazil, because with the Federal Constitution of 1988 (CF-88) and regulated by law 8,213, of July 24, 1991, social and social security rights were recognized for a class lacking social recognition. However, it was a long road to the universalization of rural social security in Brazil, which dates back to the 20s of the last century.

According to the commands of art. 194 of the Federal Constitution, social security “comprises an integrated set of actions on the initiative of the Public Powers and society, aimed at ensuring rights related to health, social security and social assistance.” While in art. 201 of the Constitutional Diploma, in its item II, the minimum age that farmers must have in order to be able to integrate the social security system is defined, as follows: “60 (sixty) years of age, if male, and 55 (fifty-five) years of age, if a woman, for rural workers and for those who carry out their activities in a family economy regime, including rural producers, gold miners and artisanal fishermen.”

In the search to understand the theme, it was necessary to survey and review the literature, which strengthens the understanding of family agriculture and rural social security in Brazil. Furthermore, we sought to understand the local, national and international reality, with references, in which we highlight some authors, such as DELGADO (2015), GRISA (2014), OLIVEIRA (2017), QUINTERO (2017), SCHNEIDER (2003), among others. Secondary and documentary data were also collected at the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), National Institute of Social Security (INSS) and Municipal Council for Sustainable Rural Development (MCSR).

Mapa 1 – Location of Itabaiana municipality in the state of Sergipe – 2021



Source: by the authors(2021)

In general terms, the municipality of Itabaiana-SE is located in the Agreste Central Sergipano (map 1), with an estimated population of 96,142 inhabitants (IBGE, 2020). Of these, approximately 20% are individuals who live in the rural area of the municipality. Agriculture and commerce are the foundations of the municipal economy, with sweet potatoes, fruit and vegetables, beans, peanuts and cassava being the most prominent products in cultivation.

In Sergipe, according to data from the Agricultural Census (IBGE, 2017), from the 72,060 agricultural establishments considered to be family farming, 37,012 have people over 55 years of age. In Itabaiana-SE, from the 2,764 establishments with family farming, 1,129 have people over 55 years old. Such data demonstrate that small farmers, even retired, still persist in daily life and work in productive units.

The National Institute of Social Security (INSS) had already issued, between the years 2006-2020, 9,764,823 social security benefits granted to the Brazilian rural population, with financial resources around 10 billion reais. Thus, the data demonstrate that social security incomes strengthen local ties, because the resources obtained from rural social security are focused on making basic expenses in the segment, mainly in the food segment, and these purchases are always carried out in local markets and invested in the improvement of the units, thus contributing to the socio-spatial development.

By the terms, the rural retirement is present in the city of Itabaiana-SE and has an importance in the lives of the subjects that reproduce socially in their properties and communities. These subjects, when entering the Brazilian social security system, move the local economies and encourage local rural development. The existing social security deficit in the country is not the result of rural pensions, but rather of tax waivers, company social security debts and inefficient management of the social security system. The COVID-19 pandemic causes immeasurable problems in people's lives, and it is up to managers to guarantee social rights and quality public services to Brazilian society.

The difficult combination of family farming survival and rural social security

The Brazilian countryside is characterized by heterogeneous relations of production and socialization, not being synonymous with backwardness or exclusive poverty. The definition of rural in Brazil goes through several dilemmas, but in the institutional sense, the rural is what is outside the delimitation of the urban perimeter of the municipality. However, country-city relations process the separation that is not always possible or adequate in Brazil, because the spatial relations occur interrelated between rural and urban.

In the past, the ideals of the so-called "Green Revolution", expanded in Brazil around the 1970s, transformed the country's rural space, alongside the consolidation of the SNCR (National Rural Credit System) in what a certain narrative called "conservative modernization " (DELGADO, 2012). The marks of this revolution can be seen in the modernization processes at a sectoral and regional level, which in the 80s of the last century would form the "agro-industrial complex", constituting processes upstream and downstream of the production process of the new high performance agriculture, with strong 'technical integration', but also a determinant of 'capital integration'.

These processes would go through several stages of transformation, until reaching the agribusiness system in a practically national dimension, which involves high technological levels, market integration and strong international articulation on a large scale. We can infer that Brazilian agriculture today is one of the most modern in the world, as it involves industrial complexes linked to agricultural production, but also to the processing and beneficiator industry. And of course, its socioeconomic consequences in front of the rural population, particularly in terms of social benefits, highlighting rural social security.

In this way, the issue of rural social security also enters the agenda, in another dimension, insofar as the main social benefit is practically concentrated in rural areas dominated by family farming and with strong cysts of rural poverty. Which makes it

structurally contradictory. On the other hand, we have a highly technified agriculture with low population density and an aging population. Which would not be an inducer of rural poverty, but of an inexorable process of demographic emptying. In these spaces, the issue of social security is secondary, insofar as a significant part of these family farmers are classified as prosperous and territorially concentrated in rural corners of the center-south.

We consider this difficult combination, which, symmetrically, is also observed in socially segregated urban spaces. However, in rural areas the issue is more problematic because there is effectively a situation of structurally more serious poverty, when the social security benefit, especially in the last century, acted as the most important, if not the only source of income for thousands (or millions of people) of family members of small farmers, practically concentrated in the Northeast.

The difficult combination would be processed due to the constitution of a narrative that analyzes the socioeconomic unfeasibility of this social category and its process of disappearance, serving social security as a ballast, as a permanent benefit, which still sustains these socially impoverished and low technological insertion areas, resulting in the inexistence of factors linked to labor and land productivity (BUAINAIN, 2014).

It is perfectly doable to outline the fragility of this narrative based on the disappearance of family farmers, combined with the strong emigration of young rural populations and, with it, of social security as the only strategy for the reproduction of these families, which often support two or more generations of family farmers. A first question is related to the “exclusive” nature of analyzing these rural social processes within the merely economic dimension, within factors and indicators that infer aspects related to productivity gains. What we cannot expect from this assertion as the most plausible and universal and which portrays the reality of segments of family farmers in poor rural areas. Other elements add together and that contribute to this disappearance or economic unviability of these farmers in the Northeast be decisive, and it seems to us that factors of a cultural nature and low

production capacity, along with the combination between subsistence production and sale in nested markets or in short chain, with ample possibilities for growth in the circulation of produced commodity by these family farmers.

Therefore, the issue of rural social security enters this process as a family reproduction strategy, but which still develops small-scale crops or farms in the commodity-money-commodity style, therefore, there is no surplus creation. It is evident that there is a process of reduction of family farmers in agricultural establishments, the data from the 2006 and 2017 agricultural censuses show this picture (it went from 4.2 to 3.8 million, considered as family farmers).

Even so, we observe a great vigor of this important social category and the question of rural social security would enter as a kind of resistance to its supposed “disappearance”. Thus, we cannot infer this picture of rupture as if we were in only one model of rural development. Which demonstrates that the benefit has the power to operate as a public policy of the State and not of the government and the survival of this category is of fundamental importance, given the importance in the production of food for markets.

Also note that the role of social security, which faces problems built with the reform at the constitutional level since 2019, as there was a withdrawal of social rights and will certainly impact the lives of thousands of Brazilians. The possibility of changes in rural social security will be marked mainly by the reduction of the number of beneficiaries and even reduction of values, being able to receive benefits lower than the minimum wage. What we can infer is the large-scale return of rural poverty, being a worrying factor in structural terms. Hence the importance of delving deeper into this theme in terms of perception and available data, taking the rural space of the municipality of Itabaiana/SE as the object of study.

As we said, these social actors who live and reproduce in these spaces have their main source of income in retirement. These actors, due to their socioeconomic and cultural reproduction of “affection to the land”, aggregate social categories, such as family farmer, farmer, peasant, rural worker, riverside, quilombola, etc. However,

family farmers are the most prominent subjects in Brazilian rural spaces and are responsible for food production in the perspective of the so-called grand narrative. Even with such social relevance for the country, these subjects are now going through a scenario of changes, unfortunately for the worse, due to the conjuncture at the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century.

The Brazilian State for many decades had few measures aimed at family farmers, who produce and live in rural areas, even though these subjects are extremely important for rural development and their daily lives. In this vein, in the mid-90s of the last century, considerable institutional changes began to be directed towards those who practice small agricultural production: rural retirement is one of the examples of this process, and can be characterized as a great advance in civilization. This issue was legally instituted after the enactment of Law 11,326/2006, instrumentalizing the social figure of family farmers, normatively defining the definition of agricultural producers on small properties as family farmers. According to the law, in article 3, the family farmer or rural entrepreneur has the following normative provision:

Those who practice activities in rural areas, simultaneously meeting the following requirements: I - do not hold, under any circumstances, an area larger than 4 (four) fiscal modules; II - predominantly use the family's own labor in the economic activities of their establishment or enterprise; III - have a minimum percentage of family income arising from economic activities of their establishment or enterprise, as defined by the Executive Power; (Wording provided by Law No. 12,512, of 2011) IV - manage your establishment or enterprise with your family. (BRAZIL, 2006)

The institutionalization of family farming is a historic milestone that allowed advances in the creation and expansion of public policies aid at the Brazilian rural environment. In this way, it was sought to reduce secular productive socioeconomic problems and made it possible to improve the living conditions of family farmers. However, "If the arrival of policies to strengthen family farming was late, studies on this agricultural production method were also late" (OLIVEIRA, 2017, p.86). The

studies, for a long time, were directed to the Brazilian agrarian question, mainly from the perspective of Brazilian Agrarian Geography, as this would be the only agenda for studies in the rural world. In this understanding, approaches such as the social and economic consequences of rural retirement have their importance as a strategic family income. On this side, Grisa and Schneider (2014) substantiate this category on the fact that and its extension in the issue of public policies,

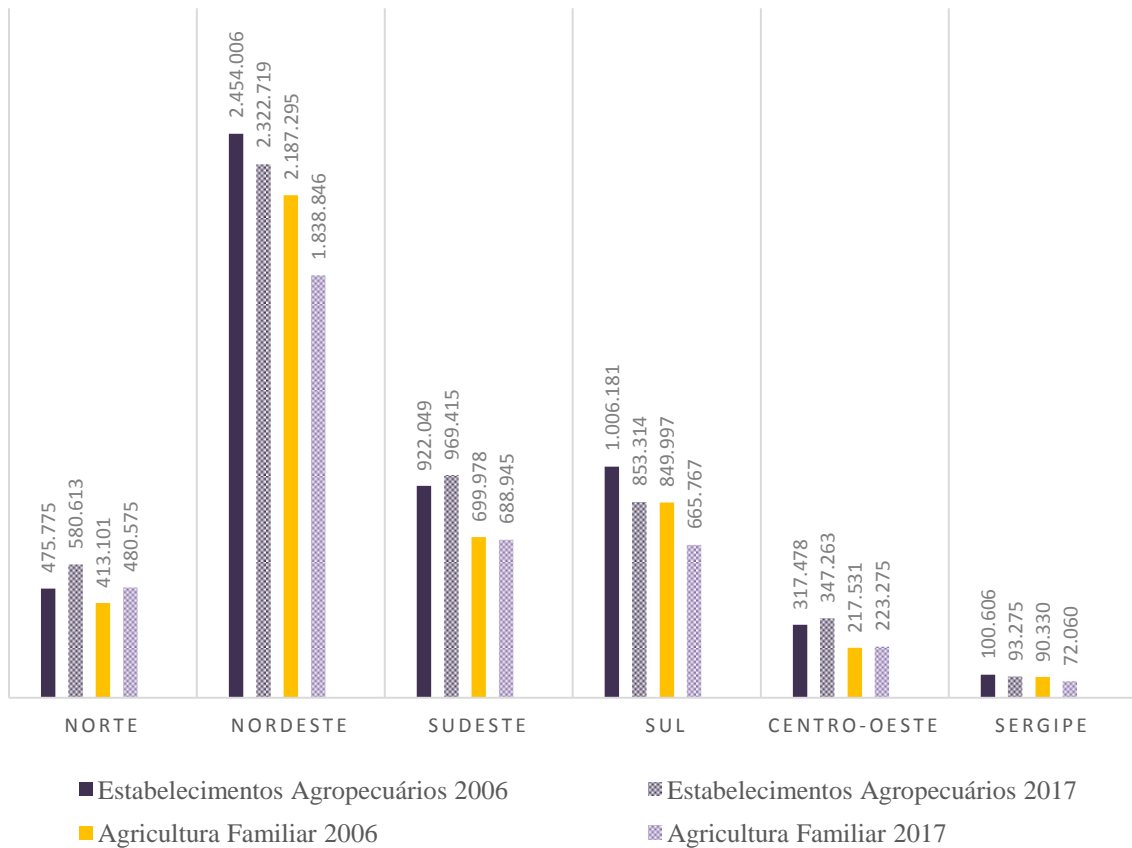
Historically, family farming or "small farmers" - as they were called until about two decades ago - have always been on the margins of the Brazilian State's actions, often increasing its fragility in the face of development options persecuted in the country. Starting a new trajectory for the social category, the 1988 Constitution incited new spaces for social participation and recognized rights; the creation of the National Program for Strengthening Agriculture (Pronaf) in 1995 triggered the emergence of other differentiated rural development policies [...] (GRISA; SCHNEIDER 2014, p.04)

Despite these contradictions, which permeate the benefit as a "compensatory policy" and the complex structural context of the "disappearance", we still observe the strong potential of family farming in Brazil, and perhaps in the Northeast. Because even with social, economic and political obstacles, they continue in agricultural or non-agricultural activity as a source of income (pluriactivity). In the country, according to the Agricultural Census (IBGE-2017), family farming corresponds to 77% of Brazilian agricultural establishments, however, it occupies only 81 million hectares, that is, 23% of the land destined for agricultural activities in the country. And the Gini index is unfortunately still high. In the last three agricultural censuses (1995/96, 2006 and 2017) the index was unchanged, around 0.85, in the value that varies between 0 and 1.0, the closer to one, it is higher the land concentration index.

The Northeast is the Brazilian region with the highest number of agricultural establishments and the domain of family farming (Graph 1), this region represented approximately 43% of the number of rural establishments in the country. However, there is a decrease in the number of establishments and family farming compared to

the 2006 census. The information collected demonstrates the fragility still faced by family farmers in staying in rural areas and continuing agricultural production and the lives of these workers, and it seems to us that the social security benefit can remain to improve the socioeconomic situation. .

Graph 1 - Agricultural Establishments with and without family farmers in Brazil between 2006-2017



Source: Prepared by the authors(2021) Agricultural Census (IBGE 2006-2017)

Continuous act, in the comparison of Agricultural Censuses (IBGE 2006-2017), the North and Midwest regions showed growth in the number of agricultural establishments as well as in the number of establishments considered as in the category of family farming. In the same vein, it is important to mention the environmental problems experienced in both regions, in which the local flora and fauna are being destroyed to make room for new agricultural frontiers with large cattle ranches and soy production. And in this aspect, the most responsible would be agribusiness and not family farming. In contrast, the Southeast region has seen an

increase in the number of agricultural establishments, but with a decrease in family farming.

In Sergipe, according to the Agricultural Census (IBGE-2017), there are 93,275 agricultural establishments, of which 72,060 fall into the category of family farming. The data from the current census, when compared to the 2006 agricultural census, shows a decrease in the number of agricultural establishments, as well as those considered as family farms in Sergipe (Graph 1). The decrease corresponds to 7,331 agricultural establishments in general and 18,270 of family farming establishments, which effectively demonstrates that the process of decreasing the number of agricultural establishments was stronger in the family farming category.

A situation that refers to the socioeconomic problems still experienced in the Brazilian countryside is also the absorption of small areas by monoculture farms, in addition to the urban expansion that advances on family productive properties. Two well-known processes in certain classical literature (SILVA, 1981), which they called phagocytosis processes. However, the process is much more complex than simply explaining the issue of concentration of ownership, through the conventional procedure of buying and selling agricultural establishments, or through real estate development in peri-urban areas for the purpose of subdivision with a strong impact on the constitution of land income, this operationalized by the increase in real active prices in the urban real estate market.

In this way, family farming in Brazil has enormous productive potential, even though it is heterogeneous, that is, the reality of family farming in the country is very different, and therefore, vertical public policies cannot occur. Authors Schneider and Cassol (2013) highlight 3 types of family farming in Brazil. The first is specialized Family Agriculture, with the largest population in the Brazilian rural space, with income from agriculture. The second is Family Agriculture with multiple sources of income, which constitutes a minority group in rural areas and whose income comes from other economic activities, social programs and rural social retirement. The third

is the Family Farming of rural residents, who are subjects who use the rural space as a living space, with minimal agricultural activity or non-agricultural activity.

Despite these classifications, it is known that agricultural activity is the main source of income and reproduction of work for family farmers. However, social, economic and cultural changes in society also operate through other activities in the Brazilian countryside. The well-known example of activities aimed at tourism, whose activity does not disfigure the farmer, on the contrary, allows him to make better use of his establishment and thus increase the family income. The autonomy of family farmers is fundamental so that they can continue in the rural space, and that they also operate in the articulation of public policies, income transfer and social benefits guaranteed by the Federal Constitution-1988, as is the case of social security.

Trajectory of Brazilian rural social security and perspectives in the municipality of Itabaiana-SE

The Brazilian social security system emerged in the mid-twenties of the last century, with an urban bias and directed to a small portion of the country's population, being a direct contributory system. It was evident that small family farmers who lived in rural areas were excluded, and that they were always characterized as a historically marginalized social fraction. There was no normative provision of the social protection of these rural workers. Thus, for many decades these were placed "aside" from social security rights in Brazil, expanding the social gap even further, as a minority, generally concentrated in industrial and services, would have this normative protection. Therefore, a typically Brazilian phenomenon from the point of view of the called social rights.

On the other hand, only from the 1970s it would be characterized as a new mark in the process of social protection via social security benefits, that is, advances in the Brazilian rural social security system. Thus, farmers, peasants, independent rural workers, etc. started to have the right institutionalized in law, which would

ensure retirement and pensions. Even so, despite these advances, the social security system would continue to be selective, unequal and precarious, and more worryingly: it was not a universal benefit and protected few. The authors Delgado and Jr, (1999, p.01) observe that:

It took almost half a century, since the enactment of the Eloi Chaves Law in 1923, which regulated the creation of the Retirement and Pension Funds (CAP) for urban workers, for a social assistance system for the elderly and disabled in the rural sector to be inaugurated in Brazil. . This system, inaugurated by Complementary Law nº 11, of 1971, and implemented from 1972 with the Assistance Program to Rural Worker/Fund for Assistance and Social security of Rural Worker (PRORURAL/FUNRURAL), assisted rural workers, fishermen (the from 1972) and prospectors (from 1975), offering precarious retirement benefits for the age of 65, limited to the head of the couple and having half the minimum wage as a ceiling. (DELGADO; JR, 1999, p.1)

During the 1972-1977 interregnum, the Rural Worker Assistance Program (PRORURAL) was separate from the urban social security system, that is, Brazil had not unified the social security system, even with the institutionalization caused by FUNRURAL/PRORURAL. The Rural Worker Assistance and Social Security Fund (FUNRURAL) was securing a small male portion of the rural population. In this context, the National Institute of Social Security (INPS) planned assistance programs for the urban working population. The limitation of available public resources and the fragility of state planning in relation to the sector, demonstrated the fragility of service aimed at the rural population, in addition to the poor social results of social protection for small rural producers, adding that the overwhelming majority received a salary -minimum, and in that period there were the values of the basic salary were sequentially eroded by the inflationary spiral.

Under the terms of the sole paragraph of Complementary Law No. 11, of May 25, 1971, we can observe one more restriction on rural retirement beneficiaries, as provided in its normative command, which: "The retirement will not be due to more than one component of the family unit, with only the benefit being granted to the

respective head or breadwinner". The law that would create the Rural Worker Assistance Program mentions and makes it clear that the right was guaranteed only to men, generating gender inequality in rural Brazil, noting that in that period the composition of rural families was made up of many dependent members. In addition, the benefit would only be granted to one family member regardless of how many members met the requirements.

In this period, PRORURAL, in addition to being unequal, did not consider the particularities of farmers, small farmers and independent rural workers, demanding that they ensure the collection of contributions and their non-effectiveness would generate fines for the same, in a true asymmetry of information between the institution and the social security beneficiary. Valadares and Galiza (2016, p.08), point out that the maintenance of the program should come from "[...] 2% of the producer's commercialization value, collected by the purchaser or by the producer who sells directly to the consumer, and, still, a rate of 2.4% on the payroll of companies" (op. cit.). Being a program that faced several operational obstacles and did not benefit the rural public in a qualitative way, unfolding its negative results for the poorest.

This model of the social security system, which the worker would contribute to enjoy in the future, according to Schwarzer (2000), is called the Bismarckian model. This model was assumed by the Brazilian State to form discriminant in relation to family farmers, as these workers have particularities such as the seasonality of crops and activities, in addition to not having a fixed income. These obstacles span several decades and generate social dilemmas in rural Brazil.

PRORURAL was administered by the Rural Worker Assistance and Social Security Fund (FUNRURAL), however, its main beneficiaries were agribusiness workers who had a formal contract, if we consider the workforce living in rural areas as a stratum. According to Delgado (2015, p.435), the program "[...] did not include all the disabling risks to work, which were protected by Social Security at the time".

These state mechanisms were insufficient to ensure family farmers to a dignified rural retirement capable of providing social security.

In 1988, with the promulgation of the Federal Constitution (CF), the issue of inequalities (social, regional, racial, sectoral, etc.) were inserted as predictive norms, and in it new social rights would be included in order to protect rights, of a universal character, directly for family farmers, rural workers, etc. In addition to the advances that the C.F of 1988 provided, the infra-constitutional laws in force from 1991, ensured and regulated social security for social actors always forgotten. These institutional changes allowed social security for family farmers and equal social security rights in Brazil. According to Delgado and Jr, (1999, p.01) the main changes were:

- a) equality of access conditions for men and women (the old regime was specific to the head of the couple); b) reduction of the age limit for retirement by age (60 years for men and 55 for women); and c) establishment of a minimum wage for retirements and pensions (the previous regime established a ceiling of half a minimum wage for FUNRURAL public and pensions limited to 30% of the main benefit). (DELGADO and JR, 1999, p.1)

In analysis of the data available on the website of the Special Secretariat for Social Security (SEPT), as stated in the statistical bulletins of social security, in December 2020, the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) had already issued, between the years 2006 -2020, precisely 9,764,823 benefits granted to the rural population, with an amount of BRL 9,099,309,452 allocated. The amounts paid to each rural beneficiary averaged R\$931.85, while in urban areas the average would be R\$1,505.89. In addition to the right to retirement, the rural population would have access to other rights such as: pension for death, sickness benefits, accident and maternity pay or even income transfer, such as the Continuous Cash Benefit (BPC).

Rural social security is today an apparently democratic institutional action, representing the overcoming of the perversities-limitations of previous legislation and guaranteeing improvements in the lives of millions of people with this right,

even though several obstacles are still faced until it reaches its effectiveness. However, its importance is greater than the problems of planning and service to the target audience. In Latin America, Brazil is one of the references in the social protection of family farmers, with advanced insurance that attracts the attention of the financial market and the segment that operates in private pensions.

Rights need to be universally guaranteed, that they get off the ground and take root in the lives of Brazilians in an equitable and public way. As attested by Quintero et.al (2017),

It is necessary, then, to move towards approaches that make social security systems more comprehensive and universal, given their role in overcoming traditional conditions of poverty and in building more inclusive societies, that is, transcending the concept of a "system" of social security to a concept of "fundamental right" of social security, with a differential approach for rural communities in Colombia. (Quintero; Quintero; Quintero, 2017 p. 206)

In Itabaiana-SE, the rural population is approximately 19 thousand inhabitants according to IBGE data (2021). Of these, 6,364 are elderly retirees and are covered by the INSS. Most of them fit into rural areas and still work, even in smaller proportions, as "elderly family farmers", operating in which retirement is the main income of the family unit and the income extracted from agricultural activity as a complementary financial resource. , but which effectively expresses itself as continuity in the socio-productive activities existing in the rural space of Itabaiana.

Rural social security is a stimulus to improve the lives of farmers in Itabaiana and allows these social actors to overcome historical deprivations in the socioeconomic reproduction of the municipality, even expanding the consumption of durable and non-durable products. Because these beneficiaries in their productive units still work producing traditional crops such as sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, corn and vegetables, agricultural activities practically consolidated in the municipality.

The number of family farmers benefiting from the INSS in Itabaiana-SE, allows this policy to offer dignity to the rural population, and the real gains of the minimum wage in the last fifteen years, has shown qualitative changes for those who are in the age group considered as elderly, because they feel protected by the guarantee of having access to retirement and other services provided by the INSS. It is enough to observe that descendants, second degree relatives (such as grandchildren) or even collateral relatives, directly depend on these benefits, being a common fact.

The impoverishment of Brazilians in the last five years has certainly pointed to this family dependence, by the way, a process that explains the phenomenon of return migration, in the face of the economic crisis that extends and is now aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence the question whether we really have the phenomenon of “demographic emptying”, when the “eternal” Brazilian economic crisis substantially alters not only the demographic pattern, but the spatial organization of the rural environment, highlighted in the Northeast region and which is also reproduced in the municipality. from Itabaiana/SE.

Therefore, life expectancy among family farmers should increase and with it the possibilities of expanding the consumer market. However, it should be noted that the country is facing one of its biggest crises and certainly for the coming years the tendency will be the loss of purchasing capacity, which will have extremely negative consequences in rural areas. Even so, the resources directed to these rural social actors form an attractive process of social and economic improvements for the country. However, these subjects face several problems, due to the denial of their rights, such as the dismantling of public health in rural areas and the neoliberal advance on the Brazilian social security system, so qualitative and equitable access to public services for the elderly is urgente to the entire population of the country.

Final considerations

Social security income dynamizes consumption and production, favoring economic indicators of social welfare for all its beneficiaries. Thus, the social security system contributes decisively to the fight against rural poverty and breaks with the historical ties that understood family farmers as “non-workers”, ensuring them a basic right, which provides them with qualitative improvements in individual and social life.

Rural poverty is still experienced by millions of Brazilians, deprived of opportunities that could improve their lives. Poverty is demarcated beyond the absence of food on the table, making up barriers imposed daily on the rural working class. In rural areas, it is evident that the existence of rural retirees leads to a lower rate of poverty in the productive units, since the social security system provides a minimum income to family farmers, reduces hunger, malnutrition and, consequently, encourages and stimulates rural development in a simple way.

When the social right is guaranteed to all Brazilians and other benefits of the Brazilian social security system, this fact allows the valorization of family farmers and contributes to a better quality of life in rural areas. Consequently, it promotes improvements in rural life, allowing the elderly to continue on their property, reproducing itself socially. The benefits, in addition to being used by retired elderly farmers, allow their children to continue with their parents in agricultural production. This fact reduces countryside-city migration and encourages the continuity of small agricultural production. It should be noted that the improvement of living conditions is for the entire Brazilian society focused on rural areas, as social security resources increase consumption, when these benefits are directly applied.

Brazilian rural social security went through a long process until its universalization, a fact that is being threatened by the social security reform, instituted in the country, but which does not affect farmers directly, leaving marks of a possible future rural social security reform. In the coming years, due to the state

financial deficit that the country experiences, created by financial waivers, disastrous managements and with the investments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be up to society to resist future onslaughts of withdrawal of social rights with the validity of the constitutional amendment. the field of social security. Thus, rural social security needs to have continuity, readjustment and improvements so that the Brazilian countryside remains culturally and socially alive.

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