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131

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## THE CHALLENGES OF FAMILY FARMING FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THIRD-GENERATION PUBLIC POLICIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL

OS DESAFIOS DA AGRICULTURA FAMILIAR NA PERSPECTIVA DAS POLÍTICAS PÚBLICAS DE TERCEIRA GERAÇÃO PARA O DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL NO BRASIL

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### Abstract

The article in question aims to analyze the scenarios of third-generation public policies for family farming and their challenges. The methodology includes a systematic literature review and documentary research. The main obstacles identified include limited access to credit, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of information about programs among a significant portion of the population. The results highlight the importance of effective public policies to promote actions for productive inclusion and sustainable rural development, integrating economic, social, and environmental aspects.

**Keywords:** Institutional markets; Rural development; Sustainability.

### Resumo

O artigo em questão tem como proposta analisar os cenários das políticas públicas de terceira geração da agricultura familiar e os seus desafios. A metodologia inclui revisão sistemática de literatura e pesquisa documental. Os principais obstáculos identificados incluem acesso limitado ao crédito, infraestrutura inadequada e falta de informações sobre programas por uma parcela expressiva da população. Os resultados destacam a importância de políticas públicas eficazes para promover ações de inclusão produtiva e desenvolvimento rural sustentável, integrando aspectos econômicos, sociais e ambientais.

**Palavras-chave:** Mercados institucionais; Desenvolvimento rural; Sustentabilidade.

## **Introduction**

Rural development in Brazil has been one of the central topics in discussions about public policies, mainly due to the economic and social relevance of the agricultural sector for the country. Over the past few decades, Brazil has been implementing policies aimed at promoting the growth and sustainability of rural areas. However, the complexity of the Brazilian rural context is marked by regional and socioeconomic inequalities, with demands for policy approaches that are both adaptive and propose changes simultaneously. 132

According to data published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, 77% of agricultural establishments in 2017 were classified as family farming, occupying 23% of the total area of Brazilian agricultural establishments (Brazil, 2013). The 2023 Family Farming Harvest Plan, launched by the government, allocated R\$ 77.7 billion to strengthen this sector. Of this amount, R\$ 71.6 billion was made available through the National Program for Strengthening Family Farming (Pronaf), with a significant reduction in interest rates to encourage the production of staple foods such as rice, beans, and cassava (Gazolla; Schneider, 2013).

This segment of agriculture is characterized by small producers who, despite their limited resources and infrastructure, contribute significantly to food security and the dynamization of the local economy. However, given the challenges faced, the implementation of public policies for the sector becomes a crucial condition for driving and developing the existing potential (Sousa; Jesus, 2021).

Public policies directed towards family farming, aimed at rural development in Brazil, can be divided into three distinct generations. The first generation was marked by the creation of the National Program for Family Farming (Pronaf) in the 1990s, as a way to subsidize farmers' participation in markets through access to credit. In the second generation, recognizing the importance of family farming, specific programs were introduced to support small producers by implementing a set of socio-assistance policies at the national level, due to extreme poverty in rural areas, although these efforts failed to effectively promote the productive inclusion of farmers. The third generation of policies, currently in operation, seeks to integrate economic, social, and environmental aspects, promoting sustainable and inclusive development in rural areas, as well as advancing food and nutritional security with a renewed focus on family farming. Two important policies were created in this generation: the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (Pnae) (Grisa; Schneider, 2014).

This study is particularly focused on the third generation of rural development public policies proposed by Grisa and Schneider (2014). In this regard, the main objective is to present the scenarios of the key third-generation public policies and their challenges for family farming.

This article is divided into six sections. In addition to this introduction, the second section discusses the methodological aspects underlying the present research. The third section addresses the definition of public policies in the rural sector and presents some relevant policies for family farming. The fourth section corresponds to the framework on third-generation rural development public policies. The fifth section highlights the main challenges faced by family farming, considering previous studies, with a focus on third-generation policies. Finally, the sixth section presents the findings, with reflections for future research.

## **Methodological Aspects**

To achieve the proposed objective, the research was divided into two main approaches: a systematic literature review and documentary research. The systematic literature review constituted the first methodological stage of the research, based on the analysis of scientific articles published between 2019 and 2023. The SciELO research platform was used to collect the articles, with the search keywords being: rural development; family farming, and public policies.

The search strategy involved combining these keywords to ensure broad and relevant coverage of the topics of interest. The inclusion criteria were set to include articles that directly addressed public policies related to rural development and family farming in Brazil, specifically focusing on theoretical analyses, case studies, policy evaluations, and economic, social, and environmental impacts.

A total of 24 articles were initially identified. After reading the abstracts and applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 8 articles were selected for analysis, considering only those that featured at least one of the three keywords in the abstract. That is, those articles that focus on specific studies about the implementation of third-generation public policies for family farming. 133

Subsequently, the mapped articles were analyzed, identifying the main themes, results, and contributions of the studies to the understanding of rural development public policies, especially third-generation policies; rural development, and family farming.

The data and information extracted from the articles were synthesized and organized to contribute to the development of the theoretical framework of the research. In addition to the articles selected from the aforementioned research database, publications by authors who address the issue of generations of public policies for rural development were consulted, with a focus on Grisa (2014; 2019), Schneider (2014), Nirdele (2019), and Cazella et al. (2016).

The second methodological stage involved documentary research and the analysis of secondary data. This approach allowed for the complement of the literature review with empirical and statistical data on family farming and public policies in Brazil, using three main sources: the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply (MAPA), and the National Confederation of Rural Workers (CONTAG).

### **Definition of rural development public policies and their objectives**

Rural development public policies encompass a broad set of rules, plans, programs, and actions implemented by governments with the aim of promoting economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability in a country's rural areas. These policies are designed to address the specific challenges faced by rural communities, such as economic inequality, limited access to essential services, and environmental preservation. According to Santos and Gama (2005), such initiatives are crucial for driving the development of rural regions, ensuring that these areas can make a significant contribution to national progress.

These policies also aim to address the specific challenges faced by rural communities, promoting sustainable growth that contributes to reducing poverty and social inequalities. The focus of these initiatives is to improve the living conditions of rural populations by increasing income and ensuring access to basic services such as health, education, and infrastructure. Additionally, these policies seek to strengthen the capacity of rural communities to adapt to economic and environmental changes, encouraging long-term sustainability and ensuring that development is inclusive and equitable.

In this context, Oliveira, Silva, and Lovato (2014) highlight two fundamental elements: the trends indicating significant changes in the rural world and the social dynamism manifested in the struggle for specific interests and the creation of new references for communities, whether at the local, national, or global level. Participatory policies aimed at specific groups, such as the National Program for Strengthening Family Farming (Pronaf), although indicating transformations, tend to favor a 'modern' rationality centered on competitiveness. However, conventional public policies, such as agricultural credit and incentives for the formation of cooperatives, do not completely eliminate discrimination and inequality among individuals, as equal opportunities are still not a reality (Oliveira; Silva; Lovato, 2014). This dynamic reveals that, despite advances, structural challenges persist that limit the reach of rural development policies, requiring a deeper reflection on the inclusion and equity of rural populations.

The promotion of food security is a relevant factor that rural communities need, as having access to sufficient and high-quality food can enhance the development of local agricultural production and the diversification of crops. González, Pereira, and Souza (2024) indicate that food and nutritional security aims to increase production through training and investment in material resources to encourage family innovation and rural development, with the goal of improving the lives of numerous families. The benefit is not limited to farming families, as it also aims to increase the availability of food in communities, resulting in better dietary conditions for local families (González; Pereira; Souza, 2024).

In this same line of reasoning, promoting sustainable production can be cited as a crucial element of rural development public policies. The goal is to encourage agricultural practices that respect the environment, promoting the conscious use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, and reduction of negative environmental impacts. According to Barros and Moreira (2023), sustainable agriculture is a central component of inclusion policies for rural development, as it involves sustainability in the production of food and fibers, ensuring the maintenance of natural resources, continuous productivity, minimal use of external inputs, and mitigation of adverse environmental impacts. Additionally, this approach seeks to ensure adequate food production, fair income distribution, and meeting the social needs of rural families and communities, aiming to achieve truly sustainable rural development.

For this transition to be effective, it is crucial that credit mechanisms, both for operational costs and investment, be combined with specialized technical assistance in agroecology. This combination enables the establishment of marketing channels that promote diversified and sustainable agricultural production.

Rural infrastructure development also stands out as an essential component of rural public policies. The focus is on reducing disparities between rural and urban areas by improving the basic infrastructure in rural regions, including roads, electrification, access to potable water, and basic sanitation. Improving these conditions is vital for enhancing the quality of life in rural areas and facilitating sustainable economic development, ensuring that these areas can develop equitably compared to urban centers.

Essential instruments for reducing inequalities between urban and rural areas in Brazil are rural public policies. These policies consist of a set of initiatives, programs, and strategies coordinated by the state to improve family farming, increase rural infrastructure, ensure access to basic services, and promote economic diversification in rural communities. These policies aim to enhance social inclusion, environmental preservation, and the promotion of sustainable technologies to boost production in rural areas and support fair and lasting economic growth in the country.

Public policies for rural development in Brazil have evolved over the years, focusing primarily on family farming, which is considered a crucial component of food security and the rural economy. Policies such as Pronaf are among the main rural credit programs aimed at helping family farmers obtain financing to increase their production and productivity by offering differentiated financing conditions, with low interest rates and extended terms (Júnior, 2021).

In this direction, Grisa et al. (2010) mention that the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) is a policy that promotes family farming by ensuring that the federal government purchases production from small farmers. Most of these foods are destined for social programs, schools, hospitals, and charitable organizations, with the aim of increasing food security and providing income to family farmers.

Another important policy developed to support family farming and food security is the National School Feeding Program (PNAE), which requires that at least thirty percent of the resources allocated for school meals be used to purchase products from family farming (Barbiere, 2023). In addition to benefiting family farmers, it improves the quality of food for children and young people in school.

Pimentel (2023) researched the Territorial Development Program, also known as PRODETER, and considers that the aim of this program is to support the sustainable development of rural territories. This includes measures to improve family farming and the organization of producers, access to markets, and integration with policies related to basic services and infrastructure.

Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER) also provides farmers with technical, technological, and managerial knowledge, which is essential for the growth of family farming. This is vital for increasing sustainability, efficiency, and management capacity among small producers (Oliveira; Araújo; Queiroz, 2017).

Trovatto et al. (2017) researched the National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production (PNAPO). The authors highlighted that sustainable agricultural practices, such as family farming, ecological management of natural resources, and the use of specific techniques, reduce environmental impact while recognizing the importance of family farming for the rural economy, food security, and social inclusion. Thus, these policies reflect the Brazilian government's ongoing effort to support it. However, policies need to be continually adjusted and improved to address issues such as climate change, inadequate infrastructure, and land access.

Among the many policies benefiting family farming, this article will focus on the literature review of third-generation policies, highlighted in the next section of this research. Policies in the rural area are an essential tool for the development of family farming in Brazil, as they help reduce social and regional inequalities, build more sustainable communities, and promote food security.

### **Public policies for rural development: an overview of main third-generation policies**

Troian et al. (2020) highlight family farming as a social segment characterized by the integration of different productive factors, presenting a particular dynamic. With the family playing a central role in management and labor, it is a heterogeneous category that varies in different gradients of income, farm size, land access conditions, and levels of specialization or diversification of production. In the same vein, Miranda and Gomes (2016) define family farming as a form of production that predominantly relies on family labor for agricultural activities, arguing that the maintenance and development of family farming and its potential as a social, economic, and productive model depend on understanding how small producers face challenges.

Troian et al. (2020) point to the complexity of the family farming scenario, based on Brazilian legislation, considering the family farmer as one who practices activities in rural areas and simultaneously meets the following requirements: not owning an area larger than 4 fiscal modules; predominantly using family labor in the economic activities of the establishment; obtaining a minimum percentage of income from the economic activities of the establishment; and managing the enterprise with the family (Brazil, 2006).

According to the 2013 Agricultural Census conducted by IBGE, Brazil had over 5 million agricultural establishments, of which 77% were classified as family farming. These establishments occupied 80.9 million hectares, representing 23% of the total area of agricultural establishments in the country. Additionally, family farming was responsible for employing more than 10 million people, corresponding to 67% of the total workforce in agriculture (IBGE, 2017).

More recently, the 2023 Statistical Yearbook of Family Farming, prepared by CONTAG in partnership with the Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies (Dieese), reported that family farming occupies 23% of the areas of rural establishments and 3.9 million establishments. It accounts for 23% of the gross value of agricultural production and 67% of rural employment (CONTAG, 2022).

From the data presented, it is highlighted as the eighth largest food producer in the world. Additionally, it contributes 40% of the income of the economically active population and economically energizes 90% of municipalities with up to 20,000 inhabitants. The participation of family farming in



the production of food consumed in the country is notably significant: 70% of beans, 34% of rice, 87% of cassava, 60% of milk, 59% of pork, and 50% of poultry (CONTAG, 2022). These data reveal that family farming is a pillar not only for the country's food supply but also for the sustainability and cultural preservation of rural areas.

According to Cazella et al. (2016), in the second half of the 1990s, the Brazilian state began developing a set of public policies directed at family farming. The authors reveal that this process was associated with the mobilization of rural social organizations and technical and scientific studies focused on the socioeconomic importance of this social segment.

Social pressures for land reform and the need for the development of specific public policies for rural development, combined with the state's efforts to support family agricultural units, led the country to establish two ministries dedicated to managing public policies for rural and agricultural development: the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Supply (MAPA), traditionally focused on the commodities market and large agro-industries, and the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA), created in 1999 to coordinate land policies and support family farming (Cazella et al., 2016).

Rural development in Brazil over the past decades has undergone transformations driven by different generations of public policies aimed at family farming. According to Grisa and Schneider (2014) and Cazella et al. (2016), public policies for family farming can be classified into three generations. The first generation focuses on agricultural and agrarian policies, associated with demands from organized social segments of family farming, such as unions and social movements. The second generation is characterized by the creation and expansion of social assistance policies. As for third-generation policies, the focus is on building new markets for products and services from family farming, with an emphasis on food security and sustainability.

Grisa and Schneider (2014) reveal that the first generation of public policies, influenced by the 1960s, focused primarily on the modernization of agriculture. These policies were predominantly agricultural and agrarian, aiming to increase productivity through mechanization, the use of chemical inputs, and genetic improvement. An emblematic example of this generation is the Rural Credit Program, which facilitated access to financing for the purchase of agricultural machinery and inputs, promoting the modernization of rural properties.

In the 1980s, criticism of social inequalities and environmental impacts led to the emergence of the second generation of public policies, which aimed not only at agricultural production but also at social inclusion and improving living conditions in rural areas. Pronaf, created in 1995, is a landmark of this generation. The program proposed offering credit with favorable conditions for small farmers, promoting productive inclusion and strengthening the local economy (Grisa; Schneider, 2014).

The second generation of public policies emerged as a response to the negative effects and inadequacies observed in traditional rural credit policies. These policies, initially focused on providing financial support to the agricultural sector, proved inadequate for comprehensively addressing the social and economic challenges of rural areas, particularly concerning rural poverty. In response to these limitations, a new set of social assistance policies was created to mitigate poverty in rural areas, which was not adequately addressed by policies solely oriented towards agricultural and agrarian frameworks (Grisa; Schneider, 2014).

This second generation of policies reflects a paradigm shift, where the focus expands beyond the productive sector to recognize the complexity of living conditions in rural areas. By including measures that consider food security, social inclusion, and human development, these policies aim to provide more comprehensive support tailored to the realities of rural communities. This includes the implementation of programs focused on education, health, housing, and access to basic services, which are essential for improving quality of life in the countryside and reducing inequalities between urban and rural areas.

The third generation of public policies emerged in the 2000s, focusing on building markets and promoting environmental sustainability and food security. These policies aim to integrate family farmers, particularly with institutional markets. The PAA (Food Acquisition Program), launched in

2003, is a good example of this generation. The PAA purchases food produced by family farming for distribution in social programs, ensuring income for farmers and providing quality food to vulnerable populations.

Institutional market public policies aimed at family farming are important structuring actions for sustainable development. By leveraging or controlling public procurement, they open up new opportunities and outlets for production, resulting in numerous benefits for society as a whole: boosting the local economy through short supply chains; encouraging agroecological transition; adding value to products; providing better planning opportunities for producers; promoting organization in associations and cooperatives; enhancing food and nutritional security, among others (Marques; Ponzilacqua, 2022).

The launch of the PAA in 2003 by the government aimed to promote the connection between family farming, through support for commercialization, and public and private organizations dedicated to meeting the consumption needs of vulnerable groups (Grisa; Nierdele, 2019). Created within the framework of the Zero Hunger Program, the PAA purchases food produced by family farmers and allocates it to people in situations of food and nutritional insecurity, as well as to social assistance entities, public food and nutritional security facilities, and the public and philanthropic education network.

In this sense, the creation of the PAA was crucial for opening up more market opportunities for family farmers, creating opportunities and developments related to food production and integration into institutional markets.

In 2023, the PAA was relaunched by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, after being discontinued in the previous administration. That year, R\$ 500 million were allocated for the execution of the program, focusing on three main modalities: Simultaneous Donation with Individual Farmers, Simultaneous Donation with Cooperatives and Associations, and PAA-Milk. Additionally, in October 2023, another R\$ 250 million were released for the program, bringing the total budget to over R\$ 900 million (Ministry of Citizenship, [n.d.]).

The PAA contributes to the creation of public food reserves and the formation of reserves by family farming organizations. It also promotes food supply through government purchases, strengthens local and regional marketing circuits, values biodiversity and organic and agroecological production, encourages healthy eating habits, and stimulates cooperativism and associativism (Ministry of Citizenship, 2024).

Studies conducted by Marques and Ponzilacqua (2022) evaluate the PAA from three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. In the economic dimension, the observed benefits include the stimulation of the local economy, improvement in product quality, and access to new markets. In the social dimension, indicators such as increased income highlight benefits like expanded and diversified wages, guaranteed commercialization, and self-consumption by farmers. These aspects contribute to improved nutrition, better quality of food for beneficiaries, increased access to and encouragement of consuming quality foods, and ultimately, better health. The environmental dimension is divided into two indicators: soil recovery and better management, resulting in diversified production, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through organic production, good agricultural practices, and short production circuits (Marques; Ponzilacqua, 2022).

Another highlight of this generation of public policies is the PNAE. Studies conducted by Grisa and Nierdele (2019) state that in 2009, modifications made to Law 11,947/2009 altered the functioning of PNAE, now requiring that at least 30% of the resources from the National Fund for the Development of Education (FNDE) allocated to the Program be used for purchasing foods from family farming. In 2015, the federal government also established Decree No. 8,473, which instituted the mandatory acquisition of at least 30% of foodstuffs from family farming for purchases made by the Federal Public Administration.

### **Challenges faced by family farming in the context of rural development policies: the interface with third-generation policies**

Despite the efforts and significant progress made by rural development policies, family farming still faces barriers and challenges caused by existing socioeconomic inequality, resulting from the heterogeneity previously mentioned and identified by sector researchers. Family farming has faced and continues to face challenges that need to be overcome, and farmers struggle to achieve significant improvements in their activities and spheres of operation. Undoubtedly, with state support, family farming can help supplement the supply of low-cost, high-quality food to society while promoting rural development and preserving the existing natural and cultural heritage in rural areas (Miranda; Gomes, 2016).

138

Despite the existence of Pronaf to support family farmers, many encounter bureaucratic obstacles and demands for guarantees that make obtaining financing difficult. The lack of access to credit is one of the main barriers faced by family farmers. Bureaucracy and the requirement for guarantees often hinder small farmers' access to these resources (Nascimento; Aquino; Delgrossi, 2022). Without sufficient financial resources, they struggle to invest in inputs, machinery, and infrastructure improvements. According to data from IBGE (2017), only 20% of family farmers are able to access rural credit. This highlights a significant gap in the reach of credit policies aimed at family farming, pointing to structural challenges that limit access to financial resources for this important segment of the rural population. This low rate of credit access may be related to various factors, such as lack of information, bureaucratic processes, insufficient guarantees, and unequal opportunities in rural areas. The limitation in access to rural credit prevents many family farmers from investing in technologies, inputs, and improvements to their properties, which directly affects the productivity and sustainability of their activities.

According to MAPA, one of the main obstacles is the limited access to technological resources. Pronaf, with the support of PNATER, aims to address these difficulties by providing targeted credit and specialized technical assistance (MAPA, 2023). However, a significant number of small farmers still face substantial barriers to effectively accessing these resources due to bureaucracy, lack of infrastructure, and geographic distance. In their studies, Cazella et al. (2016) reveal that three aspects stand out in this process: the polarization of actions, separating policies into productive and assistive categories, the difficulties in expanding the audience covered by policies aimed at promoting agricultural production, and the lack of socio-environmental countermeasures for those benefiting from public subsidies.

Technical assistance and rural extension are two crucial points for family farmers to adopt more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices. However, the scarcity of investments and qualified professionals prevents many farmers from receiving the necessary support (Nascimento; Aquino; Delgrossi, 2022).

Family farmers often face difficulties accessing more profitable markets due to the lack of cooperative organization culture and unfair competition with large producers (Miranda; Gomes, 2016). Additionally, low education levels and a limited number of specific training programs for family farmers restrict their ability to manage their properties efficiently and sustainably. For policies to be effective, greater coordination between different levels of government is needed. The fragmentation and discontinuity of public policies negatively affect family farming (Stropasolas, 2017).

One of the main challenges in the context of the PAA is the lack of access to information; many family farmers are still unaware of the procedures to participate in the program. The bureaucratic complexity of the application and reporting processes reinforces these difficulties, discouraging and alienating family farmers from the opportunities.

Another concrete point is the inadequate infrastructure in some rural areas, which compromises the ability of farmers to deliver quality products within the required deadlines. Inadequate transportation



and unsuitable storage facilities are significant barriers. A study by Embrapa highlights that the precarious state of logistical infrastructure is one of the main obstacles to the competitiveness of family farming (Paiva, 2017).

The issue of marketing is also crucial. According to data from IBGE (2017), many producers face difficulties in accessing fair and remunerative markets for their products due to a lack of adequate logistical infrastructure and information asymmetry between producers and buyers. This frequently results in unfair prices and reduced profit margins, compromising the economic viability of family farming activities.

The study conducted by Stropasolas (2017) recommended the need for integrated strategies that address various aspects and pose challenges for family farming in Brazil. Among these are those related to the social, cultural, and economic infrastructure of communities and families, such as expanding options for social interaction and leisure in communities; generating employment and income opportunities, especially aimed at the financial and managerial autonomy of youth and women; access to land and adequate conditions for credit, technical assistance, and professionalization; improving transportation and communication systems; necessary investments for organizing production, processing, and marketing of products and services, based on sustainable production systems; and enhancing the availability, suitability, and quality of services related to education, health, and culture.

Thus, there are still obstacles to be overcome in the face of complex challenges that go beyond the mere consolidation of public policies, as demonstrated throughout the article. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt strategies that overcome existing difficulties and increase the capacity of family farmers to participate in more advantageous markets, focusing on the development of sustainable activities. These advances are possible with the commitment of different governmental and non-governmental actors, to fully harness the potential of family farming for sustainable rural development.

## Conclusion

The research encompassed the landscape of public policies for rural development and family farming, focusing on those considered third-generation policies. In addition, it highlighted the main challenges faced by family farmers. Based on studies and data cross-referencing, it became evident that family farming represents a significant portion of the Brazilian agricultural sector, employing a large number of people. Furthermore, it contributes to the total value of national agricultural production, emphasizing its socioeconomic importance in ensuring food security, strengthening the local economy, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Three generations of public policies aimed at family farming were identified. The first generation was marked by Pronaf, the first agricultural policy in Brazil specifically targeted at family farming. The second generation of policies saw the creation of a set of social assistance policies, focused on mitigating rural poverty, something not addressed by previous policies, which were predominantly agricultural and agrarian in nature. The third generation of policies for family farming yielded more evident results, notably through the construction of markets aimed at promoting food security and environmental sustainability, with the creation and consolidation of PAA and PNAE as key examples. These programs have played a decisive role in strengthening family farming by promoting the commercialization of family farm products and bolstering local and regional markets. These initiatives not only increase the income of family farmers but also ensure access to quality food for populations in situations of social vulnerability.

Another relevant aspect is the policies of technical assistance and rural extension, such as PNATER, which train producers in sustainable agricultural practices and improve their productivity. PNATER not only promotes social and economic inclusion but also strengthens the organization and negotiation capacity of family farmers.

Despite the advances provided by these policies, the study identified persistent challenges faced by family farming, such as unequal access to resources, limited infrastructure, and the lack of integrated policies.

It is considered that this article opens the way for more in-depth studies on the third generation of rural development and family farming policies. In this regard, there is an opportunity to map scenarios based on the reality of each region of the country in future studies, investigating the sustainability strategies that prevail in each region, based on existing policies.

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