

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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OPERATIONALIZATION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM (NSLP) BASED ON THE CASE OF MARECHAL CÂNDIDO RONDON/PR – BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT

Abstract: Some public policies specifically for family farm were created in Brazil from the 1990s, mainly aimed at strengthening and make them stay in the countryside. The purpose of this article was to present the operationalization of the National School Lunch Program - NSLP, as a public policy for the commercialization of family farmers' products, exemplifying its execution based in Marechal Cândido Rondon/PR - Brazil case. For this, a bibliographic search and a collection data were carried out. It was concluded that the NSLP has specificities that should be improved, but it is configured as a strengthening of family farmers and promotes the sustainability of their properties.

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INTRODUCTION

Feeding is what makes all human have their functional and vital capacity maintained. It provides the basic constituents to the personal development and sanity. When we consider diversified food with a good quality, we have the key to compose the meals (SILVA, CAMARGO, MONTEIRO, 2017). Agriculture is the main responsible for food production in the world. Formerly, farmers produced their own food and they were less dependent of external products. However, after the "green revolution" in the 1960's, it's been more usual the concentration of ownership proprieties causing a social problem that makes a lot of small farmers, known as family farmers, had sell their proprieties to bigger farmers and move to the city (STEDILE, 2013). Relating feeding to this social problem, it was created some public policies to encourage the

family farms being a way to smaller producers increase their income sources having a commercialization route to their products becoming viable their permanence at the propriety (GRISA, SCHNEIDER, 2014). One of these public policies is the National School Lunch Program – NSLP (Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar - PNAE), which encompasses the participation of family farmers, selling of them a part of food intended to students of public schools (GRISA, SCHNEIDER, 2014; TRICHES, BACCAIN, 2016). Considering that NSLP is a strengthener for family farmers, this paper aimed to highlight the main operating procedures of this program, as well as, analyses the case of Marechal Cândido Rondon to illustrate its evolution history and some effects in the family farmers properties. This study was realized in two steps, the first one composite by a bibliographic and documental research and the second one for

analysis of empiric data collect in Marechal Cândido Rondon city, Parana state.

Development

What is the National School Lunch Program - NSLP (Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar - PNAE)?

Created in the 50s, NSLP is a pioneer program on Brazilian schools alimentionation and it's the largest in the world considering the resources intended and the number of individuals served by it (PEIXINHO et al., 2011). The objective of the program is to contribute to the development, learning, scholar achievement and the healthy eating habits of students (MEC/FNDE, 2013). The program comprehends all the students enrolled in basic education of federal, state and municipal public schools according to the school census of the previous year (MEC/FNDE, 2013). NSLP currently serves students from nurseries schools, preschools, elementary schools, high schools and EJA (Education for youth and adults) (PEIXINHO et al., 2011). A decisive factor for the program improvement and recognition in the society, occurred in 2009, when the Law 11,947 was promulgated (GREGOLIN, et al., 2013) inserting expressively the family farmers in the context of school alimentionation (PEIXINHO et al., 2011). The Law 11,497/09 required that at least 30% (thirty percent) of the total financial resources transferred by Nacional Education Development Fund (Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento da Educação) to the NSLP should be used for the directly purchase of food from family farmers and also prioritizing agrarian reform settlements, indigenous and quilombolas (BRASIL, 2009).

Who are the family farmers?

It is considered a family farmer everyone that practice activities in rural areas, where: (i) it does not hold a larger area than 72 (seventy two) hectares; (ii) it uses mostly family's labor in the property activities; (iii) the family's income should be originated mostly from it's property. In this context, it can be inserted also foresters, fish farmers, fishermen, indigenous people and quilombolas or other peoples from traditional communities, considering that everyone is according to the Law (BRASIL, 2006). Family farm represent in Brazil 77% of establishments distributed in 23% of the total rural area. It's responsible for R\$ 107 billion of Gross Value of Production and the occupation of about 10.1 million people, and it's also very important provider of basic alimentionation for the Brazilian population (IBGE, 2017). However, according to Wanderley (2003), there is a multiple understanding on theoretical discussions about the family farm. Firstly, the family farmer is seen how a social actor which values its responsibility in development process of its production and, consequently, don't depend of impositions, because it's author of own history. In add, it is known the diversity of circumstances that "family farm" can reach, however, the aim of this categorization is the capacity of farmer know its history as a way of adaptation to the social transformations and to the rural development process.

With this information, the idea was explained that the family farmers aren't characterized only for measurable aspects like the size of the area, if has or not external workers or how is the properties administration. Other side of view need to be considered to the family farm being understood in a more

holistic and humane way, especially for their potential for social action.

How the program operates?

- 1st It is developed a demand in partnership between nutritionists and educational institutions.
- 2nd After the demand is known, a Public Call is made determining the prices and the amount of products that will be acquired, defined by nutritionists.
- 3th The executing organ, according to the value transferred by the federal government that based on the school census of the previous year and it determines the percentage of family farm purchase being, at least, 30% established by law.
- 4th A menu is built by the nutritionist responsible for the program.
- 5th A survey of prices is carried out.
- 6th The public call occurs without a bidding process, because its aim is the best proposal, not the lowest price.
- 7th After these procedures, the food is purchased and evaluated constantly to maintain its quality in the stock and storage.
- 8th The producers can deliver their products directly at the schools or at the city hall, which is the responsible for delivering them to the institutions served by the program.

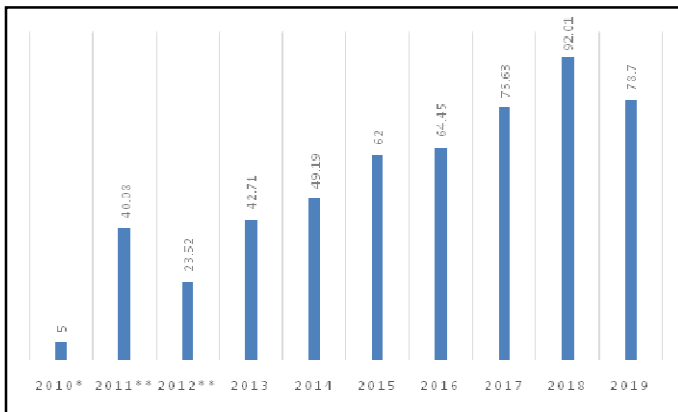
What's the importance of buying from family farmers?

The family agricultural sector is strategic because it focuses more expressively in the functions of a social character than in an economic one, giving its importance to the absorption of jobs and food production. The guidelines established by NSLP are more easily found by family farm than by the conventional ones. They are: (i) adequate and safe feeding with less use of agrochemicals; (ii) it respects the culture, traditions and healthy eating habits; (iii) the social control, food security and nutrition; (iv) sustainable development, which means acquiring diversified food, produced locally. These guidelines given to NSLP the status as one of the most important public policy to food and nutrition security with a sustainable character, known not only in Brazil, but internationally (GREGOLIN et al., 2018). The food and nutrition security is a complex and under construction theme, however, the concept officially known in Brazil is ensuring the right of everyone to regular and permanent access to quality food in sufficient quantity to the nutritional needs of individuals, and these food must come from a socially fair and environmentally sustainable food system (BRASIL, 2006). Ribeiro, Jaime and Ventura (2017) considered that this concept took too long to include a more complex vision about the feeding, comprising all the steps of production system, since its production, extraction, processing, distribution and commercialization, until the human consumption in the end of this social process. So, the promoting healthy eating and consequently the food and nutrition security only will happen with the implantation of more righteous and environmentally sustainable food systems (RIBEIRO, JAIME AND VENTURA, 2017). Caporal and Costabeber (2003, p. 78) agree with this, and said that decidedly, the food and nutrition security and sustainable cannot be achieved without the promote of a sustainable agriculture also, because only with higher biologic quality foods than which are produce nowadays will be possible

ensure healthy eating. And this is possible though family farm, especially by the potential that this category has to diversified and agroecology production (BUAINAIN, 2006).

School feeding and family farm: the Marechal Cândido Rondon/PR – Brazil case

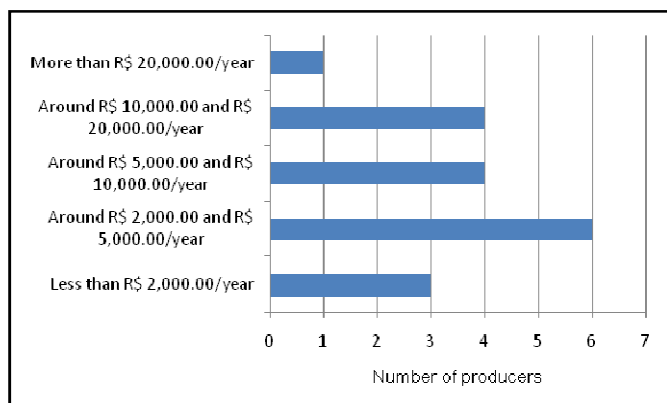
To determine the percentage of resources used to purchase food from family farms, a questionnaire was applied for the manager of the program in Marechal's city hall, as well as a data collect in secondary fonts. As we can see in Picture 1, purchase from family farmers products to the municipal school feeding began, in fact, in 2010 under the effect of the application of the law n°. 11,947. It can be observed that the percentage of family farm participation grew rapidly, reaching 40% of the budget in 2011 and higher levels in recent years.



Font: Constanty, 2014*, Nacional Education Development Fund, 2019**, Prefecture de Marechal Candido Rondon, 2020.

Picture 1. Percentage of funds transferred to family farms enterprises in Marechal Cândido Rondon from 2010 to 2019

Picture 2, elaborated by Constanty (2014), shows the amount of contribution that NSLP provides in the properties of the family farmers from Marechal in 2014. Considering that each farmer can sell to the program maximum R\$ 20,000.00 per year, and considering the reality of producers demonstrated below, we can infer that NSLP is only a help in properties economy and cannot be the only source of commercialization because, on average, it contributes only for 13.04% of the income analyzed (CONSTANTY, 2014).



Font: Constanty, 2014

Picture 2. Annual income earned by producers in NSLP

Some difficulties for the participation in the program are, according Constanty (2014), the small demand that is still divided among the participants, plus the low prices of products

and some late payments. The most limiting factor is that the city doesn't have a very large population making the demand for school alimentation be small (CONSTANTY, 2014).

Final considerations

Enforce 30% of the resources are passed by the federal government to buy food from family farm was an action that has changed the established practices since 1950 in the school feeding in Brazil. Observing the operating procedures of the program, it could be thinking that only with simple changes or adjustments can attend the 30% predicted in law. However simple may they seem, demand a consider effort, as by the farmers adapting with the logic established by this market as the public agents involved in preparation of demand, manipulation of foods, public call and purchases, and also by agents of technical assistance and rural extension. Together with other public policies, NSLP promotes social inclusion of family farmers contributing to sustainability. However, actions need to be improved to encourage the participation of this kind of farmers and to make the program to keep growing. The increase in the buying percentage of family farmers' properties, the valuation of products deriving from these areas, technical assistance and the increase of the maximum purchase amount value of each farmer per year, may be initiatives to improve the number of producers in the program and increasingly contributing to their income.

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