

PROTOCOL FOR SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE: THE ROLE OF WOMEN-LED AGROECOLOGICAL FAMILY FARMING IN PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

PROTOCOLO PARA REVISÃO SISTEMÁTICA E DIÁLOGO DELIBERATIVO: O PAPEL DA PRODUÇÃO FAMILIAR AGROECOLÓGICA FEMININA NA PROMOÇÃO DE SEGURANÇA ALIMENTAR E NUTRICIONAL EM COMUNIDADES RURAIS

PROTOCOLO PARA REVISIÓN SISTEMÁTICA Y DIÁLOGO DELIBERATIVO: EL PAPEL DE LA PRODUCCIÓN FAMILIAR AGROECOLÓGICA FEMENINA EN LA PROMOCIÓN DE SEGURIDAD ALIMENTARIA Y NUTRICIONAL EN COMUNIDADES RURALES

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ABSTRACT

Food and nutritional insecurity are conditions that permeate the contemporary social context, especially in rural communities, emerging as a highly prioritized issue in the field of public health. In response to this reality, alternative food production systems are gaining strength, such as women-led agroecological family production, grounded in social, ecological, and economic sustainability, as well as food security promotion. **Objective:** to develop a protocol for a systematic review and deliberative dialogue to answer the question "What is the role of women-led agroecological family farming in promoting food security and nutrition in rural communities?". **Methods:** scope meetings of the research group to define the research question and produce analytical model based on the authors' close involvement in the proposed study area; adaptation of the Open Science Framework protocol structure, utilizing SUPPORT Tools and PRISMA Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses guidelines. **Results:** protocol for evidence synthesis for public policies, consisting of a systematic review and deliberative dialogue, aimed at exploring the role of women's family agroecological production on promoting food and nutritional security in rural communities, identifying strategies to strengthen this food production system. **Conclusion:** The research protocol guides the participatory development of the evidence synthesis, enabling the use of the document in the creation and evaluation of public policies in health and social assistance.

Keywords: Systematic Review; Food and Nutritional Security; Rural Population; Agroecology; Women.

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RESUMO

A insegurança alimentar e nutricional é uma condição que atravessa a realidade social contemporânea, em especial em comunidades rurais, emergindo como uma questão altamente prioritária no campo da saúde pública. Em resposta a essa realidade, sistemas alternativos de produção de alimento têm ganhado força, entre eles a produção familiar agroecológica feminina, baseada na sustentabilidade social, ecológica, e econômica, e promoção de segurança alimentar. **Objetivo:** desenvolver protocolo para revisão sistemática e diálogo deliberativo para responder à questão “Qual o papel da produção familiar agroecológica feminina na promoção da segurança alimentar e nutricional em comunidades rurais?”. **Métodos:** Reuniões de escopo do grupo de pesquisa para definição da pergunta de pesquisa e elaboração de modelo analítico a partir da proximidade de atuação das autoras da área de estudo proposta; adaptação da estrutura protocolar da Open Science Framework, com material da ferramenta SUPPORT e diretrizes Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. **Resultado:** Protocolo para síntese de evidências para políticas públicas, composta de revisão sistemática e diálogo deliberativo, que visa explorar o impacto da produção familiar agroecológica feminina na promoção de segurança alimentar e nutricional em comunidades rurais, identificando estratégias para fortalecimento desse sistema de produção de alimentos. **Conclusão:** O protocolo de pesquisa guia a elaboração participativa da síntese de evidências, possibilitando a utilização do documento na criação e avaliação de políticas públicas na área de saúde e assistência social.

Palavras-chave: Revisão Sistemática; Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional; População Rural; Agroecologia; Mulheres.

RESUMEN

La inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional es una condición que atraviesa la realidad social contemporánea, especialmente en comunidades rurales, y se presenta como una cuestión de alta prioridad en el ámbito de la salud pública. En respuesta a esta realidad, los sistemas alternativos de producción de alimentos han cobrado fuerza, entre ellos la producción familiar agroecológica femenina, basada en la sostenibilidad social, ecológica y económica, así como en la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria. **Objetivo:** Desarrollar un protocolo para una revisión sistemática y un diálogo deliberativo con el fin de responder a la pregunta: “¿Cuál es el papel de la producción familiar agroecológica femenina en la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en comunidades rurales?”. **Métodos:** Reuniones del grupo de investigación para definir la pregunta de investigación y elaborar un modelo analítico a partir de la experiencia directa de las autoras en el área de estudio propuesta; adaptación de la estructura protocolar del Open Science Framework, con materiales de la herramienta SUPPORT y directrices de los Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. **Resultados:** Protocolo para la síntesis de evidencias para políticas públicas, compuesto por una revisión sistemática y un diálogo deliberativo, cuyo objetivo es explorar el impacto de la producción familiar agroecológica femenina en la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en comunidades rurales, e identificar estrategias para el fortalecimiento de este sistema de producción de alimentos. **Conclusión:** El protocolo de investigación orienta el desarrollo participativo de la síntesis de evidencias, posibilitando el uso del documento en la formulación y evaluación de políticas públicas en salud y asistencia social.

Palabras clave: Revisión sistemática; Seguridad alimentaria y nutricional; Población rural; Agroecología; Mujeres.

INTRODUCTION

Food and nutritional insecurity is a condition that permeates contemporary social reality, emerging as a highly prioritized issue in assessing the health conditions of a population, as it can manifest in physical-biological consequences⁽¹⁾. Data from the report 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2025'⁽²⁾ indicate that 638 and 720 million people, corresponding to 7.8 and 8.8 percent of the global population, respectively, faced hunger in 2024. Estimates point to signs of a decrease in world hunger in recent years – 2022, 2023 and 2024 - driven by notable improvement in South-eastern Asia, Southern Asia and South America in contrast to the continuing rise in hunger in most subregions of Africa and in Western Asia. Despite its global character, this food crisis particularly affects countries and populations already vulnerable due to poverty, inequality, and deteriorated institutions and governance⁽³⁾. In Brazil, the National Survey on Food Insecurity in the Context of the Covid-19 Pandemic⁽⁴⁾ points to a percentage of 58.7% of the population experiencing food insecurity, with 28% categorized as mild food insecurity, 15.2% as moderate, and 15.5% as severe. Still within the Brazilian context, the rate of food security displays significant variations among population groups, especially between rural and urban households, as demonstrated by the Technical Note from the Institute of Applied Economic Research – IPEA⁽⁵⁾, which draws comparisons based on data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) Family Budget Survey (POF) of 2017-2018. The comparison of data from the years 2004, 2009, 2013, and 2018 reveals a pattern: the percentage of the three levels of food insecurity (mild, moderate, and severe) consistently attains higher values in rural households.

In Brazil, significant actions in the promotion of food security and nutrition have been undertaken, such as the National Conferences on Food and Nutritional Security in 1994, 2004, 2007, 2011, 2015 and 2023; the establishment of the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security (Conselho Nacional de de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional/CONSEA); the regulation of the Organic Law of Food and Nutritional Security (Lei Orgânica de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional/LOSAN); the establishment of the National Policy on Food and Nutritional Security (Política Nacional de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional/PNSAN), and the incorporation of food into the social rights outlined in the Federal Constitution. These

and other policies played a crucial role in removing Brazil from the UN World Hunger Map, in 2014. However, the country's return to the Hunger Map in 2019, coupled with the dismantling of organizations that promote food security - such as the removal of CONSEA from the list of bodies integrated into Sisan and the ministerial structure under former presidency 2019/2023 - once again brought the issue of food to the forefront of popular needs.

The reestablishment of CONSEA and the prioritization of the Food and Nutritional Security agenda, along with the reconstitution of programs such as Bolsa Família and the National School Feeding Program (Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar/PNAE), enabled Brazil's removal from the FAO's Hunger Map for the second time in 2025. Although the data indicate significant advances in reducing food insecurity, hunger remains and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups of the population. This situation signals a favorable institutional and popular political environment for the creation of public policies and, consequently, the need to organize scientific evidence in the field. Moreover, the emphasis on evidence aims to connect these policies with the human right to adequate food by observing "social, cultural, environmental, ethnic-racial diversities, gender equity, and sexual orientation" and by promoting "sustainable agroecological-based systems for the production and distribution of food that respect biodiversity and strengthen family farming, [...] ensuring the consumption and access to adequate and healthy nutrition, respecting the diversity of the national food culture," as outlined in objectives II and III of the PNSAN.

Agroecology is the combination of research, education, action, and changes that promote sustainability for all parts of the food system: ecological, economic, and social. It is transdisciplinary, as it values different forms of knowledge and experiences aimed at transforming the food system. It is participatory, requiring the involvement of all stakeholders, from farmers to consumers. It is action-oriented, as it challenges economic and political structures of the current food system through alternative social structures and political actions ⁽⁶⁾.

Based on this reality, the hypothesis of the project is that women-led agroecological family farming promotes food security and nutrition in rural communities. The project commits to facilitating the application of existing scientific knowledge for the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies

that promote food security and nutrition in rural communities by agroecological practices in environments led by women. The project aims to develop a protocol for systematic review and deliberative dialogue on the topic "The Role of Women-Led Agroecological Family Farming in Promoting Food and Nutritional Security in Rural Communities".

METHODS

The decision on the project's theme was made through scope meetings of the research group to define the research question and analytical model based on the authors' close involvement in the proposed study area. The first author is a member of Jovens Pelo Clima Brasília, an anti-capitalist social movement advocating for climate and social justice, representing the Distrito Federal chapter of Fridays For Future International, known for the activism of young Greta Thunberg. Among the various activities of the movement – in the institutional sphere, political education, scientific dissemination, direct action, and grassroots work – is the partnership with the Agroecological Association of Rural Women from the Canaã Settlement (AAMRAC, Associação Agroecológica de Mulheres Rurais do Assentamento Canaã in Portuguese). This association is composed of female farmers from the Landless Workers' Movement (MST) who produce food using agroecological techniques. Part of the partnership consists of support for activities related to the preparation of garden beds and planting of vegetables (Figure 1) for consumption by the farmers' families and for sale at the solidarity economy market. The direct involvement with women farmers who lead the agroecological movement in their territories sparked the authors' interest in conducting an evidence synthesis through the development of a systematic review to support the realization of deliberative dialogue in order to support public policies promoting food security and nutrition in rural communities.

Figure 1 - Record of the agroecological planting collective effort



Source: Jovens Pelo Clima via Instagram, 17 nov. 2023 @jovenspeloclimabsb

The design of the protocol for the systematic review and deliberative dialogue was based on the adapted protocol structure used by the open science platform Open Science Framework. It also utilized SUPPORT Tools (SUPporting POlicy relevant Reviews and Trials) for evidence-informed health policymaking (STP)⁽⁷⁾ and the PRISMA reporting guideline (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), which primarily provides guidance for the reporting of systematic reviews evaluating the effects of interventions⁽⁸⁾.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result, the protocol document for the systematic review and deliberative dialogue of the project "Role of women-led agroecological family farming in promoting food security and nutrition in rural communities" was obtained. The protocol is organized into eight stages: i) Preliminary searches and question-

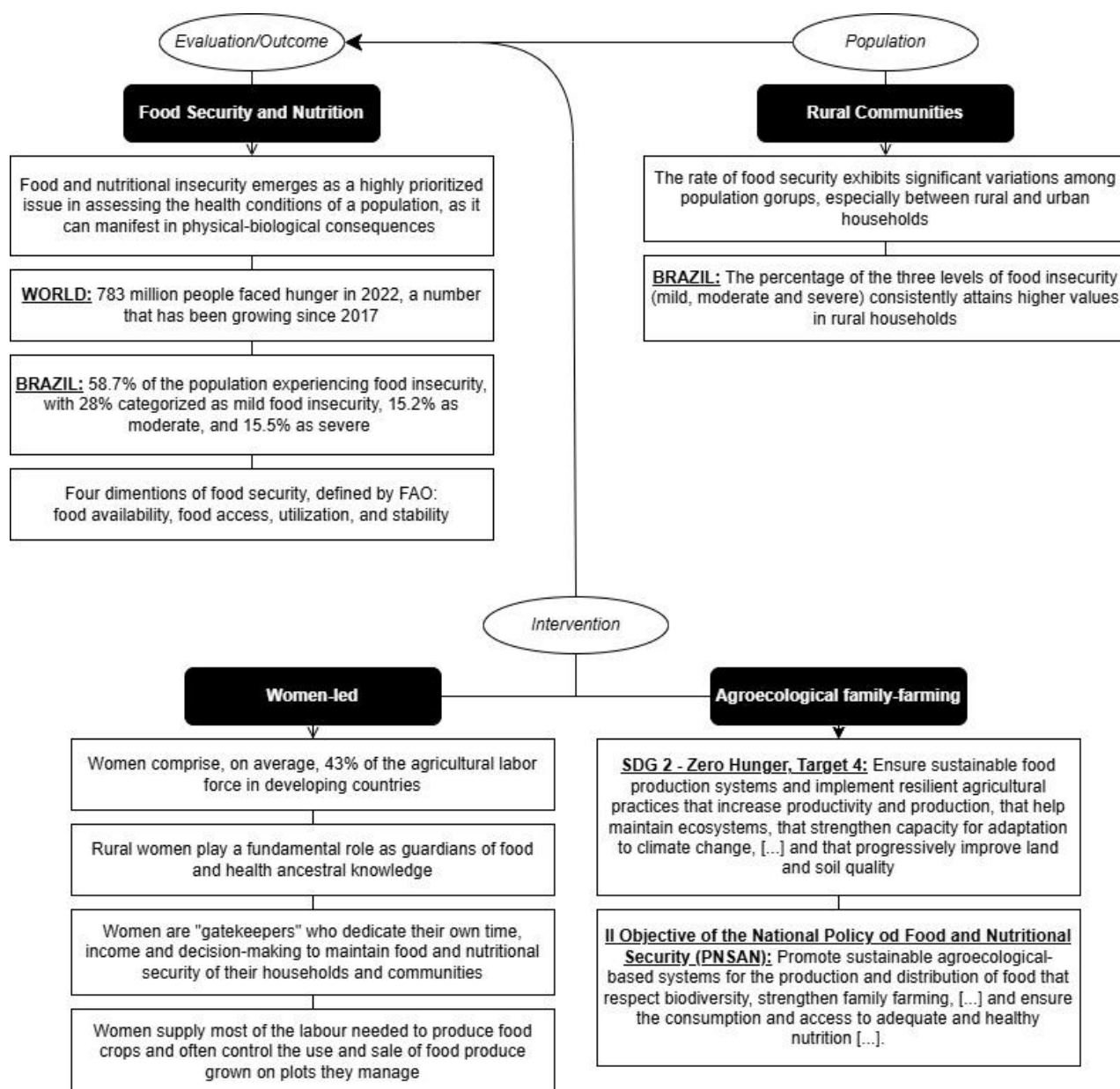
definition; ii) Research ethics committee and open science platform; iii) Search strategy; iv) Screening; v) Data extraction; vi) Synthesis and quality assessment; vii) Deliberative dialogue; and viii) Synthesis update and dissemination.

Preliminary searches and question definition: *Identify the existence of recently published systematic reviews on the topic of the present review and formulate the research question.*

Prior research in electronic databases was conducted to identify the existence of recently published systematic reviews on the topic of the present review. The initial search was guided by the four main MeSH descriptors: Rural Population, Women, Organic Agriculture, and Food Security. The search strategy was executed in the following databases: Epistemonikos, Collaboration For Environmental Evidence, and JBI Evidence Synthesis.

For the question definitions, the SPICE structure was used, characterized by the acronym: S - setting: rural areas; P - population: rural population; I - intervention: women-led agroecology family farming; C - comparator: not applied; and E - evaluation: food security and nutrition promotion; synthesized as: "What is the role of women-led agroecological family farming in promoting food security and nutrition in rural communities?".

Figure 3 – Analytical Model



Source: Created by the authors.

References: "POLICY Brief: Food Security. Agriculture and Development Economics Division (ESA), 2006. 4 p."; "FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11: Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development. Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2011. ISBN 9789251067680."; "OVERVIEW: Food Security. Rural Women: Empower Women - End Hunger and Poverty. 2012."; "TRANSFORMING our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."; "Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, 2015. 35 p."; "BRASIL. Decreto nº 7.272, de 25 de agosto de 2010. Decreto nº 7.272, de 25 de agosto de 2010."

Research ethics committee and open science platform: *Submit the research project for ethical analysis and approval and publicize the research protocol*

comienza a adquirirse a edades tempranas. Durante el trabajo de campo, se ha identificado su aprendizaje desde los seis años.

Part of the project methodology involves conducting a deliberative dialogue with stakeholders, which occurs after the completion of evidence synthesis. The dialogue aims to integrate research evidence with perspectives, experiences, and tacit knowledge of those who will be involved or affected by future decisions related to a highly prioritized issue. Stakeholder engagement demands that the project undergo ethical review by the Research Ethics Committee (CEP), ensuring the safety, protection, and rights of research participants. Submission was made via Plataforma Brasil (<https://plataformabrasil.saude.gov.br/login.jsf>)*.

The project protocol will be published on the Open Science Framework (OSF) platform, making the entire evidence synthesis strategy public and contributing to a more transparent and accessible scientific research.

Search strategy: *Run the search to obtain all potentially relevant sources to review.*

The selection of electronic bibliographic databases to be used in the literature review depends on the determined research area. The interdisciplinary nature of the proposed study required the inclusion of databases related to agriculture in addition to the health databases already utilized by the PEPTS research group in previous projects. Therefore, five agricultural databases - Bases de Dados da Pesquisa Agropecuária EMBRAPA (BDPA), Open Access and Scholarly Information System (OASISBR), AGRIS (FAO), BioOne Digital Library, and International Food Policy Research Institute's Institutional Repository (IFPRI Library) - were added to the five health electronic databases - Scopus (Elsevier), Web of Science (Coleção Principal), MEDLINE/PubMed (via National Library of Medicine), Cochrane Library, Biblioteca Virtual em Saúde (BVS), and Red de Revistas Científicas de América Latina y el Caribe, España y Portugal (REDALYC). Health databases with studies with non- pharmacological intervention were prioritized.

The search criteria limited studies to those in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, with no restrictions on the publication period. For international databases, searches were conducted in English, using descriptors selected via

MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). The primary keywords, each associated with its MeSH Unique ID, are as follows: Rural Population (D012424), Rural Health (D012423), Organic Agriculture (D058871), Food Security (D000082302), Access to Healthy Foods (D000091483), Food Insecurity (D000084884), Women (D014930), and Working Women (D014931). For national databases - BDPA e OASIS.BR - searches were conducted in Portuguese, using common terminology via DeCS (Descritores em Ciências da Saúde). The primary keywords are: População Rural, Saúde da População Rural, Agricultura Orgânica, Segurança Alimentar, Acesso a Alimentos Saudáveis, Insegurança Alimentar, Mulheres, and Mulheres Trabalhadoras. The entry terms associated with the English and Portuguese primary keywords, shown in Tables 1 and 2, were also used in the construction of the search strategy. The final search strategies for each bibliographic database are available in Appendix 1. Searches will be re-run prior to the final analysis and publication of the final evidence synthesis.

Table 1 - MeSH Entry Terms

Rural Population (D012424) Population, Rural Populations, Rural Rural Populations Rural Spatial Distribution Distribution, Rural Spatial Distributions, Rural Spatial Rural Spatial Distributions Rural Residence Residence, Rural Rural Residences Rural Communities Communities,Rural Community, Rural Rural Community <i>*Rural Settlement</i> <i>*Rural Settlements</i>	Organic Agriculture (D058871) Agriculture, Organic Organic Farms Farm, Organic Farms, Organic Organic Farm Organic Gardens Garden, Organic Gardens, Organic Organic Garden Organic Farming Farming, Organic Organic Gardening Gardening, Organic <i>*Sustainable Agriculture</i> <i>*Agroecology</i> <i>*Agroecological</i> <i>*Ecological Agriculture</i> <i>*Multifaceted Agriculture</i> <i>*Multifunctional Agriculture</i> <i>*Sustaining Agriculture</i> <i>*Sustainable Food System</i>
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Food Security (D000082302) Security, Food <i>*Household Food Security</i> Access to Healthy Foods (D000091483) Healthy Food Availability Availability, Healthy Food Food Availabilities, Healthy Food Availability, Healthy Healthy Food Availabilities Availability of Healthy Foods Foods Availabilities, Healthy Foods Availability, Healthy Healthy Foods Availabilities Healthy Foods Availability Access to Health Food <i>*Food and Nutritional Health Promotion</i> <i>*Dietary Advocacy</i> <i>*Food Advocacy</i> <i>*Food and Nutrition Security</i> <i>*Food Rights</i> <i>*Nutritional Advocacy</i> <i>*Nutritional Rights</i> <i>*Right Adequate Food</i> <i>*Right Food</i> <i>*Security, Food</i> <i>*Food Promotion</i> Food Insecurity (D000084884) Food Insecurities Insecurities, Food Insecurity, Food	Women (D014930) Girls Girl Woman Women's GroupsWomen Groups Women's Group Women, Working (D014931) Woman, Working Working Woman Working Women <i>*Gender</i> <i>*Female Leadership</i> <i>*Women Leadership</i> <i>*Women Empowerment</i> <i>*Female Led</i> <i>*Women Led</i>
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*The terms in italics following the asterisk were added manually. Primary keywords and their MeSH

Unique ID in bold formatting, followed by their respective entry terms

Source: Created by the authors.

Table 2 - DeCS Descriptors and Alternative Terms

População Rural (D012424) Assentamento Rural Assentamentos Rurais Comunidade Rural Comunidades Rurais Domicílio Rural Habitação Rural Pequenas ComunidadesPopulação Agrícola Populações Agrícolas Populações Rurais Residência Rural Residências Rurais Saúde da População Rural (D012423) Saúde do Trabalhador RuralSaúde Rural	Agricultura Orgânica (D058871) Agricultura Biológica Agricultura Ecológica Agricultura SaudávelProdução Orgânica <i>*Agricultura Sustentável</i> <i>*Agroecologia</i> <i>*Agroecológica</i> <i>*Agricultura Multifuncional</i> <i>*Agricultura familiar</i>
Segurança Alimentar (D000082302) Direito à Alimentação Direito à uma Alimentação Adequada Direitos Nutricionais Garantia de Alimentos Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional	Mulheres (D014930) Meninas Mulher Mulheres Trabalhadoras (D014931) Trabalhadora

Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional (SAN) Segurança Nutricional Acesso a Alimentos Saudáveis (D000091483) Acesso a Alimento Saudável Disponibilidade de Alimentos Saudáveis Insegurança Alimentar (D000084884)	Trabalhadoras Trabalho Feminino <i>*Gênero</i> <i>*Liderança feminina</i> <i>*Empoderamento feminino</i>
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*The terms in italics following the asterisk were added manually. Primary keywords and their MeSH

Unique ID in bold formatting, followed by their respective entry terms

Source: Created by the authors.

Screening: *Eliminate all irrelevant sources from the results of the search strategy (and retain the relevant sources).*

The records identified through database searching and additional records identified through other sources will undergo three screening stages: i) Deduplication procedure; ii) First screening based on title and abstract; iii) Second screening based on full texts. Citations for records were managed using Zotero software (<https://www.zotero.org/>), in which they underwent a deduplication procedure. After the deduplication process, the citations were uploaded to Rayyan software (<https://www.rayyan.ai/>), which simplified the documentation of decisions during the two subsequent screenings for eligibility assessment. The first screening selected studies based on the reading of titles and abstracts, followed by the second screening, which involved the evaluation of full texts. In both screenings, one reviewer [DRR] selected studies based on predefined eligibility criteria (Table 3), while the other [FTS] evaluated the studies selection process. Any disagreements were resolved through dialogue between the two reviewers. The screening process will be shared in the final article using the 'PRISMA 2020 flow diagram for new systematic reviews which included searches of databases and registers only'. The exclusion of studies in the second screening will be justified and shared in a table.

Table 3 - Exclusion Criteria

SPICE Structure	Exclusion Criteria
<u>Setting:</u> Rural areas	Urban areas
<u>Population:</u> Rural population	Populations located in urban areas
<u>Intervention:</u> Women-led agroecology family farming	Male-led, conventional farming
<u>Evaluation/Outcome:</u> Food and nutritional security	Outcomes that are inconsistent with the four dimensions of food security established by FAO: food availability, food access, utilization, and stability
<u>Types of study</u>	Commentaries

Source: Created by the authors.

Data extraction: *Extract the relevant data from the included sources.*

Data variables that were extracted: Title, Author/Year, DOI, Country, Study Type, Objective, Population, Type of woman-led (individual, familiar, communitary network, governamental, entrepreneur/commercial), Agroecological characteristics, Strategies for female leadership, Strategies for food and nutritional health promotion, Food security and nutrition ('Food availability', 'Food access', 'Utilization', and 'Stability'), Barriers of Implementation, Conclusion of the paper's authors. One reviewer [DRR] will extract data, and another [FTS] will check the extracted data. Disagreements between individual judgements will be resolved through dialogue between the two reviewers. Data will be recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.

Synthesis and Quality Assessment: *Present the relevant data in a qualitative synthesis and ensure the reliability, validity, and quality of the selected studies.*

Data extracted from the selected studies will be organized into a qualitative synthesis. The qualitative synthesis aims not only to systematize the relevant results obtained from data extraction but also to present them in a structure that facilitates

their use for developing, implementing, and evaluating public policies related to health and social assistance. Thus, graphical resources - such as tables and diagrams - will be utilized to make the material more accessible for researchers, public policy workers, managers, and civil society. In-depth analysis and discussion will be formatted as text. Conclusions will be drawn based on the significance level of the strategies, as defined by the analysis of the selected studies.

The methodological quality (or risk of bias) of the primary studies will be assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute's critical appraisal tools⁽⁹⁾. The methodological quality of the systematic review will be evaluated using AMSTAR 2⁽¹⁰⁾. Two reviewers [DRR and FTS] will be involved in the quality assessment. Disagreements between reviewers' judgments will be resolved by dialogue.

Deliberative Dialogue: *Involve stakeholders of communities and civil society to contextualize the evidence synthesis and consider tacit knowledge of implementation aspects*

Founded on the synthesized evidence, a deliberative dialogue will be conducted. This step aims to encourage collaborative production of scientific knowledge, allowing the bibliographical research evidence to be considered together with the views, experiences and tacit knowledge of stakeholders involved with the issue. A significant portion of the selected studies originates from countries other than Brazil. Therefore, deliberative dialogue enriches the results by contextualizing the evidence nationally and locally, considering the social, political, economic, environmental, logistical, and strategic particularities. Developing evidence synthesis for public policies requires the recognition that bibliographic evidence is only one input into the decision-making processes of policymakers. Furthermore, there is still a gap in knowledge between the bibliographically described and the tacit knowledge acquired by frontline agents addressing the analyzed issue, in this case, the promotion of food security and nutrition in rural communities. In this way, the dialogue contributes not only to the valorization of tacit knowledge but also to the recognition of those who possess it and will be directly affected by public policies in the field.

The choice of dialogue as a method for civil society participation was made because it offers suitable opportunities for supporting constructive interaction and identifying shared ground. The deliberative dialogue will follow the Chatham House

Rule: "Participants are free to use the information received during the meeting, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed"⁽¹¹⁾.

The first step in preparing for deliberative dialogue involves contacting people who will be involved in, or affected by, future decisions about the issue addressed by this project, such as female farmers (particularly the ones who produces in agroecological systems); policymakers in the national/sub-national governments; managers in districts/regions, healthcare institutions, and non-governmental organizations; members of civil society groups; researchers; etc. Prior to the deliberative dialogue, participants will be provided with materials to familiarize themselves with the research findings. These materials include the executive summary of the evidence synthesis and an infographic. Additionally, a preliminary individual opinion survey will be conducted through a Google Forms questionnaire.

During the dialogue, there will be an initial presentation of the results obtained from the literature review. Opportunities will be provided for participants to contribute. To ensure adherence to the rules that maintain a safe dialogue environment, mediators will be present, along with rapporteurs to systematize the dialogue outcomes.

Synthesis update and dissemination: *Update the evidence synthesis with the results from the deliberative dialogue and ensure accessible dissemination of the results*

The dialogue and its resulting report will serve as a foundation for updating the evidence synthesis. Thus, the "discussion" section of the evidence synthesis will be written based on the cross-referencing of bibliographic and qualitative data from the deliberative dialogue.

Formal and informal platforms will be used to disseminate the results of the literature review and deliberative dialogue, making the collected data accessible to researchers, policymakers, and the general public. Among the platforms to be used are:

- Conferences, symposia, and seminars;
- Fiocruz Annual Scientific Initiation Meeting (RAIC, Reunião Anual de Iniciação Científica da Fiocruz in Portuguese);

- Website and social media channels of the Fiocruz Communication Office (Ascom, Assessoria de Comunicação in Portuguese);
- Social media platforms of partners, such as the Agroecological Association of Rural Women from Canaã Settlement (AAMRAC, Associação Agroecológica de Mulheres Rurais do Assentamento Canaã in Portuguese), Brazilian Observatory of Food Habits (OBHA, Observatório Brasileiro de Hábitos Alimentares), Youth for Climate Brasília (JPC, Jovens Pelo Clima Brasília), among others.

In addition to the evidence synthesis document, there is the possibility of creating various materials tailored to specific audiences and dissemination goals for the project.

CONCLUSION

The writing and publication of the research protocol for evidence synthesis for public policies contributes theoretically and methodologically to the crucial process of creating, implementing, and evaluating public policies in health and social assistance. The stages of the construction of the systematic review enable the planning, searching, and selecting of studies for writing a document that synthesizes the evidence found. This document is designed to compile the evidence described in the bibliography from various countries, highlight the obstacles and facilitators encountered, and organize all this information in a format that is serviceable for professionals, communities and civil society.

Deliberative dialogue contributes to this process by allowing the participation of stakeholders who are directly involved and affected by the issue addressed. Considering the practical application and recognizing certain limitations of bibliographic evidence when applied to the Brazilian context, the dialogue aims to strengthen citizen science. Including the population in the research project contributes not only to valuing diverse types of knowledge - tacit, popular, technical, traditional, and ancestral - beyond the scientific, but also enriches the document, facilitating its translation into health policies.

The utilization of the final evidence synthesis document - updated with the results of the deliberative dialogue - by analysts, consultants, managers, and researchers of public policies aims to directly contribute to the encouragement and

strengthening of agroecological initiatives led by women to promote food security and nutrition in rural communities. The final document and its reconstructions in the form of executive summary and infographic will also be directed to civil society, serving as reference material for demands aimed at politicians and other decision-makers.

The execution of the protocol will allow for the evaluation of its applicability, mistakes, and successes. Maintaining a channel for ongoing debate and updates of the protocol enables it to progress towards optimizing research methodology, aiming for a more democratic, participatory, decolonial approach focused on public health policies, and recognizing the autonomy of key populations.

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