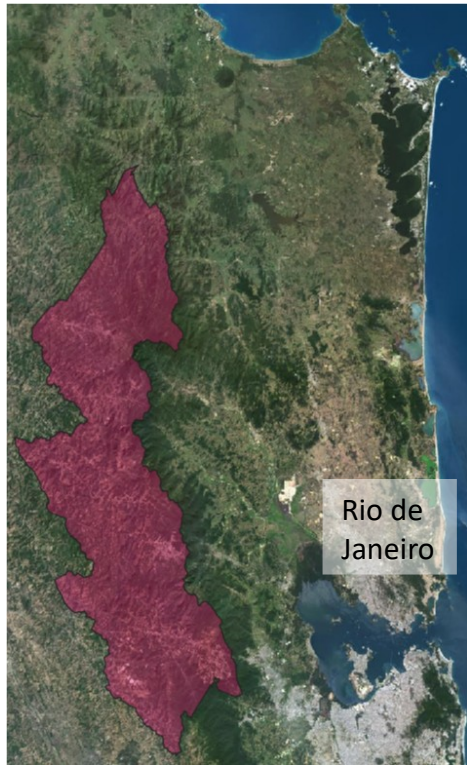


Sierra Fluminense – Brazil



Serra do Rio

Sierra Fluminense can be characterized as a mountainous region, with a tropical climate of high altitude (with average temperatures ranging from 18o C to 22o C) and significant presence of family farming. Rurality in this space is influenced not only by agriculture but, also, by other territorial dynamics including urban sprawl, the implementation of environmental conservation units, real estate speculation and rural-based industrial activities linked mostly to the textile sector. These processes are closely related to the connections historically established between the Sierra Fluminense and the Metropolitan Region of Rio de Janeiro. During the past decades the commercial production of vegetables based in conventional technologies consolidated as the main economic activity of the vast majority of farmers. From the late 1970s onwards, some of the pioneering experiences in alternative agriculture began to emerge in different municipalities, motivating the structuring of different grassroots associations and a variety of circuits for the commercialization of organic products. Also noteworthy was the structuring, from the 2000s onwards, of a participatory guarantee system for organic production, which greatly contributed to the qualification and expansion of the commercialization of organic products. Research was conducted taking into account two distinct and interconnected territorial levels including: (i) Serra Fluminense, with its 22 municipalities and special attention to the connections established with the Metropolitan Region; (ii) the municipalities of Petrópolis, Teresópolis and Nova Friburgo selected as research sites for their relevance in the emergence of alternative paths for the development of agriculture and food supply.



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TERRITORIAL FOOD SYSTEM



Type of region Urban areas

	Quantitative/objective data	Qualitative assessment and trends
Approximate size and population	689.457 inh; 2.739,763 km ² ; Nova Friburgo: 204,9 inh/km ² ; Teresópolis: 241,1 inh/km ² ; Petrópolis: 384,1 inh/km ²	Relatively stable in the last two decades
Main social issues	Medium level of poverty, closely related to forms of access to and ownership of agricultural areas (owners, tenants...) Unemployment: around 12.5% (national average 14.7%)	Significant presence of sharecroppers and tenants, land deregulation (especially Teresópolis).
Type of agriculture	1-20ha	Specialization in conventional horticulture
Presence of agroecological systems	Certified organic producers: Nova Friburgo 0,82%, Teresópolis 1,99%, Petrópolis 13,18%	Since the 1990s, ecologically-based production has been closely linked to organic agriculture, being mostly certified by one of the associations that assumed an important role in this regard from this period on.
Short circuits (and anteriority)		
Specific agri-food system dynamics and initiatives (and anteriority)		

AGRIFOOD TRANSITION



Main stakes for the transition

Contamination by pesticides / Property area restrictions

Key obstacles to AE transition

Territorial containment, especially difficulty in structuring containment barriers to conventional production and guaranteeing water resources for irrigation without risk of contamination. Material and symbolic consistency of socio-technical networks around specialized agriculture around the production of vegetables in a conventional system

Leading actors in the transition

Farmers, with many "neo-rurals"; Associação dos agricultores biológicos do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; Associação agroecológica de Teresópolis

Institutionalisation of the agrifood transition

Especially at the national level, locally with an emphasis on policies aimed at organic agriculture. At the state level, the program Rio Rural and the recent institutionalization of the state policy on organic production and agroecology deserves to be highlighted.

Actors excluded from projects

3 innovative initiatives

Name

Group dynamics to carry out participatory certification in organic agriculture

Name

Organization of direct marketing fairs and groups of farmers to participate in them

Name

texte

Case study local
partners