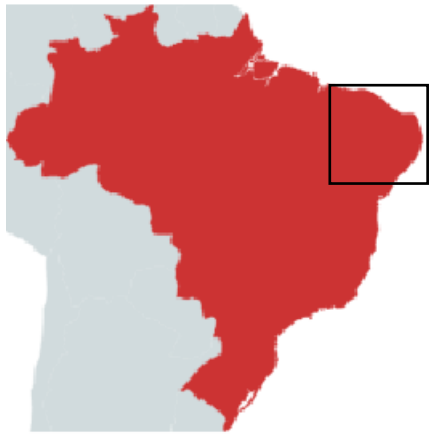


Borborema



Borborema is a semiarid rural region in Paraíba, Brazil. Its agriculture is characterised by a predominance of family farming (90%), with small farm units and diversified agroecosystems. Key concerns such as water security, resource accessibility, gender inequalities, and rural violence have catalysed the emergence of a strong family farming network as well as a prominent women farmers' movement.

Originating from resistance and advocacy movements within peasant agriculture in Paraíba's agreste region, the Polo da Borborema was created in the early 1990s and today brings together municipal rural workers' unions, over 150 community associations, a regional organization of agroecological farmers, and a cooperative of family farm producers. It currently mobilizes a social basis of around 5000 farming families and over the last three decades supported a continuous process of technical-productive, economic, and socio-organizational innovation while gaining in recognition and legitimacy. The collaboration of the Polo da Borborema with the non-governmental organization AS-PTA, a key actor of the development of the agroecological paradigm in Brazil, has fertilized the construction and permanent renewal of methodological proposals, of training, of production of knowledge and of intervention in the local reality, in an open-ended perspective.



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Type of region Rural regions with diversified agriculture

	Quantitative/objective data	Qualitative assessment and trends
Approximate size and population	628,581 inhabitants; 3,341.7 Km ²	stable, but with a tendency for depopulation in rural areas
Main social issues	Unemployment: 15,8% in the state of Paraíba, national average 14,7% (April 2021)	Unequal distribution of land and natural resources; growing violence in rural areas
Type of agriculture	27,564 agricultural establishments (2006 IBGE Agricultural Census), of which 24,745 (90.76%) were family farmers; <10% of non-family farmers concentrate 56.88% of the land = large land concentration in the Borborema's Territory	Diverse. fruit growing, grains, horticulture and cattle
Presence of agroecological systems	5,700 families actively involved in processes of agroecological innovation in the 14 municipalities under Borborema Pole area	Network of Community Seed Banks
Short circuits (and anteriority)		
Specific agri-food system dynamics and initiatives (and anteriority)		Traditional and new short food supply chains X growing presence of supermarkets and consumption of ultraprocessed foods; Active campaigns and communication action around the agroecological network



Main stakes for the transition Desertification processes, access to water, longer droughts / Poverty, dismantling of public policies, patriarchal culture

Key obstacles to AE transition	Several issues. Emerging discussion on wind energy in the territory, access to land, growing violence in rural areas
Leading actors in the transition	local authorities; universities, AS-PTA, Embrapa; Polo da Borborema (unions network); CSOs
Institutionalisation of the agrifood transition	Regional networks such as ASA PB
Actors excluded from projects	

3 innovative initiatives

Name

texte

Name

texte

Name

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Case study local
partners