Chapter 160

Socioeconomic characterization of family farmers in the community of Pereira, municipality of Águas Formosas/MG

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ABSTRACT
Given the relevance of family farming to the Brazilian economy (Abramovay, 1998), the present study aimed to analyze the socioeconomic characteristics of family farmers in the Pereira community, in the municipality of Águas Formosas/MG. Therefore, an applied, exploratory, descriptive and qualitative research was carried out in which the technical instruments used for data collection were semi-structured interviews. Of those interviewed, 54% own areas smaller than 10 hectares, most of them have the deed to the land, practice a very diversified small-scale agriculture, 86% do not receive technical assistance, 28% live only on what they produce, have an income between R$1,600.00 to R$3,450.00, 57.1% have funding with resources from PRONAF and 54% of respondents have not finished elementary school. It was possible to perceive that the producers have a low level of education, they cannot support themselves only from the activity practiced in the field, they lack technical assistance, technology and access to public policies. Based on the results, public policies for family farming should: facilitate access to technical assistance; allow tenure regularization; implement business development programs; and seek production improvements with practices aimed at inserting technology in line with the preservation of the environment.

Keywords: Agricultural Families, Permanence in the Countryside, Public Political Statement.

1 INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the process of occupation of The Brazilian territory, family farming – long called subsistence agriculture – is part of the routine of the country's productive activities. Farmers were disadvantaged social groups in relation to government funding and incentives, which had been marginalised until then in terms of access to agricultural policy benefits, as well as termed by terms such as small producers, family producers and low-income producers. From the moment the Brazilian State beginsto gain access to financing benefits, with the creation of the National Program for the Strengthening of Family Agriculture (PRONAF) in 1996 by the Brazilian State, they begin to be recognized in a new social category – family farmers (Mattei, 2014).

Some basic characteristics were established for the family farmer to be recognized. For the purposes of Law No. 11,326 of July 24, 2006, it is considered a family farmer and rural family entrepreneur who is rural and for activities in rural areas, while meeting the following requirements: do not have, in any way, an area greater than four (4) fiscal modules; predominantly use hand of work of the family itself in the economic activities of its establishment or enterprise; have any part of the family income originated from the economic activities of your establishment or enterprise and direct your establishment or enterprise with your family (Law No. 11,326 of July 24, 2006).

Costa, Junior and Silva (2015) reproduce Abramovay's argument (1998),, saying that family farming, despite having the lowest proportion of land, is more expressive in quantity, generates more work and income, besides contributing with higher production per cultivated area.

Contributing to this important debate, this study aimed to analyze the socioeconomic characteristics of the family farmers of the Pereira Comunidade, seeking to produce scientific data on this subject. Among the justifications for the present study is the importance of the population and public agencies having in science the socioeconomic conditions of these families, in order to provide the opening for possible implementationof public policies, aiming at maintaining families in the field and improving the quality of life of these people, since, in Brazil, according to data from the last agricultural census, only 20.1% of family producers receive technical guidance. Of the total agricultural establishments, 77% are represented by family farming, which accounts for more than 23% of the gross value of agricultural production (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 2019).

This article consists of four more sections, in addition to this Introduction. Section 2 presents the literature review, the conceitos and definitions of what is familiar agriculture and, soon after, presents the economic importance that this sector has in Brazil, and how rural public policies influence the permanence in the field. Section 3 presents the methodology used to achieve the objectives of the article. Section 4 presents the results of the work and section 5 presents the final considerations.

2 THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

2.1 FAMILY FARMING

There are two main forms of agricultural production, being agribusiness,also called employer's agriculture and family farming. There is no universal definition of what "Family Agriculture" is (Oliveira *et al*., 2020). However, several institutions, such as The Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company (EMATER), the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) among others, present their concepts and definitions. However, the expression began to be used recently, in the mid-1980s and with greater use in the following decade, to designate agricultural production through family work in a small rural property (Almeida, 2013).

Lacerda *et al*. (2010, p.42) states that "family farming is a form of production, where the interaction between management and work predominates, the direction of the production process by family farmers, with emphasis on diversification [...]" , uthat is, in family farming there is the use of labor, mostly of the family itself, being the contracting surplus, low or null. The production is intended in part for the support of the family and only the surplus part of these products is marketed. There is on-site *decision-making*, conditioned by the specificities of the production process and with emphasis on the use of internal insums (Almeida, 2013).

In Brazilian legislation, the definition of family property is contained in item II of Article 4 of the Land Statute, established by Law No. 4,504 of November 30, 1964, that "Family Property" is the rural property that, directly and personally exploited by the farmer and his family, absorbs the entire workforce, guaranteeing them subsistence and social and economic progress, with maximum area fixed for each region and type of exploitation, and eventually work with the help of third parties (Law No. 4,504 of November 30, 1964).

To define a rural property in small or medium, there is Law No. 8,629 of February 25, 1993, Art. 4, items II and III in which the following definition is set out in its wording:

> Art. 4 º For the purposes of this law, the following are conceptualized:
> II - Small Property - the rural property:
> a) up to four fiscal modules, respected the minimum fraction of installments;
> III - Medium Property - the rural property:
> a) of an area greater than 4 (four) and up to fifteen (fifteen) fiscal modules (Law No. 8,629, of February 25, 1993).

The fiscal module is a unit of measure, in hectares, whose value is fixed by INCRA for each municipality taking into account: (a) the predominant type of exploitation in the municipality (hortifrutigranjeira, permanent culture, temporary culture, livestock or forestry); (b) the income obtained in the predominant type of exploitation; (c) other holdings in the municipality that, although not predominant, are significant depending on the income or area used; and (d) the concept of "family property". The size of a fiscal module varies according to the municipality where the property is located (Law No. 6,746, of December 10, 1979).

Family farming is a deeply heterogeneous universe, with regional diversities that influence the availability of resources, market access, income generation capacity and accumulation (Buainain *et al*., 2003). However, in some countries, the concept is very broad and has no restriction on the size of the property and the levels of income and production (Oliveira *et al*., 2020). According to Zachow and Plein (2018), most scholars disagree with the issues of property size and income, but it is perceived that, even in this simplistic definition, which disconsiders social factors, property management is contemplated.

According to Graf (2016), family farming, for the most part, is a form of social organization that aims at the continuity of family heritage, represented by the land, through its descendants. The farmers seek, among their children, a successor who remains in the rural property, thus determining the referral of the rural establishment and the way of transmitting the patrimony, bringing the idea of heredity.

In agribusiness, agricultural activities use intensive production (mechanization and chemistry) and scale techniques, which generates increased production and productivity. There is a complete separation between management and work, emphasis on standardized agricultural practices, predominant wage work and technologies aimed at eliminating "land" and "moment" decisions (Almeida, 2013; Sauer, 2008; Veiga, 1996).

2.2 ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY FARMING

According to Rocha *et al*.(2019, p.106), "in the case of Brazil, agriculture stands out among the largest in the world and represents a source of food and raw material for many countries, and this highlight comes from numerous efforts over time".

More specifically, it has been that the participation of Family Agriculture in Brazil is of paramount importance for the economy, since it supplies the table of families (Berchin*et al*.,2019), generates income, contributes to regional development and the preservation of the environment. In the agricultural sector, 77% of establishments are represented by family farming, which accounts for more than 23% of the gross value of production. In addition, family farming accounts for approximately 60% of the production of all food consumed in the country employing 74% of the people employed in the field (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatistic, 2019).

According to the 2017 Agricultural Census, the hiring of labor with third-party intermediation in family farming grew 143% compared to the last census made in 2006. Family farming, besides being the social basis of an economically viable project, is a social category that generates more work and income for society (Abramovay, 1998; Costa *et al*., 2015; Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, 2019).

Guillotine et al. (2007) pointed out that family production is not only a slowing factor of the phenomenon of rural exodus and a source of resources for families with lower incomes, but also has an important contribution to the generation of wealth. However, they present the insufficiency of land, credit difficulties, the lower technological contribution, the fragility of technical assistance and the underutilization of the labor force.

2.3 PERMANENCE IN THE FIELD: PUBLIC POLICIES

Family farmers have always been disadvantaged social groups in relation to government funding and incentives, marginalized in terms of access to agricultural policy benefits, as well as designated by terms such as small producers, family producers and low-income producers (Mattei, 2014). According to Aquino, Gazolla and Schneider (2018), the absolute majority of Brazilian family farmers are extremely poor or poor/intermediate producers.

Görgen (2004) defines public policies for family agriculture as actions and policies that are up to governments to develop peasant agriculture and food production, distribute income, develop the interior of Brazil and build a true economic and social democracy in the sovereign nation.

However, Abramovay (1998) points out that there is a significant space to be occupied by family farmers whose performance, however, will depend fundamentally on their capacity for local organization and pressure on public and private institutions to change the matrix of their social insertion, that is,

> family farming is the social basis of an economically viable project. There is a clear awareness that not only does it have a majority social weight, but also that it could fill a decisive function (and in some regions and some sectors it already does) in its own agricultural supply (Abramovay, 1998, p.145).

In 1996, the Brazilian State created the National Program for strengthening Family Agriculture (PRONAF), which was the result of many demands from organized rural workers and other social groups that pointed out the importance of establishing policies that would provide the means necessary to strengthen family agricultural production in Brazil. This program currently reaches considerable dimension with operations throughout the national territory, consolidating itself as the main concrete policy action to support family farming in Brazil and representing a considerable injection of monetary resources into the economy of many municipalities, especially the poorest (Silva, 2011).

Public policies are key to leveraging the production of these small farmers, improving food distribution in small towns and generating jobs. At the end of the first government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1995-1998), the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) was created to deal with issues related to family agriculture and agrarian reform, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) was responsible for business agricultural activities (called "agribusiness" or "employer's agriculture"). The MDA, even though it is not the sole responsible for policies for the family farming segment, since its origin, ended up concentrating much of the actions directed at this public. The composition of the MDA management in the Lula (2003-2011) and Dilma (2012-2016) governments had the participation of cadres linked to social and union movements (Picolotto, 2014).

Governments have created several policiesfor thefamily farming sector, which go beyond those related to credit, such as: Family Agriculture Price Guarantee Program (PGPAF), Family Agriculture Insurance (SEAF), Crop Guarantee Program, Family Agriculture Food Acquisition Program (PAA), National Policy for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (PNATER), National Rural Housing Program (PNHR), Sustainable Development Program of Rural Areas (PDSTR), Agroindustrialization Program of Family Agriculture, National Land Credit Program (PNCF), Luz para Todos, Arca das Letras, National Program for Access to Technical Education and Employment (PRONATEC), among others (Picolotto, 2014).

Thus, it should be emphasized that

> The recognition achieved with public policies is not only in the productive aspects, linked to the profession and the place ofthe productive process, but include other dimensions of the world of life, such as: rural housing, education, training, the development of rural territories thought in their various dimensions, local culture etc. It is a differentiated way of conceiving the rural world, to treat farmers as citizens, not only as producers (Picolotto, 2014, p. 77).

Support for agricultural family production can be a strategy for boosting the economy of many Brazilian municipalities and with great potential for reducing social inequality and poverty in territories with strong rural characteristics that are going through a phase of economic stagnation. Nevertheless, some challenges still persist for the consolidation of such a strategy, such as: deficient infrastructure for production logistics, need for processing and marketing and low level of formal education of farmers (Silva, 2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

As for nature, this research is classified as applied. According to Turrioni e Mello (2012, p. 90), the applied research "is characterized by its practical interest, that is, that the results are applied or used immediately in the solution of problems that occur in reality". As forthe objectives, it is classified as exploratory and descriptive. Exploratory because, according to Turrioni and Mello (2012, p. 81), "aims to provide greater familiarity with the problem in order to make it explicit or to build hypotheses", involving bibliographic survey, interviews with people who had practical experiences with the problem researched and analysis of examples that stimulate understanding. Descriptive, since it intends to "describe the characteristics of a given population or phenomenon or the establishment of relationships between variables" (Turrioni &Mello, 2012, p. 81).

The method used in this study was qualitative. About this, Turrioni and Mello (2012) say that qualitative research considers that there is a dynamic relationship between the real world and the subject, that is, an inseparable link between the objective world and the subjectivity of the subject that cannot be translated into numbers. The interpretation of phenomena and the attribution of meanings are basic in the qualitative research process. It does not require the use of statistical methods and techniques. The natural environment is the direct source for data collection and the researcher is the key instrument. It tends to analyze your data inductively. The process and its significance are the main focuses of approach (Turrioni & Mello, 2012).

The techniques used for data collection in this research were forms, semi-structured interviews and official archive information. According to Marconi and Lakatos (2003), the form is an instrument for data collection, consisting of an ordered series of questions, which must be answered in writing, with or without the presence of the interviewer, and the interview has as main objective the obtaining of information from the interviewee, on a given subject or problem. The interview is semi-structured because it may not follow a fixed script, but has predefined questions. It can be adaptable according to the course of the dialogue. Thus, the interviewer needs to maintain a dialogue with the interviewee. This allows for greater flexibility to deepen or confirm certain information presented. It is emphasized that the advantages of this method of data collection is that it can be used with all segments of the population (illiterate or literate), in order to obtain a greater collection of data without limitations (Marconi & Lakatos, 2003).

The application of the form in the community was carried out from November to December 2021 and a total of 14 family producers were identified in the community. The diagnosis was elaborated in order to cover the various questions related to the reality of life of the interviewees. In this form, questions such as: how many people live on the property, level of education of the producer and his/her family members, land issues, activity practiced, products produced and marketed, place of marketing, etc. Moreover, procurou let it as simple as possible, so as not to make it tiring for the farmer, interfering in the results.

The choice of the interview occurred due to the ease of access to farmers, that is, in which access to the interviewee may occur in a less formal way. During this stage, we tried to make the interview more

interactive, so as to allow the farmer to opine, discuss, tell his experience in relation to the topics of the form. To organize the information related to the questionnaire, the data were entered in an Excel spreadsheet, for later preparation of the graphs.

The documentary sources chosen for this research are the official ones, which are generally the most reliable source of data. They relateto individual acts, or, on the contrary, acts of political life, of municipal, state or national scope. Also tobe public archives, private archives of private institutions and others, where they are: records, offices, correspondence, minutes, memorials, programs, communications, etc. The collection and elaboration of statistical data, including census tracts, is in charge of several private and official bodies, including the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) (Marconi & Lakatos, 2003).

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following aspects will be addressed with the producers of the communities participating in the project, such as: information about the lot, social aspects, experiences of activities, participation in organizations, types of productions, economic and work data.

4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF THE REGION OF ORIGIN

The Pereira community is located about 20 km from the municipality of Águas Formosas. According to data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), Águas Formosas is a city located in the northeast of Minas Gerais, being part of the mesoregion of the Mucuri Valley. The municipality has an estimated population in 2020 of 19,247 people, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, in relation to 2018, of R$12,107.63 and the Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI) in 2010 of 0.645, considered average (Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, 2010).

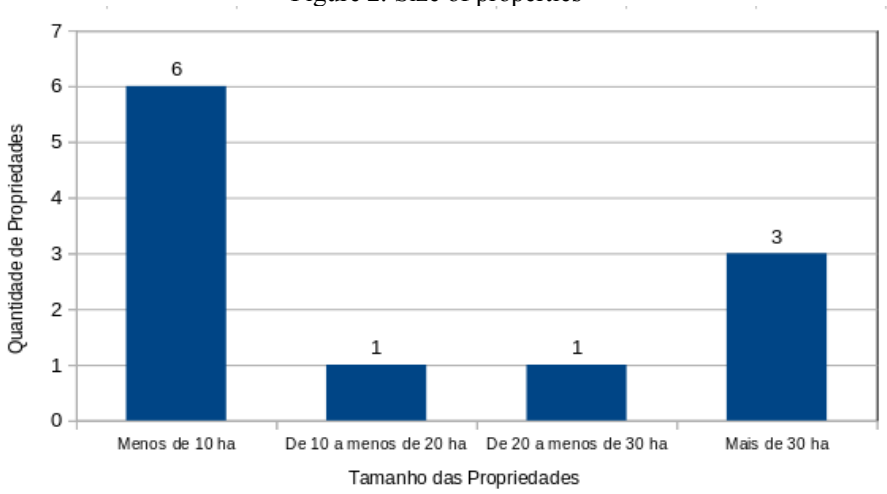
Figure 1. Location of Águas Formosas in Minas Gerais.

Source: Wikipedia (S.d.).

4.2 LAND CONDITION

Land is the main means for agricultural production. Asked about the size of the property, about 54.0% of farmers hold areas of less than 10 hectares. It is also verified that areas with more than 30 hectares represent about 27.0% of farmers and 18.0% are between 10 and less than 30 hectares, and some of the properties are shared among their families, that is, more than one person per property. These properties can be represented as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Size of properties



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).

Meirelles and Filho (2004) say that the size of the property is directly related to access to credit, participation in government programs and the adoption of new technologies. Thus, the economic viability of small properties is reduced due to lack of capital, while larger properties receive more government support proportionally to increased production.

In this sense,the problems presented here are also present in several works, especially that of Bezerra and Schlindwein (2017), because they state that the farmers who answer the interviews conducted by them have a small amount of land and, in most cases, need to unite agricultural and non-agricultural activities to increase their financial incomes. Thus, family farmers adopt more conservationist practices in relation to production, considering that there are not enough government investments for the mechanization of production processes.

Therefore, when asked aboutthe documentation they have of the properties, about 78.6% of the owners answered that they have as documentation the Public Deed and the remainder, 21.4%, do not own or have only the Purchase and Sale Agreement.

4.3 SOCIAL ASPECTS

As for the benefits offered by the government, we highlight the Bolsa Família, Emergency Assistance, Retirement, Death Pension and disability pension, paid in 2021, which is present in 85.7% of

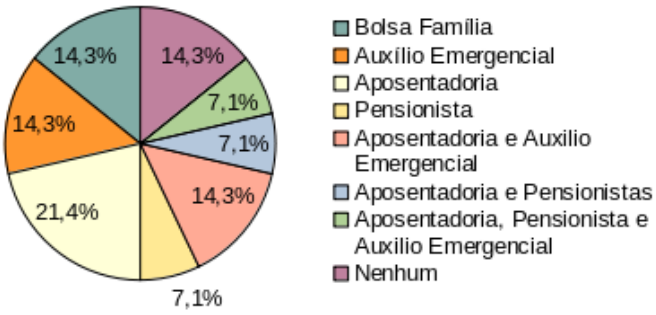
families. Their income ranges from R$ 1,600.00 to R$ 3,450.00 and about 48.0% represent the amount of income from government benefits and another 51.7% of the income is actually from agricultural production.

Certainly retirement is the public program that most contributes to farmers' incomes. In rural areas, thanks to rural workers' unions, which assist in the processes that guarantee the retirement of rural workers, and they retire earlier than other workers (55 years for women and 60 years for men), the number of retirees is higher (Ribeiro *et al*., 2014). The benefit is present in about 50.0% ofthe families interviewed and is directly linked to the age of the beneficiaries, demonstrating the aging of the rural population investigated, whose emigration of young people due to the lack of opportunities of the field is a worrying factor that contributes to the aging of farmers (Delgado & Cardoso Jr, 1999).

Another public program that is present in the region is Emergency Assistance. This subsidy was made available during the COVID-19 pandemic and is responsible, along with the other benefits previously mentioned, for reducing the economic impacts caused by the disease (Ministry of Citizenship, 2020). It was found that 35.7% of the families interviewed received the aid. In Figure 3, you can see the aid that these families receive and the percentages of their benefits.

The large number of retirees and the considerable coverage of government programs have helped to create a continuous monetary income for these families, but it is undeniable that there is a long road to go in order to give better working conditions and, consequently, better living conditions to this population.

Figure 3. Government aid



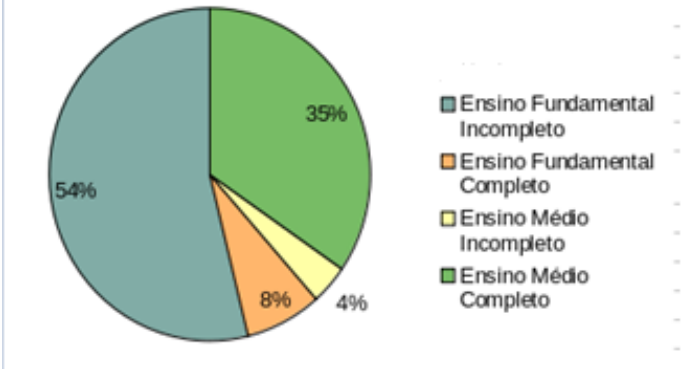
Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).

Translation:
Bolsa Família
emergency aid
Retirement
Pensioner
Retirement and emergency aid
Retirement and pensioner
Retirement, pensioner and emergency aid
None

Regarding the level of education of the interviewees and their families, in the community in which the research was developed, as shown in Figure 4, 54.0% of the interviewees present incomplete elementary school, presenting a worrying level of education. Thus, it is possible to notice that the producers have a low level of education. About this, as observed by Silva (2011) in his work, in which the author says that

some challenges still persist for the consolidation of a strategy for this social category. According to Silva (2011), in terms of access to education, the rural population has much lower rates than urban. In this sense,it was evidenced that only 8.0% of the interviewees completed elementary school, 4.0% attended incomplete high school and 35.0% had completed high school.

Figure 4. Education level



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).
Translation:

incomplete primary education
Complete primary education
Incomplete high school
Complete high school

One way to acquire knowledge and technical qualifications in the area of agricultural production occurs through participation in courses and training. Thus, participation in such events serves as an indicator of formal knowledge about the culture they practice. The level of formal education, together with the experience of producers, determine decisions on various aspects of property, mainly on the improvement and/or improvement of technologies to contribute to production productivity (Meirelles & Filho, 2004).

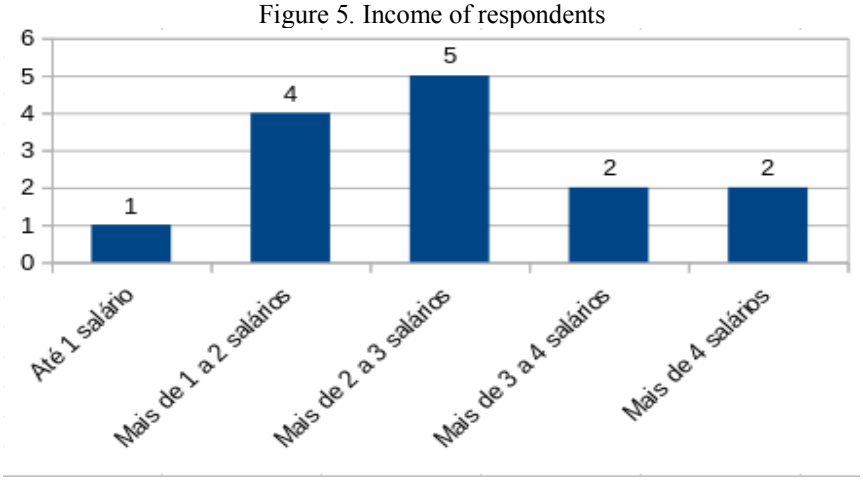
Moreover, itwas stated that 85.7% of the interviewees reported participating in some course and training. The courses that were carried out by the farmers are: cowboy course, fences in general, operation and maintenance of chainsaws and brush cutters, insemination, field quality management, seamstress, clay, meringue, painting, environment, milk quality, farm administration, recovery of springs and degraded areas and basic course in beekeeping, courses offered by the National Rural Learning Service (SENAR), in addition to the agroecology course offered by the Federal University of the Jequitinhonha valleys and Mucuri in partnership with the Federal Institute of the North of Minas Gerais.

It was observed that there is a marked presence of SENAR in the analyzed community. According to Silva and Nunes (2022) the development of senar's formative process is based on competencies, in which there are skills (know-how) and attitudes (know-how) that should be stimulated considering the functions demands by the labor market. SENAR was inspired by SENAI for Professional Training based on competencies, but perfected to the institutional reality and the peculiarities of the rural environment (Silva & Nunes, 2022).

4.4 ECONOMIC AND LABOR DATA

Figure 5 shows that 7.1% of farmers have an income of up to 1 minimum wage. Between 1 and 2 minimum wages are about 28.6% of farmers. From 2 to 3 minimum wages, there are approximately 35.7% of farmers, representing the majority of respondents. In the range of 3 to 4 and more than 4 salaries, they represent the same percentage of about 14.3%.

Figure 5. Income of respondents



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).

Translation:
Up to 1 salary
More than 1 to 2 salaries
More than 2 to 3 salaries
More than 3 to 4 salaries
4 more salaries

The activities practiced by farmers are Agriculture, Beekeeping and Livestock, and livestock farming is the most present activity among respondents, as can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Theactivities practiced by family farmers

Activities	**Percentage (%)**
Agriculture	21.5
Apiculture	7.0
Agricultural	43.0
Agriculture and Beekeeping	7.0
Agriculture, Beekeeping and Livestock	21.5

Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).

The products produced in the community are: beans, cassava, sugarcane, corn, banana, chuchu, maxixe, papaya, coconut, jackfruit, jabuticaba, acerola, açaí, honey, cachaça, borabó bora, tomato, cabbage, lettuce, chives, coriander, onion, garlic, gum, cassava flour, milk, beef cattle and chicks, pork, chicken and curd.

Asked about access to water, all answered that they have access and that comes from the springs. With regard to the way the farmers are marketed for production, there is great diversity. Its products are marketed in the following establishments: refrigeration station (dairy), butchers, supermarkets, popular fairs, bars, in the community and in schools.

During the interviews, it was identified that in 71.5% of agricultural families there are people who carry out other remunerative activities besides the activity in the field and 28.5% live only from what they produce. These activities are: domestic, refrigeration maintenance, day laborer on farms and general services for third parties.

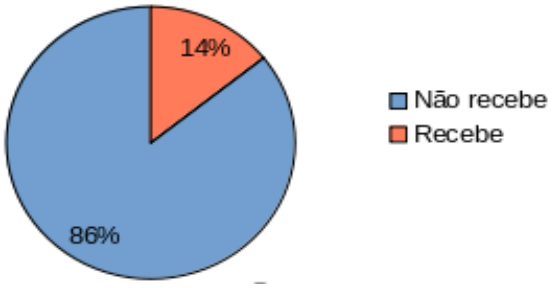
According to Berchin *et al.* (2019), family farming, together with large-scale agriculture, is fundamental for Brazilian food security. That is, investing in public policies to encourage the permanence in the field is extremely necessary, given that these farmers provide food for local shops and schools.

In this sense, whentheyhad acquired financing, 46.9% answered no, and 57.1% answered yes. The financing acquired by these respondents is PRONAF. This program currently reaches considerable dimension with operations throughout the national territory, consolidating itself as the main concrete policy action to support family farming in Brazil and representing a considerable injection of monetary resources into the economy of many municipalities, especially the poorest (Silva, 2011). The amounts received by them fromthe program range fromR$ 5,000.00 to R$ 44,000.00. Despite the precarious condition of family farming in the community surveyed, it is responsible for meeting much of the demand for food production in the region.

4.5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance is of paramount importance for higher quality production, with lower cost and higher profit. Asked if they receive technical assistance from any institution, 14.0% answered yes and 86.0% did not, as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Technical Assistance



Source: Elaborated by the authors (2022).

Translation:
Receive
Doesn't receive

One of the interviewees, when answering this question, says: "*no, no technical assistance, zero! Vish... if you talk about technical assistance, actors, right, actors, protagonists here takes the (quotes name of an institution) of the game, see?! That's crap over there, [...] it's a God help us, right?!* "." Another says, "*No! Now you pressed the button!* (laughs)". The couple of farmers who answered yes said during the interview that: "*when we combine to come, come. But i came like this, no!* " (Speech interrupted by his wife) "*But to come daily, so, no! Then call, if you need, for example, has (name of the server of the*

institution) needed here, to measure a picket, to do an analysis, they are there, if you look for them are! " (Speech interrupted by the husband) "*But to have that assistance, that commitment, I go there, I go there, there not! But when we invite them they come*."

Cruz *et al*. (2021, p. 2) point out that "it is not enough just to provide credit to the family producer if he does not have thetechnical knowledge necessary to improve his production". Among the advantages of technical assistance, we can mention the aid in the documentation necessary to apply for a rural credit program in order to obtain investments to leverage the production in the properties and the technical help specialized in the management of agricultural production, thus making good use of the acquired financial resource.

5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

This work, based on interviews and data analysis, was able to achieve the general objective of making the socioeconomic characterization of family farmers in the studied community. Based on the results obtained, it is concluded that the producers investigated have a low level of education, cannot sustain themselves only from the activity practiced in the field, lack technical assistance, technology and access to public policies aimed at the permanence of man in the field.

From the analyses it is possible to conclude that there is an urgent need for public policies that help the family farmers of this community in the practical plan, since the challenges presented are manifested in the concrete reality. Such challenges must be addressed in the process of implementing public policies involving integrated actions, such as: technical assistance and production stimulus; land regularization; business development; access to technical assistance; incentives for the improvement of production with practices aimed at the insertion of technology aligned with the preservation of the environment; and improvements in access to basic adania cidservices such as education and health, social protection programs and income transfer to the rural population.

As a limitation of this research, one can mention the limited scope because it is a small rural community. As a suggestion for future research, there is the expansion of the research locus in search of other rural communities, in order to achieve a parameter of the conditions of all farmers in the municipality, given that the reality of one community podand be completely different from the others.

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