



BRAZIL

Cultivating Futures

Just and agroecological transformation of food systems in the semi-arid region of Northeastern Brazil

The Agriculture in Brazil

Brazil plays a key role in the global food system, but mainly exports agricultural products, which negatively impacts food sovereignty. 58% of the population faces food insecurity, and 15.5% suffer from hunger. Currently, Brazil struggles with the conflict between export-oriented agriculture and the local aim for agroecology. Through instruments like the CONSEA Food Council, the right to food is being promoted. Projects in Northeast Brazil aim to promote sustainable, participatory food systems.

The Project

The project tackles food sovereignty in Brazil's semi-arid Northeast through participatory governance and agroecological transformation. It strengthens the capacities of key actors, including family farmers, indigenous communities, and civil society, to improve local food systems. Focus areas include policy dialogue, agroecological innovation, and gender-sensitive advocacy. The approach fosters inclusive cooperation between civil society, government and economy in Brazil and Germany. As target groups, women and youth are particularly prioritized.

Project Goals

- Monitoring and analysis of public policies to generate data on sustainable agricultural practices
- Strengthening multi-actor dialogue spaces at municipal and state levels
- Dissemination of best practices on innovative measures for sustainable agricultural practices and food and nutrition sovereignty
- Implementation of an advocacy strategy to promote sustainable agricultural practices, climate innovation, and biodiversity protection and to address territorial conflicts
- Strengthening management processes of the project, monitoring, financial control and compliance



In the past years, severe droughts hit the Northeast and other parts of the country. Droughts are a direct risk to rural agricultural production which may lead to water food shortages.

PROJECT TITLE
Cultivating Futures: Just Agroecological Transformation of the Food Systems in the Semi-arid Region of Northeast Brazil

TIMEFRAME
03/2024 to 12/2025

AS OF
December 2024

Organic Farming

Rural Development

Education and Training in the Agricultural Sector

With support from



by decision of the German Bundestag



PORTRAIT BRAZIL

Brazil is a key global food producer, including products such as soy, coffee, sugar, beef and poultry, but 58% of its population faces food insecurity, and 33.1 million people suffer from hunger. Over 5 million farms are predominantly smallholder operations, representing 77% of the agricultural sector, contrasting with large-scale agribusiness especially in the Cerrado regions. The Northeast region of Brazil is known for its arid climate, extreme climate variability, and poverty.

Results and Successes

As an example of our work in Brazil's Northeast where we aim to promote sustainable, participatory food systems is that the Federal Food Acquisition Program has purchased 3 tons of seeds of local bean varieties from 14 families to strengthen the stocks of 40 community seed banks in the region. Our project aims to further extend these achievements.

The project develops a collective methodology for case studies and territorial monitoring as a basis to promote agroecology. It establishes observatories, conducts workshops, and promotes multi-actor dialogue. It strengthens monitoring through training, supports knowledge exchanges, and advances policy advocacy at all levels. Communication strategies, including gender-sensitive materials, boost knowledge dissemination.

Project Partners and Cooperations

- National Council for Food and Nutrition Security (CONSEA)
- National Commission of Agroecology and Organic Production (CNAPO)
- Agricultural Policy and Information Directorate of the National Food Supply Company (CONAB)
- Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Network of North Eastern Brazil (Rede ATER Nordeste de Agroecologia)
- Organisations of family farmers and traditional communities (Polo da Borborema in Paraíba)

Implementing Organisation

- Brot für die Welt - Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung e.V.
- Assessoria e Serviços a Projetos em Agricultura Alternativa – AS-PTA

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agricultura familiar e agroecologia

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