

INVESTING IN RURAL PEOPLE:  
EVALUATION OF IFAD  
SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

# IN BRAZIL



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# INVESTING IN RURAL PEOPLE: EVALUATION OF IFAD SUPPORTED PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL

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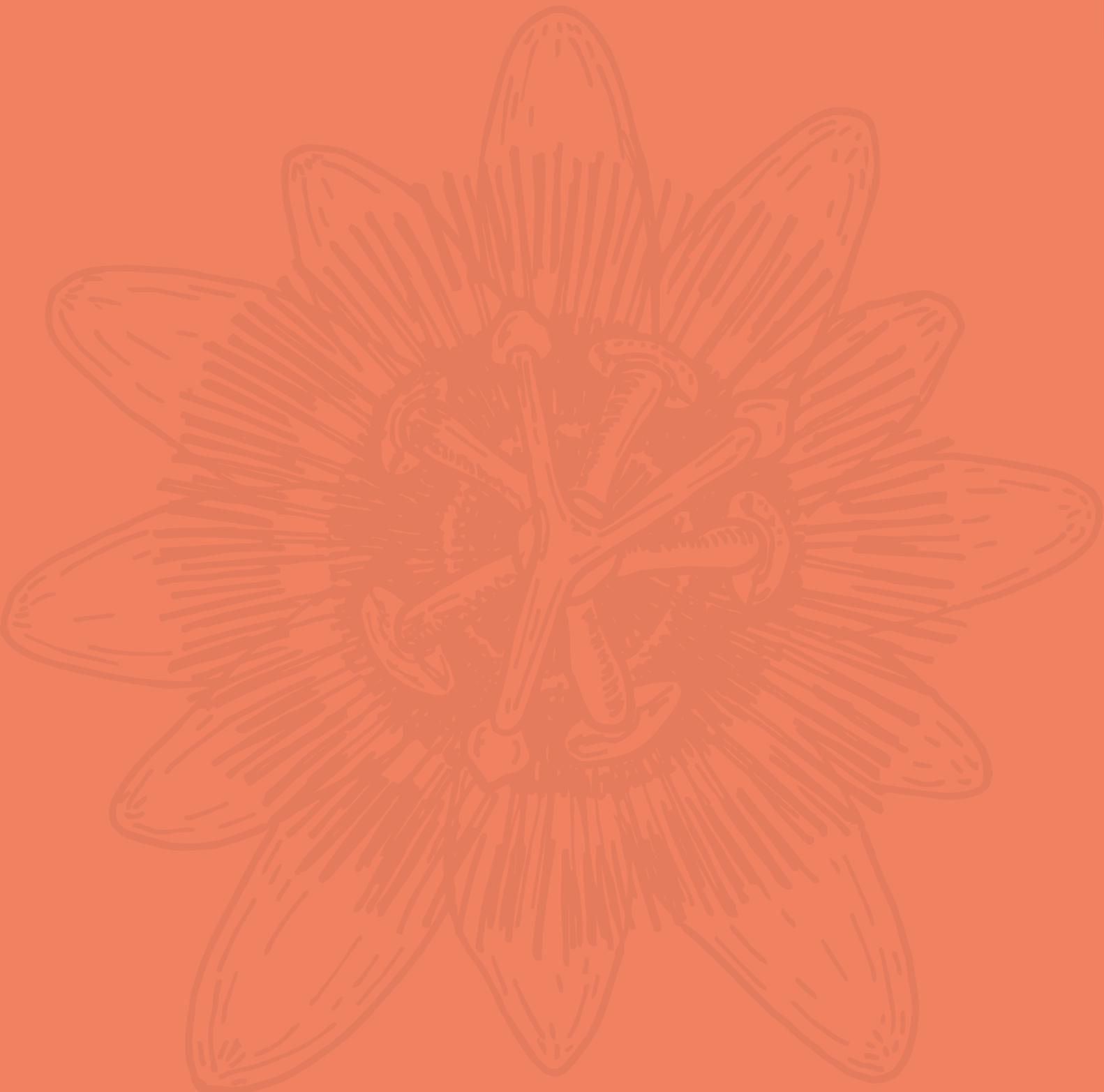
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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**ACB** – Christian Base Association

**ACR** – Rural Community Agent

**Adema** – State Environmental Administration

**Anater** – National Agency for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension

**Amppepi** – Association of Residents and Small Producers of the State of Piauí  
**APPJ** – Association of Small Producers of Jaboticaba

**Aresol** – Regional Association of Solidarity Groups for Income Generation  
**Ascobetânia** – Association of Goats and Sheep Breeders of Betânia

**ATC** – Continuous Technical Assistance

**ATS** – Systematic Technical Assistance

**Cactus** – Association for Technical Assistance and Advice to Rural Workers and Popular Movements

**Cactus** – NGO Cactus

**CadÚnico** – Single Registry for Social Programs

**Capribom** – Cooperative of Rural Producers of Monteiro Ltda

**CAR** – Regional Development and Action Company of Bahia

**Cáritas** – Cáritas Diocesana of Crateús

**Casa Apis** – Center of Beekeeping Cooperatives of the Brazilian Semiarid Region

**CDA** – Coordination of Agrarian Development

**CEAA** – Environmental Education and Advisory Center

**Cealtru** – Center for Studies and Assistance to Workers' Struggles

**CEFIR** – State Forestry Registry of Rural Properties

**CELTA** – Center for Studies Linked to Alternative Techniques

**Ceqnep** – State Coordination of Black Communities and Quilombolas of Paraíba

**CETRA** – Center for Labor Studies and Worker Advice

**CMDR** – Municipal Councils for Rural Development

**Codevasf** – São Francisco and Parnaíba Valleys Development Company

**Cofaspi** – Cooperative of Labor and Assistance for Sustainable Family Agriculture in Piemonte

**Comapi** – Mixed Cooperative of Beekeepers in the Microregion of Simplício Mendes

**Conaq** – National Coordination of Articulation of Quilombos

**Cooasc** – Agroindustrial Cooperative of Seridó and Curimataú Paraibano Ltda  
**Cocajupi** – Center of Cashew Growers Cooperatives in the State of Piauí

**Cooperar** – Sustainable Rural Paraíba Project

**Coopeser** – Cooperative for Consulting, Research and Support Services for Sustainable Rural Development

**Coopterra** – Cooperative for the Provision of Technical Services for Agrarian Reform

**CoorDeam** – Coordination of Specialized Women's Police Stations

**Cootapi** – Labor Cooperative for the Provision of Services for the Rural Development of Family Farming

**CRAS** – Reference Center for Social Assistance

**CREAS** – Specialized Reference Center for Social Assistance

**DAP** – Declaration of Eligibility for Pronaf

**Emater-PI** – Institute of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension of Piauí  
**Embrapa** – Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation

**Emdagro** – Agricultural Development Company of Sergipe

**Empaer** – Research, Rural Extension and Land Regularization Company of Paraíba

**Emplanta** – Agricultural Planning and Technical Assistance Company

**Engeter** – Rural Technology and Management Company

**Esplar** – Research and Advisory Center Esplar

**Fapesq** – Research Support Foundation of the State of Paraíba

**Fetraece** – Federation of Rural Workers, Farmers and Family Farmers of the State of Ceará

**Flor do Piqui** – Flor do Piqui Institute

**FRS** – Solidarity Revolving Fund

**GI** – Interest Group

**IABS** – Brazilian Institute for Development and Sustainability

**IAC** – Instituto Antônio Conselheiro

**IDESA** – Institute for Social and Agrarian Development of the Semiarid Region

**IDS** – Institute of Assistance to Citizenship and Sustainable Local Development  
**IFPB** – Federal Institute of Paraíba

**ITA** – Agroecological Transition Indicators

**LUME** – Economic–Ecological Analysis of Agroecosystems Method

**MPA** – Small Farmers Movement

**ODE** – Democratic State Budget

**Pronaf** – National Program for Strengthening Family Farming

**NEACS** – Center for Studies in Agroecology and Coexistence with the Semiarid  
**PAA** – Food Acquisition Program

**PDHC 2** – Dom Helder Câmara Project 2

**PDT** – Dom Távora Project

**PGE** – Attorney General of the State of Sergipe

**PGPM** – Minimum Price Guarantee Program

**PIP** – Productive Investment Plan

**PN** – Business Plan

**PNAE** – National School Feeding Program

**UNDP** – United Nations Development Program

**Pronese** – Sustainable Development Company of the State of Sergipe

**Procasa** – Cariri, Seridó and Curimataú Sustainable Development Project

**PPF** – Productive and Capacity Development Project – Paulo Freire Project  
**PVSA** – Viva o Semiárido Project

**PSA** – Pró-Semiárido Project

**UFS** – Federal University of Sergipe

**UGP** – Project Management Unit

**URGP** – Procasa Regional Unit

**SAF** – Agroforestry System

**SAJUC** – Social and Environmental Assistance Service in the Countryside and the City

**SASOP** – Advisory Service for Popular Rural Organizations

**SEBRAE** – Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Businesses

**SEAFDS** – State Secretariat for Family Agriculture and Semiarid Development – Paraíba

**SEIRHMA** – State Secretariat for Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environment – Paraíba

**SEIT** – State Secretariat for Inclusion, Social Assistance and Labor – Sergipe

**SEMA** – Secretariat for the Environment

**SEMEAR** – Mobilization and Advisory Service for Sustainable Regional Development

**SENAR** – National Apprenticeship Service

**Sepromi** – Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality of the Government of the State of Bahia

# IFIDA IN BRAZIL



## PRÓ SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT (PSA)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 45 million**  
 Government Funding: **US\$ 50 million**  
 Benefited Families: **70.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **20.200**  
 Families Headed by Women: **40.500**



## DOM TÁVORA PROJECT (PDT)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 16 million**  
 Government Funding: **12,2 million**  
 Benefited Families: **12.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **3.600**  
 Families Headed by Women: **4.800**



## VIVA O SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT (PVSA)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 20 million**  
 Government Funding: **US\$ 10,1 million**  
 Benefited Families: **22.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **6.600**  
 Families Headed by Women: **9.500**



## PROCASE PROJECT (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CARIRI, SERIDÓ AND CURIMATAÚ)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 25 million**  
 Government Funding: **US\$ 15,5 million**  
 Benefited Families: **22.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **1.570**  
 Families Headed by Women: **10.800**



## DOM HÉLDER CÂMARA PROJECT 2 (PDHC 2)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 18 million**  
 Government Funding: **US\$ 42 million**  
 Benefited Families: **74.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **39.000**  
 Families Headed by Women: **37.000**



## PAULO FREIRE PROJECT (PPF)

Funding FIDA: **US\$ 40 million**  
 Government Funding: **US\$ 40 million**  
 Benefited Families: **60.000**  
 Families Headed by Young People: **16.052**  
 Families Headed by Women: **10.800**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



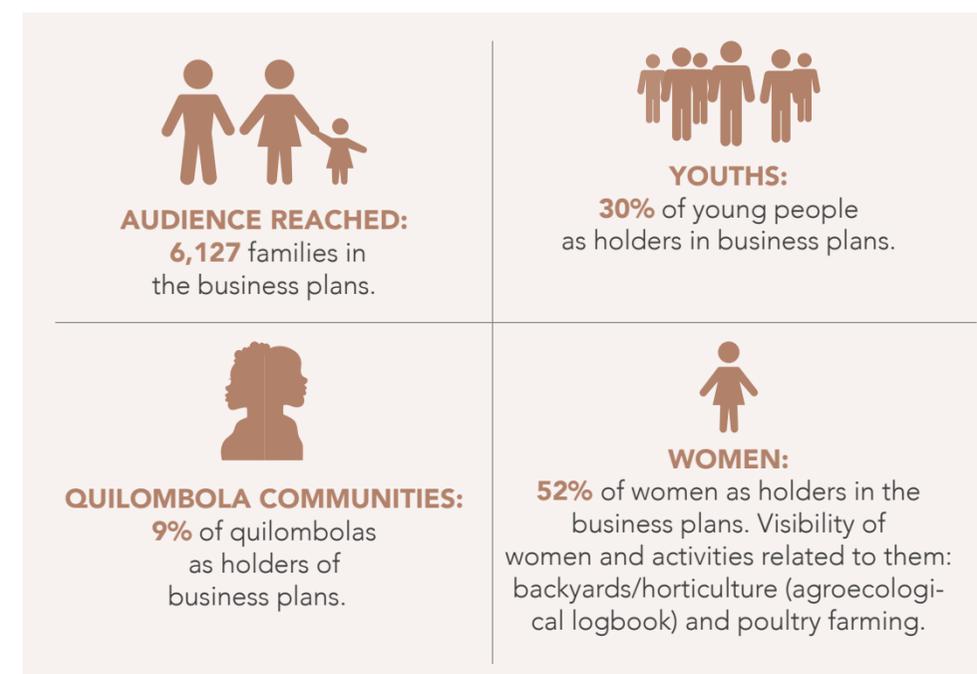
This report presents the results of IFAD projects in Brazil identified in the assessment. The results of the six projects are observed individually and, based on these, general considerations are made.

To carry out the assessment, a methodological structure based on the centrality of social actors directly involved in the management and implementation of projects was used. The collection of primary information was carried out through interviews, based on predefined scripts and secondary data, which were collected through a thematic matrix.



The following project participants were interviewed: UGP managers, technical mediators (ATER providers) and community members. Respondents were nominated/selected by managers. In total, 81 interviews were conducted, with: 23 Managers, 16 Technical Mediators and 42 Community agents. The priority audiences are represented by 27 women, 8 young people and 19 people from traditional communities. The interviews were transcribed and analyzed using discourse analysis. This methodological strategy bases the results observed and described in this report. It is also worth highlighting the timing and execution of projects at the time of field research. The survey of information was carried out in March 2020 – Dom Helder Câmara 2 Project and Viva o Semiárido Project – and between December 2020 and March 2021 – Procasa, Paulo Freire Project, Dom Távora Project and Pró-Semiárido Project. Only one of the projects was being completed, Procasa. The remaining five were running at the time of the field research. The scope of the assessment achieved by the operationalization of the proposed methodology is thus defined.

Below are the main results of the projects observed in the assessment.



**ATER:** training the community in productive and management and planning activities.

**Activities/Productive Chains:**

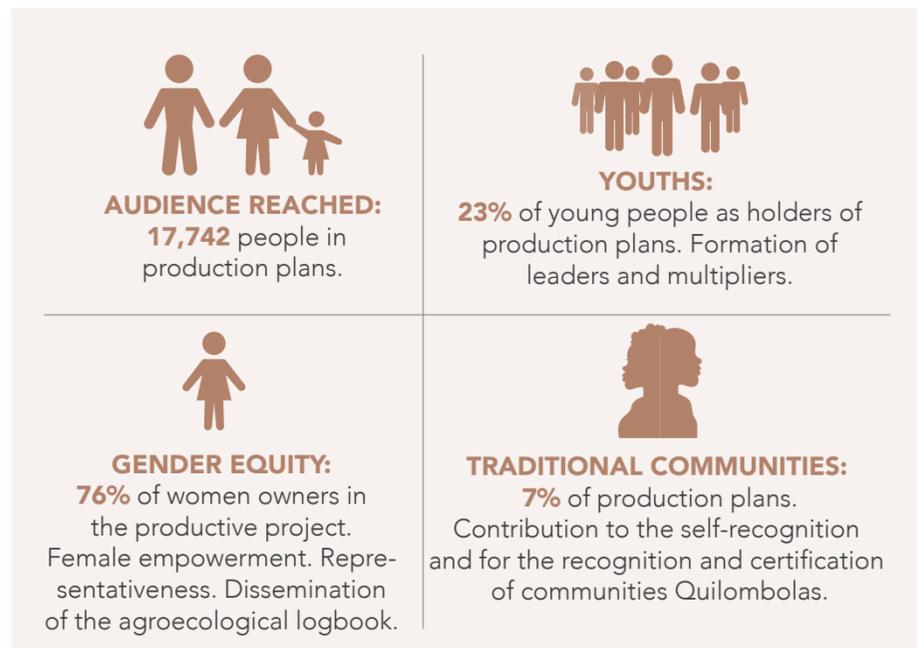
Sheep and Goat Farming: improvements in the herd, in management, and reduction of animal deaths; increased production; promotion of forage alternatives, cost reduction and improvement in the autonomy of production systems; training of producers; expansion of training actions beyond the public directly participating in PDT.

Poultry: improvements in facilities, in handling, in animal health, reduction of animal mortality; increased production; dissemination and implementation of alternatives for animal feeding.

Crafts: increase and diversification of production.

Artisanal fishing: improvements in conditions for carrying out the activity. Access to new vessels and engines and nets with appropriate mesh size. Activity increment.

Increased family income: increased importance of the income from the activity in the composition of household income, sheep and goat farming, and poultry. Artisanal fishing, improvement in the price obtained on fish. Impact of 14% on average annual family income (Impact evaluation).



**Public Policies:** Contribution of broad and multisectoral information.

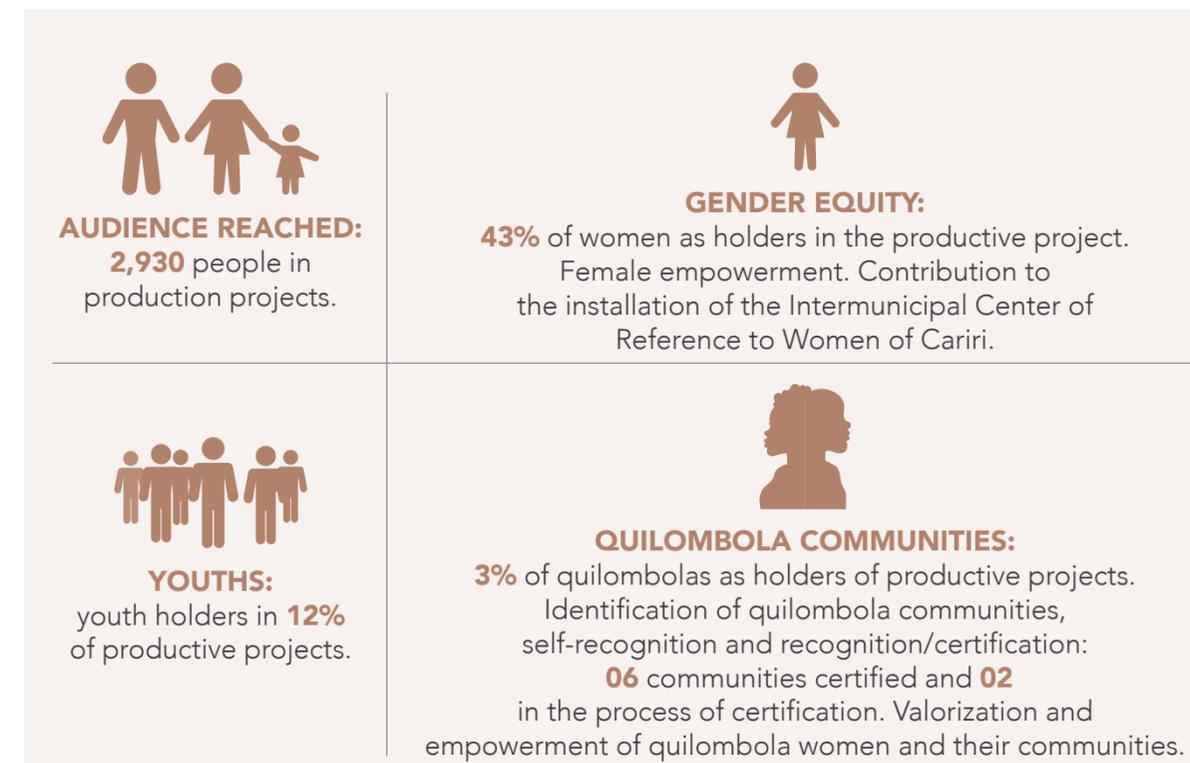
**Continuous Technical Assistance (ATC):** public with restricted or non-existent prior access to these services. Creation and reorganization of associations. Expansion of operations of ATCs and qualification of ATER agents. Dissemination of experiences: community fairs and social technologies. Constitution of multidisciplinary teams with greater presence of women, quota of 30%.

**Productive Activities/Chains:** strengthening of local systems of production and marketing of food. Improvements in handling and in the structure of small animals breeding.

Productive backyards: improvements in structure, diversification and increased production. Valuing community marketing channels. Visibility and appreciation of the production of communities. Support for the formation of fairs and the participation of community members.

Income generation: sheep breeding, poultry farming, beekeeping and productive backyards.

Food Security: increased production, quality and diversity. Agroecological approach. Improvements in food security of families and communities. Dissemination of social technologies.



**Public Policies:** increase in access to PAA and Pronaf (Impact evaluation).

**ATER:** increased access to ATER.

**Productive Activities/Chains:**

Sheep and Goat Farming: genetic improvement of animals, improved food security of livestock, expansion of fodder production, dissemination of forage palm, increased milk production.

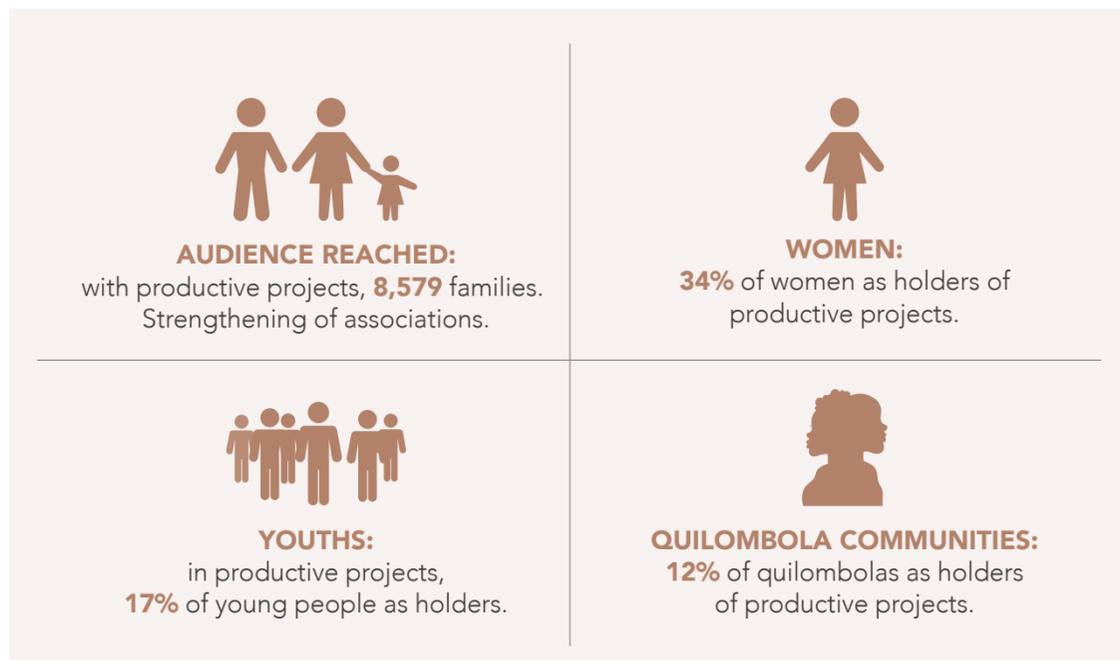
Irrigated fields: diversification of forage and food crops.

Increased family income: 68.8% of productive projects had an increase in income greater than 20% (Impact evaluation).

Forage production and access to water resources: economy of families' financial resources.

Marketing: 13% increase, especially beekeeping, horticulture and goat farming (Impact evaluation).

Increase of marketing, with diversification of products, informal markets.



**ATER:** training of community members in productive activities. Visibility of productive backyards (agroecological logbooks) and poultry farming between ATER providers.

**Productive Activities/Chains:**

Sheep and goat farming: qualitative and quantitative improvement in herds. Increased use of forage and hay and silage production. Use of local species as forage, restoration of the caatinga.

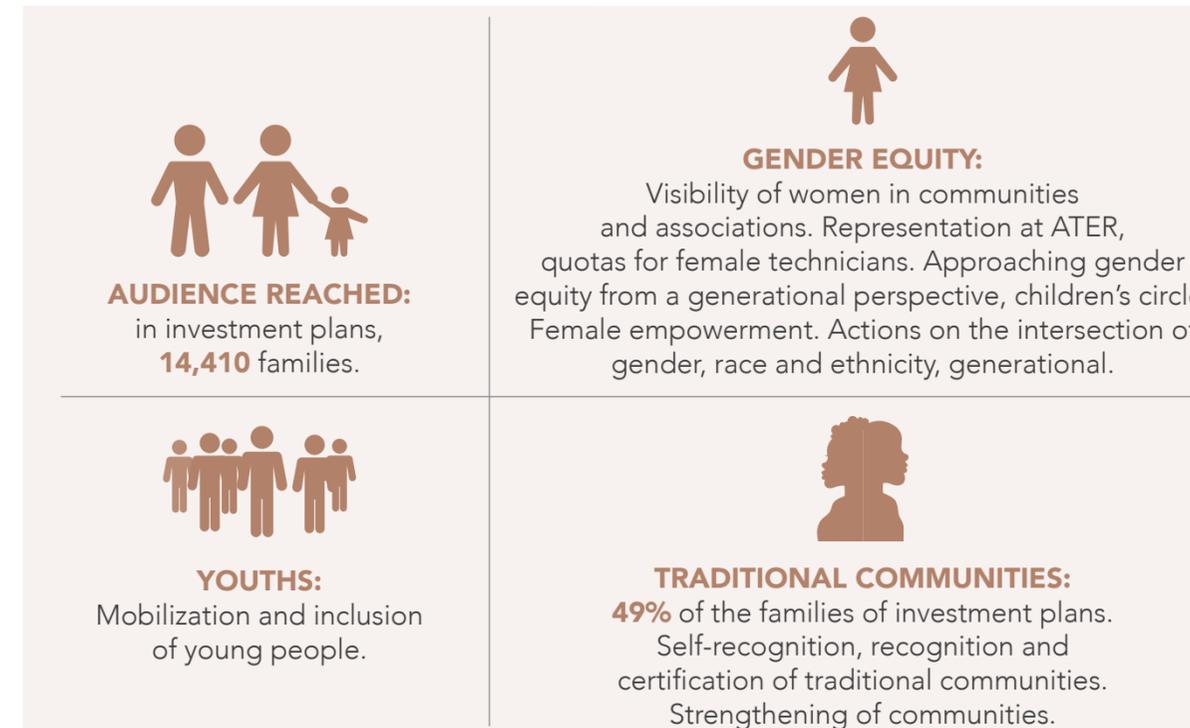
Beekeeping: increased volume and quality of honey. Beekeeping pasture with native species, restoration of the caatinga.

Installed structures and equipment: use not restricted to project beneficiaries. Contribution to strengthening the communities' production. Better work conditions, costs reduction and increased production capacity.

Structure: viability of productive backyards and poultry farming.

Food Security of families: productive backyards, increased production and diversification; poultry farming, increased production.

Marketing: increase related to increased production. Increased family income: beekeeping, poultry farming, productive backyard.



**Public Policies:** Information on public policies. Issuance of documents necessary for access to public policies.

**Continuous Technical Assistance:** Participatory ATC. Community empowerment. Training of ATCs and their teams. Rural Community Agents, promotion of local social capital on an individual and collective basis.

**Productive Activities/Chains:**

Goat and Sheep farming: improvements in health and reduction of animal mortality. Improvements in fodder production. Use of species from the caatinga.

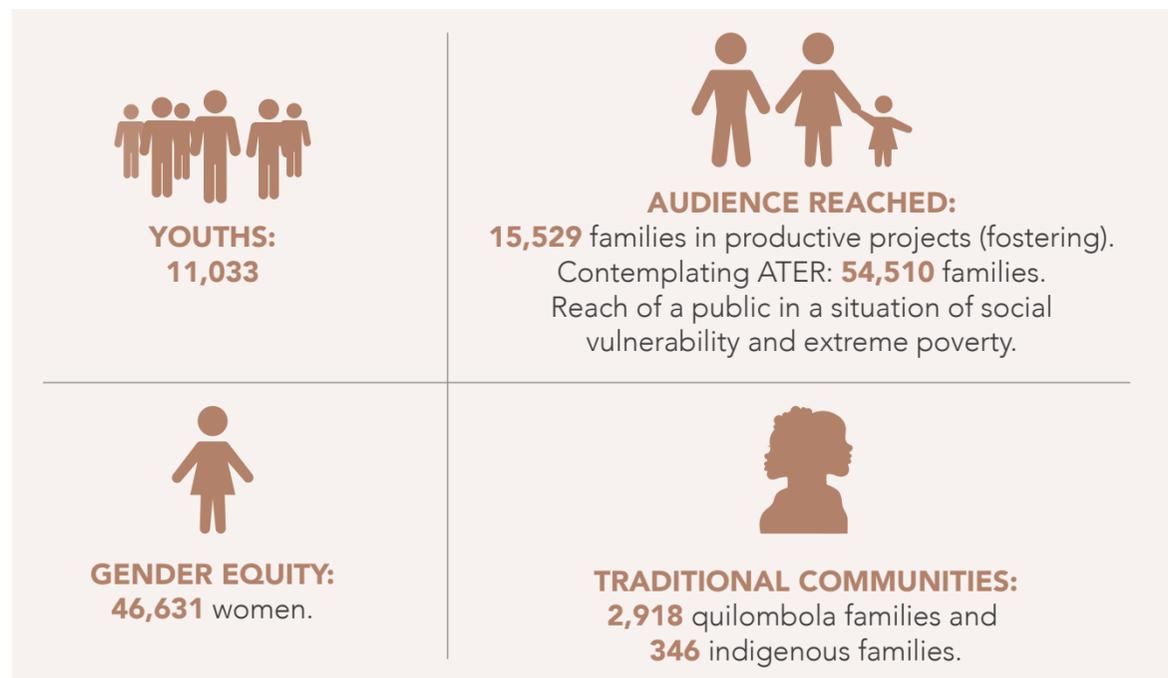
Poultry farming: improvements in handling and feeding of animals, promotion of autonomy in the production of feed.

Agroecological backyards: diversification of backyards production, marketing. Visibility and appreciation of backyards production (agroecological logbooks).

Beekeeping: increased production. Expansion of community members working in the activity. Change in the handling of bees.

Promotion of community marketing .

Impact on family income, growth, diversification and commercialization of products, realization of investments by community members in productive activities and strengthening of the autonomy of family systems. Increased family income: beekeeping, productive backyards and cassava crops.



**Public Policies:** Reach of a public that is invisible or with restricted access to public policies. Issuance of DAPs, access to Bolsa Família.

**Continuous Technical Assistance:** Contribution of information/knowledge. Visibility of communities and facilitation of dialogues with other social and institutional actors. Association of project actions with other activities of the ATER provider, amplification of actions.

**Productive Activities/Chains:** Improvements in productive activities, ATER and ATER fostering.  
 Poultry farming: increased production and feasibility of conducting the activity. Contribution to the autonomy of production systems.  
 Goat farming: improvements in the handling of livestock and in the structure used. Dissemination of techniques that involve the use of plant species from the semiarid region and others available locally for feeding and animal handling.  
 Increased food security of families and communities, increased production and diversification. Improvements in marketing through local, community and fair channels. Marketing incentive. Impact on family income associated with food security. Increased production of surpluses. Diversification of production. Greater participation of productive activities in the composition of family income.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Taken together, the six IFAD projects in Brazil developed experiences that resulted in access to a diverse audience. Considering the internal diversity of the family farming category and its vulnerable segments, it was observed that IFAD projects produced experiences that developed action strategies capable of being used in other initiatives aimed at this audience. This aspect stands out, mainly in its contribution to actions with the families in situation of greater vulnerability, whose inclusion remains a challenge.

Among priority audiences, the evaluation carried out identified more expressive results in relation to women, through their direct inclusion and ownership in productive projects. This process resulted in expanding the visibility of this public and contributing to female empowerment. In the set of IFAD initiatives, some projects have moved forward in relation to gender equity, including in its action activities that address this issue and other issues important to women. Representativeness was a result achieved through the inclusion of women in technical teams.

Considering traditional populations, some initiatives have acted with specific characteristics of these groups, lending support to the self-recognition and recognition processes. The scarce activity of technical advisory services to this audience, and a scenario of limited inclusion of these populations in the public policies for the rural area make the experiences implemented by IFAD projects extremely relevant.

With regard to formal social organizations, experiences were observed that resulted in the restructuring and strengthening of associations or even in their formation. Different forms of action and strategies were used in these mobilizations. These experiences can be used for the development of other initiatives that seek to strengthen these organizations.

Regarding production systems, it was observed that actions with more diverse approaches were better suited to the conditions of the most vulnerable families, which mobilize various activities and forms of action in the search for their reproduction. In more structured situations, it was possible to identify experiences in which the project has strengthened a particular activity, making it the main source of income family. Experiences that encouraged and implemented actions aimed at production systems were observed, allowing them to develop greater resilience and greater autonomy. IFAD projects have resulted in experiences of enhancement of productive activities.

In terms of family income, impacts have been directly observed through the generation of financial resources; the making of own investments in productive activities; the increasing importance of income from productive activities in the composition of family income; and the strengthening of production for household consumption. The consumption of family production, increased by the projects, gained greater visibility and importance through the adoption of agroecological logbooks.

Results of community strengthening, in productive, social and economic aspects, were observed not only among project participants. The legacy of IFAD projects extends up to the strengthening of social collectives through gains in social capital, circulation of information/knowledge, and stimulation of local production.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a shallow wooden bowl filled with bright yellow corn kernels. The person is wearing a yellow and black striped shirt. The background is blurred, showing other people and an outdoor setting.

# INTRODUCTION

The evaluation presented in this report constituted an initiative to survey the results of IFAD projects in Brazil from the social actors directly involved in the management and implementation of these projects. This approach allows bringing to light results in dialogue with the experiences lived by such actors in the communities served by the projects. The contribution provided, therefore, permeates the considerations of each project in relation to the results achieved and the local settings that sustain that the aspects achieved are considered as such.

To carry out the evaluation, a methodological proposal was built and implemented by the team of evaluators. Starting from a procedural approach to the results of IFAD projects in Brazil, the structure has gathered information on general aspects of different projects, namely: Public Served, Technical Advisory/Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER), Public Policies, Productive Investment Plans (PIPs), Assets, Family Income, Food Security, Social Organization. In addition, the methodology allowed for the possibility that particular aspects of the projects might be contemplated by project informants.

The field research for collecting information was on a face-to-face basis, in April 2020, on two projects: Viva o Semiárido and Dom Helder Câmara 2. In the others – Procasa, Paulo Freire, Dom Tavora and Pró-semiárido –, because of the displacement restrictions due to the pandemic situation, information was obtained remotely between December 2020 and March 2021. Among the set of projects, only Procasa was close to completion, with actions closed, in the period of field research. All the other ones were underway. This aspect is important, as it affects the availability, or unavailability, of certain information and the results mapped on these occasions.

The collection of information took place through interview scripts. In all projects, individual or group interviews were carried out with three categories of social actors: managers linked to Project Management Units (UGPs), Technical Mediators of ATER providers, and Community partici-



pants of the projects, with whom the projects developed local actions. The definition of interviewees was based on indication/selection by part of the UGPs managers. This indication was made for the three categories of interviewees, requesting that experiences considered as outstanding should be pointed out. In this way, the group of interviewees chosen maintains the perspective of a methodological approach based on the centrality of the actors directly involved in the projects.

Eighty-one people were interviewed in the set of projects. This set is divided into three categories: 23 Managers (of whom 16 are women); 16 Technical Mediators (9 women) and 42 Community members (27 women)<sup>1</sup>. It is observed that in the indications made, women outnumber men among the interviewees. This aspect was highlighted in relation to the category Community members, since women represent one of IFAD's priority publics. The indications of women for interviews demonstrate the valorization of this category by the projects. In the same sense, young people were included in the sample selected by managers in five projects, with a total of eight young people, including two young women and two young women from traditional communities. Thus, there is an overlap between priority audiences: women, youth and traditional communities. With regard to traditional communities, five projects indicated communities linked to this category, covering 16 quilombolas and three community members from Fundo de Pasto. In the quilombola communities, 10 women were interviewed and two were interviewed in the Fundo de Pasto communities (including the two young women already mentioned among the young people interviewed here). Again, this demonstrates the interest of the projects in considering IFAD's priority publics and intersections between these groups in the evaluation. This information must also be taken into account, as it allows to view the scope of the assessment carried out.

The interviews were recorded and transcribed with the consent of the interviewees, constituting this material that acts as a basis for structuring the assessment. To analyze the information obtained, discourse analysis was used. The inclusion of transcripts was made in the report, keeping the originality of the speeches and allowing the identification of the category to which the interviewee belongs, indicating whether or not he is part of the priority public. The analytical construction carried out includes the transcripts, ensuring the reference and importance of the interviewees' statements. Thus we preserved the character of prominence of the priority groups of IFAD projects and their inclusion in the sample defined by the actors of the UGP. This aspect proved to be even more necessary due to the particularities of three projects in their activities with traditional communities, linked to self-recognition and recognition of these collectives. It is important, therefore, to take into account the sampling frame obtained in dialogue with the managers, as it is directly linked to the information and results collected, allowing access to particularities of the projects. In addition, one must also consider the time in which the collection of information was carried out, as already mentioned above.

In addition to the interviews, general information about the projects was requested from the managers. For that, a thematic grid was used, including: public reached; investment plans and production chains; production chains and income; food and nutrition security; environmental sustainability; ATER and advisory services; access to public programs and policies, articulation and institutional strengthening. This tool was adapted in the dialog with each project, according to the formats and information that were available.

The report is organized in different sections for the six projects and structured according to the themes Audience Reached , Public Policies, ATER, Productive Activities/Chains. These topics are related to other themes according to the particularities of each project. At the end of each section, there is a table summarizing the main results achieved, raised by this evaluation. In the conclusions, some considerations are made on the results achieved in the perspective of the set of IFAD projects in Brazil.

After these initial considerations, we acknowledge our gratefulness to all the interlocutors who contributed to the collection of information through interviews, as well as to UGP teams, in particular those of Monitoring and Evaluation, for the aid and provision of information.



<sup>1</sup> The complete picture of the interviews carried out by categories and by projects can be seen in the annexes



# RESULTS



## IFAD IN BRAZIL

IFAD operates in Brazil since the 1980 decade, seeking to “contribute to the strengthening of family farming and the development of the Northeast region, which concentrates some of the most fragile social indicators of the country” (IFAD, 2016). The investments in family agriculture are associated, guiding the actions of the Fund, with the issues of poverty reduction and improvement of the quality of life of rural populations in the Northeast of Brazil.

In partnership with the Federal Government, state governments, civil society organizations, companies and other international cooperation agencies, the actions promoted and developed by IFAD are in line with the priorities of Agenda 2030 and with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be fulfilled and achieved by Brazil. It is mentioned, in such cases, the particular contribution of IFAD actions for the goals of eradication of poverty; eradication of hunger, with achievement of food and nutrition security and promotion of sustainable agriculture; achievement of gender equity; guarantee of access to water and sanitation; and fighting against climate change and its impacts (IFAD, 2016).

The actions follow five principles established by the Fund. The first one is the Territorial Perspective, which seeks to integrate IFAD's partner projects with government programs and policies, the establishment of partnerships and social participation in local decision-making instances. The second, called Targeting, seeks to ensure that project actions reach the most vulnerable and poor social groups. These groups include traditional populations, the agrarian reform settlers, women and young people. Ethnic-racial inclusion, youth participation and gender equity are ideas linked to this operating principle. Innovative Practices is the third principle, based on encouraging the promotion of innovation, involving social technologies and best practices that contribute to the coexistence with the Semiarid region and to rural development. Civil Society Participation is the fourth principle, considering the involvement of families of farmers and civil society organizations in instances related to the projects and spaces for discussion on public policies for rural development. Finally, as a fifth principle, there is the Dialogue on Policies, linked to action for the articulation and strengthening of public policies for poor rural populations. The Fund promotes multisectoral dialogues, addressing central issues for facing poverty and sharing the results achieved and the lessons learned with the projects (IFAD, 2016).

Five projects in which IFAD works in partnership with the governments of the states of Bahia, Ceará, Paraíba, Piauí and Sergipe and one project in partnership with the Federal Government are included in this assessment.





PDT

DOM TÁVORA PROJECT



The Dom Távora Project was a partnership between IFAD and the Government of the State of Sergipe. According to the Final Design Report, the project aimed to contribute to generate income and sustainable jobs in poor municipalities in the state of Sergipe. The immediate objectives of the project cite "promotion of rural businesses among the rural poor and institutional strengthening of public and private organizations to support technical assistance and rural extension" (FIDA, Estado de Sergipe, 2010. p. 32)..

The specific objectives of the project are:

- (i) to support groups of poor producers to develop rural agricultural and non-agricultural businesses; and (ii) build public and private institutional capacity to provide adequate technical and administrative services for rural business development and entrepreneurship among the rural poor. (IFAD; Estado de Sergipe, 2010, p.30)

The Dom Távora Project operated in 15 municipalities in three territories: Center-South; Central Agreste and Middle Sertão Territory; Lower São Francisco Territory.

The survey of information used in this evaluation was carried out in January of 2021.

### 1. AUDIENCE REACHED



PDT initiatives are concentrated in the Lower São Francisco region. This aspect is related to the presence in this territory of high rates of families in a situation of “extreme poverty” and because the region has a restricted history of previous initiatives for the contribution of resources:

The region that has the most access to the Dom Távora Project initiatives is the Lower São Francisco region, which has received the least resources from the State and is located in the region of extreme poverty. Other municipalities classified in the low HDI range were also helped. But this region is the most needy. (Manager, UGP)

The above features resulted not only in the number of initiatives, but also in greater diversity:

In the Lower São Francisco, despite being a region rich in resources, it still has a condition of extreme poverty. A region that did not receive resources of this nature. The 40 projects in local management are, therefore, distributed in the seven municipalities and have the most interesting and diversified projects basket. (Manager, UGP)

The diversity of activities deployed in the composition of family income, for the guarantee of family livelihood, was expressed in the evaluation performed on the interviewees’ considerations. This diversity was present in the interviews by mentions to agricultural and non-agricultural activities, distinct from those worked by PDT, in such composition. Thus: “There is no way to live 100% [from the activity worked in PDT], this greatly limits the inflow of money” (Community member). In a context of different sources composing the family income, the interest for PDT to involve more activities, including others that are held by the family, was present in the field dialogues. In this scenario, acting with the public in “extreme poverty” was considered one of the challenges of the project.

The public participating in PDT also includes families with different profiles in relation to the income obtained:

There is diversification indeed. Since the project design phase, when technicians tried to be very attentive to this, not to include in the project those who could give up the vacancy to someone more vulnerable. In the end, there is always a lot of diversity, with many different needs. (Specialist, UGP)

Some specificities of the public reached as a function of the production chains were mentioned. In an overlap between territories and production chains, artisanal fishing and aquaculture were mentioned as activities worked on by PDT, especially in the Lower São Francisco and Médio Sertão. Considering this overlap in relation to the public reached in the first territory, the interviewee explains:

[In] Baixo São Francisco de Sergipe, where there are projects within the quilombola territory, which is very focused on riverside dwellers, traditional populations, which are geared almost entirely to fishing rather than agriculture, almost none of them have land. This fishing activity is carried out by the family, who were often relocated from communities with advancing sea. I consider them to be traditional populations dedicated to fishing. (Specialist, UGP)

Families with land restriction, with a trajectory of forced displacement, active in fishing activities and the presence of quilombolas are aspects of the public reached that add to the previously described scenario

of actions with a population in a situation of social vulnerability and with the limitation of previous initiatives for accessing resources and advice in the territory.

On the other hand, in Médio Sertão:

[...] we only have an aquaculture project, with a net tank. The publics in question were practically urban workers from odd jobs, civil construction, day laborers, farm workers. They also had no experience with aquaculture. In this territory, Médio Sertão, there were no traditional riverside dweller workers, while in Lower São Francisco, 90 to 95% can be called traditional. (Specialist, UGP)

Aquaculture becomes, through PDT, one of the activities developed by a public characterized as urban and rural workers. Again, here, the multiple composition of sources of family income is present.

In sheep and goat farming: “The beneficiaries’ profile is, in general, small and medium producers. [...] We also have in the Northeast a whole chain of sheep and goat farmers with the lowest level of education, which hinders our work.” (Specialist, UGP).

The description above allows considering the diversity of the profile, involving small and medium producers. The low educational level is considered as a difficulty in conducting PDT works. This feature is compounded by the challenges of working with the most vulnerable population, previously mentioned.

With regard to priority groups in sheep and goat farming, the work with the quilombola public was mentioned: “We have a number of quilombola participants, and our larger business plan is a quilombola community that has 101 beneficiaries on average.” (Specialist, UGP).

Besides the presence of quilombola groups participating in PDT with sheep and goat farming initiatives, considerations were made about the role of women in the same chain. In a broad approach, mentioning other production chains:

It is natural that in projects related to handicrafts, rural tourism, there is a predominance of a female public. However, in the sheep farming projects, expected to be predominantly male, we saw that women took over and undertook the projects, making a point of showing that they were in charge. (Specialist, UGP)

Women’s participation was also mentioned in poultry farming:

In the case of poultry farming, women also predominated, because as there were several activities, one imagined that poultry farming would take place closer to home and therefore there was a notion of reconciling the productive activity with birds and household activities. (Specialist, UGP)

As already seen, 52% of the families are represented in PNs by women. According to information from UGP, poultry and handicraft chains, including cut and sewing, are the ones that most favor the involvement of women. With regard to the training carried out, 4,312 women participated in one or more of these actions.

The agroecological logbooks contributed to the visibility of women and the activities they developed in their productive backyards:

The use of the logbook brought us closer to the women who carried out commercialization initiatives in their homes, through a modest grocery store and through things they produced in their backyards, as well as handicrafts. In this sense, we were able to get to know other treasures that were not initially supported by the Dom Távora Program. Basically, the logbooks allowed for this experience with the female leaders. (Manager, UGP)

Thus, the incorporation of agroecological handbooks in PDT made it possible for “other precious things” to become known, an experience that “brought us closer to women”. Visibility of women and women-related activities, backyards/horticulture, and poultry farming are results of PDT.

In sheep and goat farming, as mentioned above, the inclusion of women as family representatives in PDT also allowed for greater visibility of their performance. In artisanal fishing and aquaculture, the search for organizations led by women was mentioned. In this sense, PDT worked with two associations chaired by women and a third association led by a transsexual person.

The Young Agents initiative, carried out in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is aimed at young people. Through it, young people were trained to become multipliers of goats and sheep management technologies, main production chain of PDT: “A highlight on the involvement of these young people was with regard to the sheep industry model, which worked very well. They received more intensive training in the area, more practices and were able to act as conveyors of information in the community.” (Specialist, UGP).



The Young Agents initiative achieved:

[...] with an increase in the group via WhatsApp, it reached 22 people working as volunteers, where they gain work experience and can include it in their TCC [Term Paper]. It is evident that there is a gain for these young people. This training was very important. [...] This product that was done with the young people allows them to start working as consultants in the region and should be copied in the other chains. (Specialist, UGP)

In addition to the Young Agents, 20% of the participants in PDT training were young people. Still, in partnership with the State Secretariat for Inclusion, Social Assistance and Work (SEIT), State Communication Center, young people attended courses on social media geared to actions of marketing of artisanal products.

The actions carried out with the youths were considered important for the progress of ATER activities in view of the limitations imposed by the pandemic context experienced during part of the project's execution:

[...] it was in this pandemic phase that our model allowed the technical assistance to continue, as they were there in the field and had a knack for social media and were able to connect and keep in touch with the technicians, and passing it on to the community. (Specialist, UGP)

## 2. ATER AND PUBLIC POLICIES

The execution of the project and business plans occurred by means of:

Formalized groups. And all the associations already existed before. It was a pre-requisite to participate in the project that the associations had the recognition of state public utility and, therefore, they must have at least two years of existence. They were only boosted by the Dom Távora project. There was only one cooperative. (Specialist, UGP)

The Agriculture Development Company of Sergipe (Emdagro) acted in the initial release of PDT. One of the participants reports: "The process started with the call from Emdagro, which invited us to participate in a meeting to talk about the project" (Community member).

Besides the project dissemination meeting, Emdagro's performance in directly seeking participants for PDT and the incentive for membership was reported:

It was then that Emdagro technicians arrived in the city. They encouraged me to participate and, though at first I refused, they convinced me, as it would be good even for the community. In the next week, I accepted and all the papers were up to date. And then, it worked. (Community member)

Publicization by associations to their members was another way of obtaining information mentioned in the interviews: "Association meetings were always held and I used to attend them. In the beginning nobody was very excited about it and few put their names to compete. I believed it, I had nothing to lose. It's been two years since I was awarded." (Community member).

The lack of motivation mentioned by the participant is complemented by a distrust on the part of some associates, which led some not to join the project:

I believe the project was well publicized. The people who didn't succeed failed to believe in the project and to attend the meetings and faithfully believe in the project. We had weekly meetings, lectures, etc. And many have left to come to believe that it was just a political football. And then many did not join. (Community member)

The trajectory of the associations, the informal group or even individual experiences with external actions, such as other projects and programs, can be linked to demotivation to participate.

The formalized organizations presented proposals for PDT, through PNs, covering agricultural and non-agricultural activities. A total of 155 PNs were executed. The 6,127 families that are linked to PNs received ATER and training.

The training carried out covered the following thematic areas: Social Organization, Production and Management Chains. The first focused on issues about associations and cooperativism; the second, on the technical and managerial issues of productive activities:

Initially, we held approximately 43 seminars [...] involving associations and cooperatives, with the participation of 980 women, exceeding our goals and expectations. [...] From that, as investments were consolidating and plans began to run, we started to turn to more specific themes by activity. [...] So we were working within the demands of each plan within each productive chain. (Manager, UGP)

Managerial aspects of productive activities worked by families were included in the training:

Coupled with the injection of public money, the project did a lot in the development of capacities, in the management of financed enterprises for the poorest farmers within this territory. So, actions were developed from the associativism and mobilization part, such as managing the enterprise itself. Therefore, this training part is the path of the main focuses of the project, in the focus of sustainability and empowerment. (Manager, UGP)

Since associations and cooperatives are the proponents of PNs, it was necessary to act in order to regularize them:

Some associations were up to the standards, but many others were not. And then we needed to work on the settlement of disputes with the Federal Revenue [...]. So we worked in this direction of tax regularization for the associations. Often the associations could not fit into the parameters by lack of infrastructure, lack of knowledge as to regulations and requirements. Our performance was condensed in these regularizations and directions. (Accountant, UGP)

Considering it was also necessary to regulate and guide the associations for the conduct of the project, PDT has provided support for procurement and rendering of accounts, by means of training conducted by accountants. Recovering the associativism/cooperativism approach in these activities, the specialist complements:

We are concerned with education and training for the collective understanding of the project's points [...]. So, this notion of associativism and cooperativism was worked on. Considering that most of the managers of these entities are not clear about the bidding process, this was another benefit of the workshops, which addressed this theme, explaining the process and conduct in the rendering of accounts for bids. (Specialist, UGP)

With respect to the interviewees' experiences of project implementation, included in this evaluation, two thematic axes of the training that took part in the context of PDT were highlighted: productive technique and management/planning. Training and ATER were also among the motivations for inclusion and participation in PDT among this category of interviewees. In the topic of Productive Chains/Activities, these actions and their relationship with the other activities and results achieved by PDT are addressed. At this time, two aspects should be highlighted. The first concerns the dissemination of information that extends beyond the families directly participating in PDT, through the sharing with other community members. The second topic refers to taking advantage of management/planning aspects, contributed by the training, to beyond the productive activity. It was mentioned that these activities were also implemented within the scope of family, in household management.

To carry out the ATER/qualification actions, partnerships were established with: Emdagro, partner in the execution of PDT), Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), Brazilian Micro and Small Business Support Service (Sebrae); Federal University of Sergipe (UFS), Brazilian Institute for Development and Sustainability (IABS), State Secretariat for Inclusion, Social Assistance and Labor (SEIT), City Halls, Rural Workers Unions and farmers' organizations.

In the scope of technical advisory, the partner organizations/institutions mentioned were: Attorney General of the State of Sergipe (PGE), UNDP. The Sustainable Development Company of the State of Sergipe (Pronese) was mentioned as a partnership in the execution of the project.

Regarding the interaction of the public reached with public policies, it was considered that "in general, the composition of the beneficiaries comes from Pronaf, settlers who also have the same profile. In addition to Bolsa Familia beneficiaries." (Manager, UGP).

Project participants, in general, have the profile of farmers who access, or can access, the National Program for Strengthening Family Farming (Pronaf). Also, specifically in the case of fishermen, Seguro Defeso was mentioned, and among fish farmers, Pronaf Pesca.

The articulation with public programs and policies was referred to as a counterpart of the Government of Sergipe, considering the following initiatives: Água Doce, Pronaf, Mão Amiga and seeds distribution. The performance of Emdagro, implementer of PDT, is reported in its contribution to the dissemination of information, especially about Pronaf.

With the public that accesses Bolsa Familia, it was reportedly necessary, in some cases, in the starting phase of the project, to clarify that the inclusion in PDT not incur the possibility of remaining in said program of income transfer.

Access to PRONAF and Agroamigo was cited by some of the participants interviewed. In one case, through PDT, the community member issued his Declaration of Fitness for PRONAF (DAP), which subsequently allowed for his access to the corresponding line of credit: "DAP helped me to buy my cow.

Through Emdagro, they came to see if I was entitled to credit and have access to a cow. And I got it." (Community member).

The Dom Távora Project worked with 6,127 families through 155 PNs, which include 225 productive projects. Each productive project involves an agricultural or non- agricultural activity, and each PN may house up to three projects.

According to respondents, PDT performed with priority initially set chains, which are: sheep and goat farming, poultry farming, crafts, artisanal fishing and aquaculture and rural tourism. In all, 29 productive activities were worked on by PDT, including, besides those already mentioned: cattle farming, agroecological practices, rural tourism, horticulture, fruit growing, beekeeping, cassava farming, rice farming, irrigation, feed factory, swine farming, rainfed agriculture, production of seedlings, joinery and carpentry and others.



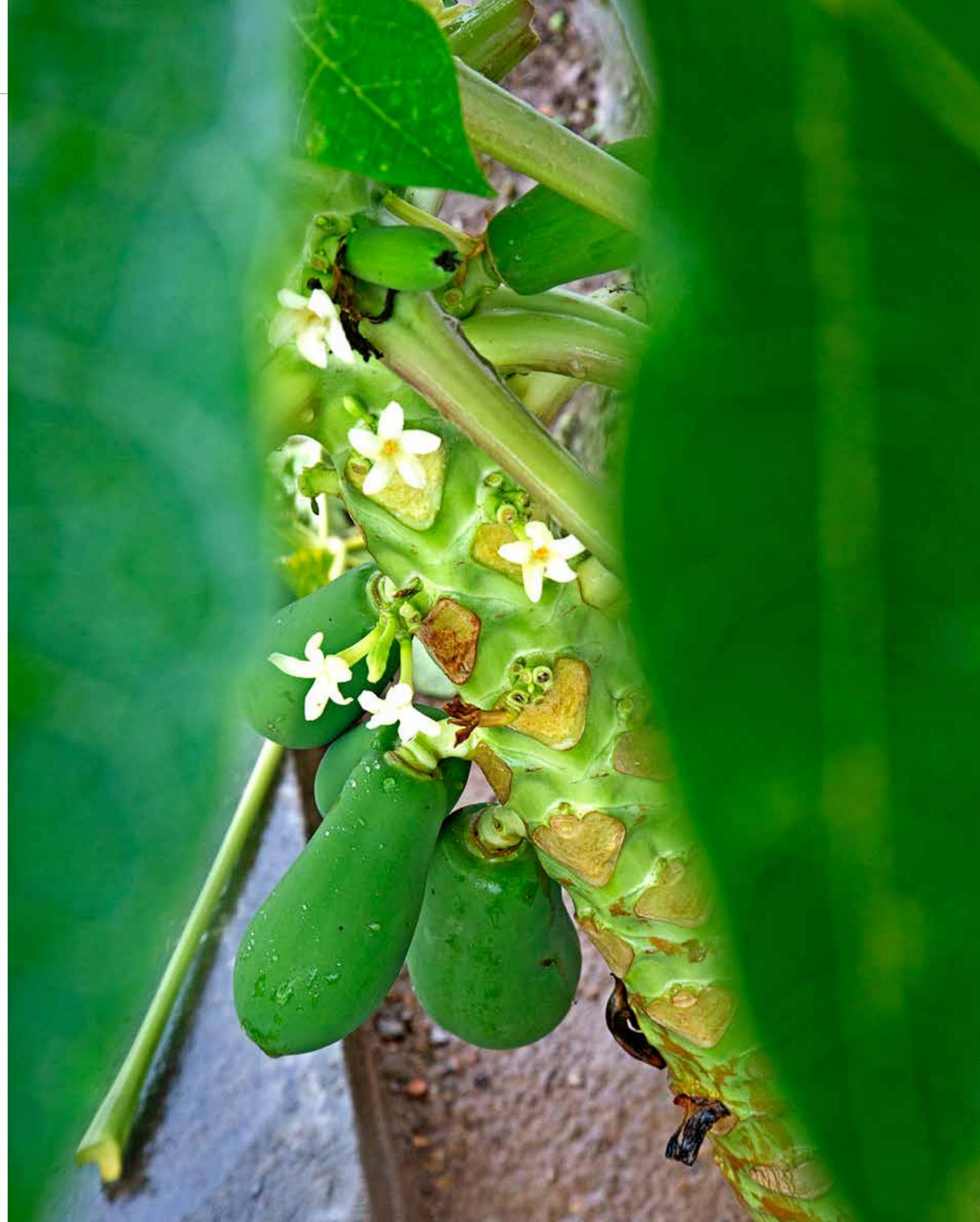
**Table 1: Main Production Activities/Chains**

Productive Activities/Chains	Number of projects	Number of Families	Investments
Sheep and Goat Farming	93	2836	R\$ 22.16 millions
Poultry farming	47	1042	R\$ 7.10 million
Others	21	472	R\$ 2.70 million
Crafts and Clothing	17	467	R\$ 3.21 million
Artisanal Fishing and Aquaculture	16	507	R\$ 4.60 million
Beef and Milk Cattle Farming	12	281	R\$ 2.16 million
Community-based Tourism	5	91	R\$ 0.87 million
Agroecological Practices	4	54	R\$ 0.74 million
Processing Units	4	200	R\$ 0.96 million
Horticulture and Fruit Growing	3	91	R\$ 1.10 million
Rainfed agriculture	3	86	R\$ 0.53 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>6,127</b>	<b>R\$ 46.13 million</b>

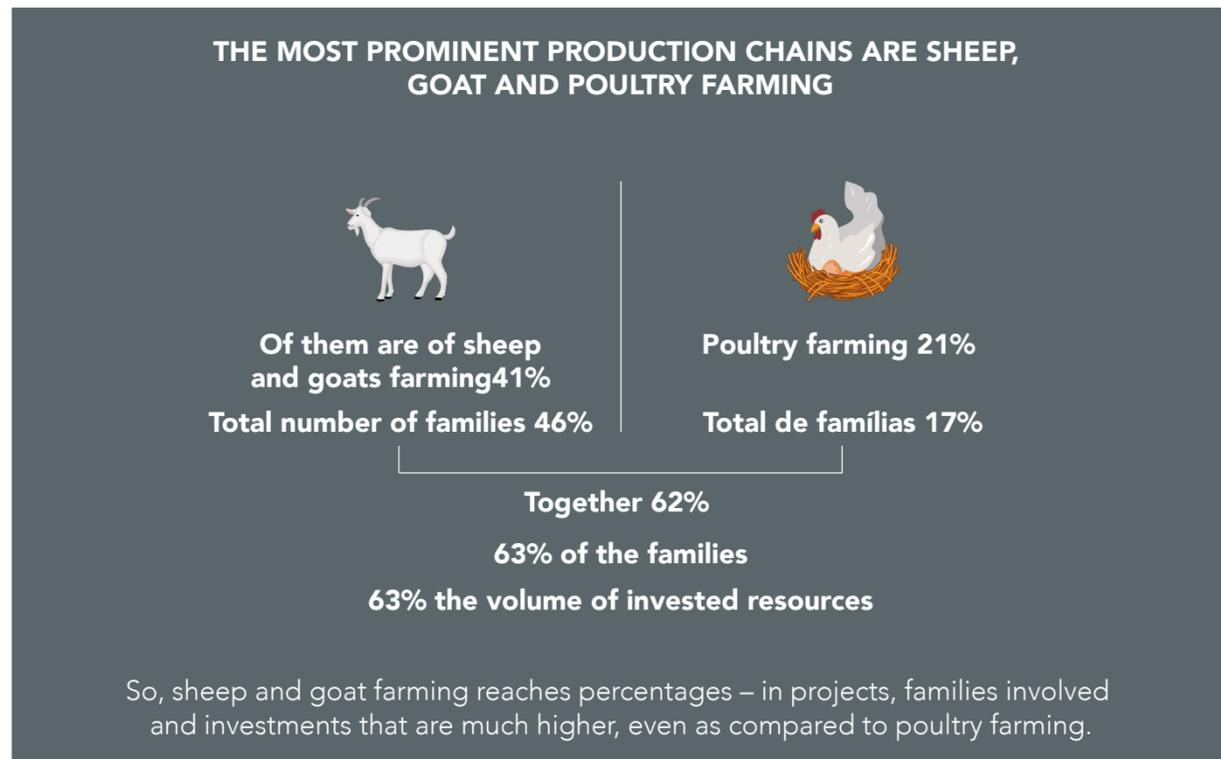
Source: UGP Information – Jan./2021

It is observed that the priority chains (sheep and goat farming, poultry, handicraft, including clothing, artisanal fishing and aquaculture) stand out in number of projects, families and resources. Rural/community-based tourism, also constant among the priority chains/activities initially planned, resulted in a smaller number of projects, families and resources than cattle raising activity (beef and milk). This activity is also surpassed by the processing units in the number of families and resources and by horticulture and fruit growing in investments, being equal in number of families.

The category other activities/productive chains results in 21 productive projects. Considering that 29 different activities were developed, it was observed that, in general, the activities not specified in the table, when individualized, include a restricted number of productive projects. The 21 projects involve 19 productive activities. The diversity of activities, therefore, reaches a limited number of initiatives.



In the sheep and goat farming chain, investments in animals, handling equipment, family training and actions to promote forage and agroecological alternatives were mentioned.



These increases in activity, made possible by PDT, result in improvements in the herd and on its handling:

I would say that the improvement brought by the project... From the point of view technology. In other words, with better standard animals, higher genetic quality, handling equipment in the productive activity, which often [families] did not know or did not use, which come as a technological innovation. (Specialist, UGP)

These improvements were reflected in the zootechnical indexes. According to field information, the impact of PDT actions can be observed in parameters such as general animal mortality, which was reduced, and calving, with increased birth rate. On the other hand, maintenance of difficulties in vermin control were mentioned.

The trainings carried out were highlighted for their contribution to the dissemination of information on the handling of animals:

Farmers have greatly improved the quality of their animal management practices over the past two years, which is another important legacy. [...] The influence of training in management was also important, directly resulting in reduction of animals deaths, which were generally decreased among all of the producers. Therefore, I believe the project played an important role for this public. (Specialist, UGP)

The trainings were mentioned with emphasis on a sheep breeding experience visited. According to the interviewee: "I saw it was something serious and I decided to give it a try, and I had the time to work. I saw that courses were offered to be better prepared for life, that is what interested me the most about the project." (Community).

The possibility of participating in training activities, with the prospect of being "better prepared" was achieved through training, about which the respondent states: "I could take a course on business management and the handling one. In the latter, I could learn to medicate, find better ways to treat my animals. In the business plan, I found out what to do to have a good product and how to sell it at a fairer price." (Specialist).

In one of these activities, the PDT participant reports how access to the castration technique, associated with the feasibility of equipment, allowed his training in the procedure:

Yes, an activity that was very productive. At the time, veterinarians and technicians came who trained on the lambs and taught us. The associations bought the castration kits and equipment, and nowadays I do castration right here, on my property. (Community member)

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The interviewee mentioned that he shares knowledge about animal handling and medication with his acquaintances. This exchange of information was also mentioned in the opposite direction by him, when he received handling tips regarding sheep's weight loss through a cousin. The dissemination of information and practices carried out by PDT thus contributes to these exchanges, not being restricted, therefore, to the family nucleus directly participating in the project. Thereby the project results in the expansion of training and educational actions beyond PDT participants.

Genetic improvement, through the acquisition of breeders, was mentioned as responsible for the volume of milk produced by a cooperative:

This is the case of two animals that came with registration. Plus a good price. [ ... ] And now we are collecting the results. After about a year and a half of change, what we noticed was a doubling of the average milk production, with two to three liters per day. I believe that this is a legacy that we are leaving for the project. (Specialist, UGP)

Regarding the breeding of ruminants and birds, feeding the animals is one of the bottlenecks in the productive activity. One of the project participants ponders about the difficulties faced: "In the beginning it was the lack of feed. It was the first difficulty, as it is a very dry region" (Community member). Scarcity and high cost were described as aspects hindering the raising of ruminants.

With this panorama, PDT worked on alternatives for animal feeding. This initiative was promoted in dialogue with IFAD consultants and in relation to the adoption of agroecological practices:

[...] we had an indicative, made by dialogue [...] with [IFAD consultant], who indicated alternatives that could include agroecology [...]. How, for example: to produce a forage food support using, for example, gliricidia and leucaena. The Secretariat itself, through parallel initiative, worked the issue of donation of gliricidia seedlings. (Specialist, UGP)

The contribution of IFAD in the scope of agroecological practices was also cited in relation to animal herbal medicine, taking as reference materials produced by the Dom Helder Câmara Project. In this sense, one can observe the circulation of information among the initiatives developed with IFAD.

For dissemination of agroecological practices in animal breeding activities, workshops were held, which counted on the sharing of one farmer's experience in the production of silage and the distribution of seedlings. Regarding the dissemination and implementation of forage options, families' access to them, both in the form of knowledge and the seedlings themselves, is related to the possibility of mitigating the production bottleneck represented by animal feed. This was an aspect taken into account in a perspective that considers the technological contribution as one of the results achieved by PDT. Thus:

The feed part, e.g., bank of proteins with planting of Gliricidia and Leucaena, rather than what they used before, i.e., buying soybeans bran, etc. This led to reduced dependence on external inputs. Therefore, we can infer that there were improvements in the beneficiaries' resilience in relation to living with the difficulties inherent in productive activity, especially due to technological support. It is safe to say that following this technological contribution there was a significant improvement in the project as a whole and its public in particular. (Specialist, UGP)

The implementation of forage palm cultivars and silage production also figure among the strategies used in the local production of animal feed, reflecting costs reduction and the autonomy of the productive system.

Palm is used by one of the interviewed PDT participants. Reflecting on the project, he mentions:

I believe that it has changed my life 100%. With this project I'm employed taking care of my sheep and I don't need to work for other people. I currently have 12 dams and some lambs. I'm working to get an engine to make feed, I have palm and, thank God, this is much better than before. (Community member)

The interviewee reported that, with the help of PDT, he expanded his production structure and increased his income through the sale of sheep and breeders for family maintenance. Forage production and improvements in management are also among the results of the work developed with the project. These results derive, as mentioned above, in the planning of future investments in the activity, the acquisition of an engine, denoting the enhancement of the activity.

Besides increased sheep farming and the income obtained, PDT led to the access to Pronaf: "Through the project I got my DAP (Declaration of Aptitude for Pronaf), managed to buy a cow calved with milk and contributed to food family at my home with milk and meat." (Community member).

If, in this case, the contribution to family nutrition was mentioned in a way not directly linked to sheep and goat farming, in general: "Another fundamental issue that we noticed is that the quality of life has improved and also family nutrition. There were no resources to buy meat and currently they slaughter smaller animals and this is a significant improvement for these families." (Specialist, UGP).

Poultry, as previously seen, is associated with women's activities. The prominence that the activity assumed in PDT contributed, in this way, to the visibility of this public and its productive insertion, as well as the activities performed by them.

Women and young people are mentioned for their role in increasing activity in families: "Another [result] to mention is the work with raising chickens, where young people and women bring technology and information that add value. And these are positive results. [...] We are entering families and increasing the family income." (Manager, UGP).

The inclusion of families and the impacts on family income are considered in relation to the production chain in question. In this sense, in the sequence of the talk, agroecological logbooks are also cited as another action linked to an activity in which the presence of women stands out: the production from vegetable gardens in family backyards.

The use of alternatives for the feeding of poultry follows the same considerations made for ruminants. Thus, PDT worked on the dissemination of information and plant seedlings. Considerations about improvements in zootechnical indexes were also made. In addition, the project's contribution for improving families' infrastructure for poultry farming appears as one of the results mentioned in the interviews.

The positive impact on poultry farming was mentioned by an interviewee who works with the activity with the whole family, husband and daughters. With PDT, the community improved the structure for conducting the activity: "There was no structure at all, when it rained it was much worse. I only could have a small farm and improve after the project arrived" (Community member). This contribution includes material for building pickets. PDT's investments also provided for the acquisition of animals.

Investments in infrastructure were accompanied by improvements in management, provided by access to information on practices that could be adopted:

It improved 100%. I learned many things from technicians and veterinarians. I learned how to vaccinate, which I now do alone. I learned to plan and never miss anything at home and on the farm. [...] I also learned about how to make better structures, like a rounded frame where I put a light bulb in the center and this prevents many premature deaths that I had been having. That's why the improvement promoted by the project is so important in my life. (Community member)

The importance of ATER is seen in the speech above, as the technicians and veterinarians contributed information for handling and for the improvement of husbandry indices, such as the mortality rate. The possibility of being supported by a veterinarian was highlighted: "With this project I can count on the support of a veterinarian who comes to my door, something we never had" (Community member).

The above quote also enables to highlight another element worked in the interaction with PDT: planning. Planning was referred to in relation to both the productive activity and the "home" as an auxiliary instrument to "never let anything run out". Thus, the project results in an improvement in family planning. According to the interviewee: "I took part in three days of courses, where I learned a lot of good things about planning, with planning for today and later in the whole business. I learned a lot of content that I didn't know and didn't expect to learn." (Community member).

The boost in activity allowed the family to go from eight chickens to approximately 300. The interviewee also mentioned one hundred eggs that were in the brooder. As she herself puts it: "In the beginning we had a few chickens, which were enough. Then, with the project, a feeder and a drinker and a new farm came and at that point we began to sell more, and then to buy more animals. And at this point I believe

everything came alright." (Community member). Eggs, chicks and chickens are sold both in the capital, carried by the family, and directly at home, through a middleman.

PDT actions resulted in the increase of the activity, which has been receiving family investments for its expansion and enhancement, impacting on family income: "It guarantees the family's income, food etc. We sell, buy more then. We increase, do some maintenance needed. Everything for planning." (Community member).

PDT actions, linked to crafts, included the purchase of equipment to allow improvements and the diversification of production and support to marketing.

The two aspects, equipment and marketing, figured in the experience of craftwork considered in this evaluation. According to the community interviewed, the equipment that was accessed by the association within the scope of PDT is intended both for the production of handicrafts and for the management of the activity:

The machines we acquired were cut and sewing machines, embroiderer, small machines like blowers, drills, etc. All items for helping us in the production of handicrafts. We also acquired computers that were in need, especially for records of production, production of labels and cards. (Community member)

Trainings articulated with the equipment made available by PDT were performed, like the cut and sewing and computer courses mentioned.

Marketing has been described as one of the bottlenecks of the activity:

In the area of handicrafts, the difficulty is to find stores or places to sell our handicrafts. Nowadays, the ways to market are very few. One or another tourist that appears, and it is very difficult to sell our products. We practically work for outside and in the area of handicrafts, some with tourism. (Community member)

Participation in fairs, articulated by PDT, was cited as an opportunity to display and market the production of the association. The support of the Company of Development of the São Francisco and Parnaíba Valleys (Codevasf) for participation in a trade show held annually was also mentioned. Through Codevasf, artisans also have access to machines that allow them to produce different handicrafts. The experience with the fairs was positive and from it came the interest shown in holding a fair on a territorial level.

With limited marketing, the artisans combine these activities with other jobs:

Before the Dom Távora Project, I worked with handicrafts and continued in this activity. But I also do another activity as a lunch cook in a school, in addition to working here at a nearby textile company. (Community member)

In this way, it is observed that handicraft is one of the activities that make up the remuneration of artisans of the association, but they have other sources to supplement their incomes.

The Dom Távora Project enabled an articulation between artisans who work with different materials,

resulting in different final products. An expansion was thus obtained in the supply and type of products of the association:

We work with straw, which is the main material used. With the project, we learned the possibility of calling other people farther away from the region who were already working with handicrafts and who helped us to increase the offer of products. Today, besides the straw, we worked with crochet, decorative dish towels, as well as using materials like PVC and *biscuit*. (Community member)

During the pandemic, the production of masks was an alternative:

We thought that, with the pandemic, we would not be able to hold on and carry on with the initiatives. After a while, we couldn't open or work. However, with the passing of time and as some of the associated women have sewing machines, it became possible to produce masks for the pandemic. Then, when it got better, we could return to handicrafts and orders started to appear and the situation improved with new orders. (Community member)

PDT contributed to the increase and diversification of production. Regarding the income from the activity: "Today a lot of things are worse due the global situation. But, in general, the girls can earn a bit more. And we always have to believe that little by little it will get better." (Community member).

In artisanal fishing and aquaculture, the information obtained highlights the role of PDT as a promoter of improvements in terms of equipment, machinery and materials related to the activities.

As for artisanal fishing, these investments also resulted in an increase in the activity, the fruit of improvements in the conditions for its performance: "So, the project has once again injected a working condition that most did not have. Therefore, from this point of view, without a doubt, it is a new moment for the activity in the region." (Specialist, UGP).

The context before the project was described as aged water vessels, with a low index of motorization, with fishermen facing difficulties in the access to fishing areas, and use of small mesh nets. With the support of PDT, these aspects were worked out with the families. The acquisition of engines allowed access to other fishing areas:

The lack of motorization prevented their access to some traditional ports, because they passed through farms. And today, these farms are armed and barring access to traditional ports, because of shrimp. So, they would have to change their original wells and that, without motorization, would be very difficult. (Specialist, UGP)

In the description of the public reached, the exception was made that, in fishing, part of the families came from a trajectory of forced displacement from the arrival of the sea in their former communities. This is compounded, in the setting of pressures experienced by these social groups, by the above-mentioned restrictions of access to their "original wells". This panorama amplifies the conditions provided by PDT, allowing an alternative access to other fishing areas and, therefore, the maintenance of these families' activities in fishing.

With regard to fishing nets, the increase in the mesh used, promoted by PDT, was mentioned as an important action: "The first one I would like to emphasize is the change in the mesh in nets. Which was

a great discussion, as it is totally linked to preservation, not only of the species, but also of the fishing business itself." (Specialist, UGP).

In this sense:

It is important to mention the importance of encouraging the use of larger meshes in the nets that beneficiary fishermen use. This gives the smaller fish a chance to escape. At first, it results in a lesser capture. However, the consequence is greater productive longevity, with a constant number of fish caught during the fishing periods, resulting in a constant income in the medium and long term. (Specialist, UGP)

The adoption of larger mesh nets is considered in a perspective of maintenance of fish and, therefore, the fishing activity.

In the experience of artisanal fishing and community-based tourism, addressed in the assessment in question, vessels and nets, accessed through PDT, were mentioned. With PDT, "Many things improved. I myself had no access to a fishing vessel or a fishing net. And the improvement was the same for others, who needed the same things as I did." (Community member).

The net, with the mesh size encouraged by PDT, made it possible to fish for a certain species, with an impact on the income obtained. Thus:

When it's time for the *curimã* fish, which is caught in a 70 by 60 net, it's good. Previously, because we didn't have the right net, we didn't get it. So it got better. Now we can pick up almost 200 kg of Curimã. And that was a big step for all of us. Income has improved a lot due to this. Crafts and coconuts, on the other hand, are further weakened by the pandemic situation. (Community member)

Reflecting on the income, in the speech above, the interviewee mentioned the two other activities carried out in addition to artisanal fishing: the home production of sweets and the crafts.

The association to which the interviewee belongs, existing since 2009, is composed of a majority of women: "And folks are really astonished by the women. In the sense of how they are present in the activity [artisanal fishing]. On the river, throwing nets, on the boat. They are warrior women. Women fishing together with husbands and brothers." (Community member).

Two of the associations with which PDT worked in fisheries are chaired by women and one by a transsexual person.

The association participated in PDT also with focus on community-based tourism. In relation to this activity:

I took part in a rural tourism course in Paraíba along with the Dom Távora project team. And it was very interesting and beautiful. In this place, they had little and still valued it. And here we have a lot, as compared, that we could better explore and offer quality rural tourism. (Community member)

Describing a situation of restricted access to drinking water, depending on water trucks and the lack of a sewage system in the locality, the interviewee mentions:

Our place is beautiful, but it doesn't have any structure for tourism. Our river is beautiful, but the banks are all dirty and polluted and this is bad for everyone, there are no employees for cleaning, it drives tourists away. A very beautiful but dirty beach. A beautiful view and a river of garbage. (Community member)

Considering the region's tourism potential, previous attempts by the association to promote actions for the activity were described:

As president of the association, I have been to several meetings and have requested the creation of a waterside strip for tourists, with a kiosk that can help our tourism, which has the potential to grow. Unfortunately, they don't look at small people like us and don't listen to us. (Community member)

Invisibility accompanies the interviewee's speech in the description of local conditions of access to water, sewage, health and education: "what they do to us is a denial" (Community member). Local conditions and the invisibility mentioned add to said "lack of structure" for tourism.

Thus, the PDT actions that were most highlighted are linked to artisanal fishing, leaving their contribution in equipment, fish diversification and the income obtained for participants:

As I see it, the Dom Távora project has brought a huge improvement to this village that lives off fishing. We could not afford any of the materials we have today. Materials that allow us to catch better quality fish and get better prices. Here we live off fishing and selling coconut sweet, which complement each other. And when things are tougher for fishing, sweets supplement the family's income. (Community member).

A multiple composition of family income is described by the interviewee, addressing how the different activities are complementary, reinforcing their importance. Besides fishing and sweets, handicraft was also mentioned: "handicraft has for now been halted, there is no more events in which we can expose and, thus, we have nowhere to sell it" (Community member). Potential and demands were also expressed: "we have a lot of cashew that could be sold in different ways. But we can't, because no one sees us and there is no one to look out for us" (Community member). Local demand of resources for a bakery was also mentioned in the project participant's account.

The sale of fish was identified as one of the difficulties experienced due to the low value received. PDT's contribution, by providing the conditions for catching other fish species, as already mentioned, was reflected in "better quality fish" and in "better prices".

In general, it was reported that most PDT participants sell fish by means of middlemen. PDT performed some actions aimed at marketing: "Another issue is that we can make use of applications for the sale of fish. With another group we were able to purchase motorcycles with small carts to get the fish to the fairs." (Specialist, UGP).

Actions in partnerships geared to marketing were cited as well.

[...] we also had a post-harvest dialogue with two municipalities, for use in school meals, of Neópolis and Ilha das Flores, which built, in support to the project, a place called "fish stand", for storage and marketing of fish, and the other provided support in structuring a point of sale. An example of post actions that were not included in the project design. It would be a "post-fishing" spot. So we interacted with these partners in the field of infrastructure support, rather than in the field of extension proper. (Specialist, UGP)

Codevasf was also a partner in PDT actions by carrying out water analyses, donating fingerlings, and providing training. Finally, in the area of aquaculture, the State Administration of the Environment (ADEMA) served as a partner in matters of environmental licensing.

Marketing, besides the characteristics already described, is considered "one of the identified bottlenecks [...]. Many of the beneficiaries need assistance in marketing and in productive structures, in addition to greater support from the government." (Manager, UGP).

In addition to the aforementioned marketing initiatives developed by PDT in artisanal fisheries, use of an app and motorcycles with cart, and the structuring of a sale spot, in partnership with two municipalities, other initiatives were identified. They are: the creation of a trading post for the sale of free-range chickens; the organization of handicraft marketing centers; the inclusion of PDT projects in the Rota dos Cordeiros<sup>2</sup>.

The impact of PDT on income family is considered positive among the interviewees. One of the ways mentioned in the perception of this impact is the increase in production: "This financing will be noticeable in the medium term rather than in the short run. However, in the short run we can see the improvement of people's income through the purchase of a structure, increase of production, etc." (Manager, UGP).

In the short term, therefore, such indicators as investments and constructions carried out by families and production are considered for an assessment of the project's impact on income.

In the experiences addressed in this evaluation, some aspects stood out. The boost provided by the work with PDT in the sheep farming activity allowed a young man to no longer work as a peasant and cowherd for other farmers: "I believe it has improved by 100%, as I work only for myself. I don't need to work as a cowherd for anyone else and that's the best gain".

In the experience with poultry farming, increased family income was obtained:

We currently have around 300 chickens and chicks that are able to replace animals that are lost. We're getting good money on the sale of chickens, approximately R\$3,000.00 per month, thanks to the Dom Távora project and Emdagro, which helped us to study and develop this activity. [...] The project has helped me a lot, especially as regards the improvement of my income and the assistance techniques that I could get. (Community member)

In artisanal fishing, as seen, the impact on income occurred through the possibility of catching fish of better quality and greater sale value.

<sup>2</sup> An initiative of the Ministry of National Integration in partnership with Embrapa Caprinos e Ovinos that includes marketing and a goat milk processing unit.

As informed, based on Impact Evaluation data, PDT resulted in an impact of 14% on the average annual family income.

**Quadro 1: Principais resultados Projeto Dom Távora**

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – DOM TÁVORA PROJECT**

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**AUDIENCE REACHED WITH BUSINESS PLANS:**  
**6,127** families in business plans. In total, **14,579** families.  
 Qualification of associations: training in associations and cooperatives and procurement and rendering of accounts.

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**YOUTH:**  
**30%** of young people as holders in business plans. Young Agents.

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**QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITIES:**  
**9%** of quilombolas as holders of business plans.

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**WOMEN:**  
**52%** of women as holders in business plans. Poultry and handicraft: activities with greater involvement of women. **4,312** women participated in the project's training sessions.

- Visibility of women and of activities related to them: backyards/horticulture (agroecological logbook) and the poultry industry.
- Visibility of the role of women in sheep and goat farming due to their inclusion as family representatives.

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**PUBLIC POLICIES:**  
 access to public policies

- ATER: training of the community in productive, management and planning activities.

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – DOM TÁVORA PROJECT**

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**PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS:**

- Sheep and Goat Farming: improvements in the herd, handling and reduction of animals deaths. Increased production. Promotion of alternatives to forage, costs reduction and improvement in the autonomy of productive systems. Training of producers. Dissemination of information/knowledge among community members. Expansion of training actions beyond the public directly participating in PDT. Enhancement of activity: own investments to improve activity.

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- Poultry farming: improvements in facilities, handling, animal health, reduction in animal mortality. Increase of production. Dissemination and implementation of alternatives to animal feeding. Training in planning: knowledge used in family planning, not just in the productive activity. Enhancement of activity: own investments to improve activity.

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- Handicrafts: increase and diversification of production.

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- Artisanal fishing: improvements in conditions for carrying out the activity. Access to new vessels and engines and nets with appropriate mesh size. Increased activity.

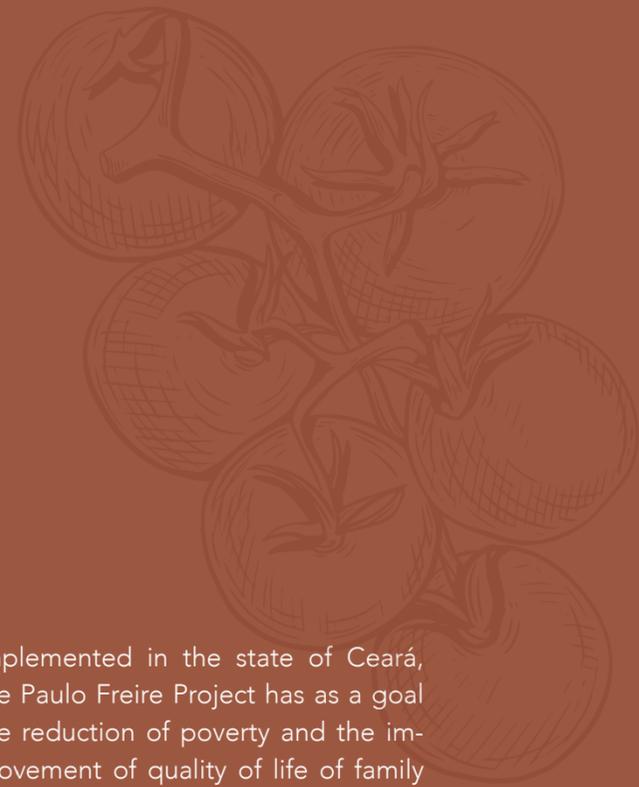
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- Increased family income. Increased importance of the income from the activity in family income composition, sheep and goat farming, and poultry. Artisanal fishing, improvement in the price obtained on fish. Impact of 14% on average annual family income (impact Evaluation).



PPF

PAULO FREIRE PROJECT



Implemented in the state of Ceará, the Paulo Freire Project has as a goal the reduction of poverty and the improvement of quality of life of family farmers. As a development objective, the project is aimed at reducing rural poverty in the semiarid region of Ceará. Therefore, it seeks to improve human and social capital and sustainable production based on agricultural and non-agricultural income generation and geared mainly to young people and women.

With respect to the specific objectives, the following are mentioned:

- a) To strengthen the capacity of the rural population and community and economic organizations to identify, prioritize and solve their problems, form leaders, and improve their ability to participate in local decision-making.
- b) To support the establishment and strengthening of community and family productive initiatives, increasing their capabilities and skills to develop rural business and to access markets, including institutional markets (PAA, PNAE and others), and other public policies for family agriculture (Pro-naf, PNCF, among others).
- c) To foster sustainable agricultural and non-agricultural productive development that increases the productivity of communities and family units, generating income and employment opportunities and taking into account the adoption and promotion of agroecological practices and sustainable management of natural resources. (IFAD; State of Ceará, 2013)

Operating in 31 municipalities, the Paulo Freire Project is present in six territories: Cariri, Sertão dos Inhamuns, Sertão dos Crateús, Sertão de Sobral, Serra da Ibiapaba and Litoral Oeste/Vales do Curu-Aracatiaçu.

The Paulo Freire Project was carried out by seven third sector organizations: NGO Cactus (Cactus), Caritas Diocesana de Crateús (Caritas), Center for Studies and Assistance to Workers' Struggles (Cealtru), Center for Labor Studies and Worker Advisory Services (Cetra), Esplar Research and Advisory Center (Esplar), Instituto Flor do Piqui (Flor do Piqui) and Instituto Antônio Conselheiro (IAC).

The survey of information used in this evaluation was carried out in December of 2020.

### 1. AUDIENCE REACHED

The Paulo Freire Project actions reached out to a public in a situation of social vulnerability. Families in situation of extreme poverty, poorly organized communities, restricted or non-existent access to public policies (at times only Bolsa Família, if any), reduced access to water (with deficit of tanks of the first and the second water) and limitation of land are aspects found in the public served by the project. From this performance, it was possible to highlight aspects of communities in rural poverty that, added to project implementation, have left a baggage for reflection and decision-making on actions aimed at family farming in its most vulnerable portion. This group is often strictly sheltered, when not fully made invisible, in social character approaches. This experience, which dialogues and circulates through the fields of social/rural/agricultural action, is a result-strategy of the Paulo Freire Project.

This project worked with 23,646 people in the set of its actions, as indicated in the table below.

**Table 2: Public reached**

TYPE OF BENEFICIARY		TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES BY TYPE
	<b>TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS</b>	
	Quilombolas	<b>632</b>
	Indigenous	<b>127</b>
	Artisanal fishermen	<b>491</b>
	<b>WOMEN</b> (HEAD OF FAMILY/ALL CATEGORIES)	<b>13,578</b>
	<b>YOUNG</b>	<b>4151</b>
	<b>AGRARIAN REFORM SETTLERS</b>	<b>134</b>
	<b>RURAL COMMUNITY POPULATIONS</b> (*TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS NOT INCLUDED)	<b>22,262</b>
<b>TOTAL OF BENEFICIARIES</b>		<b>23,646</b>
<b>TOTAL OF BENEFICIARIES TRAINED IN PUBLIC POLICIES (EXCLUSIVELY)</b>		<b>14,579</b>

Source: UGP PPF Information – Dec./2020

In the traditional populations category, women's participation is distributed in such a way as to reach the following percentages: quilombolas, 69%; indigenous people, 70%; artisanal fishermen, 50%. The percentage of young people is: quilombolas, 20%; indigenous, 21%; and traditional fishermen, 19%.

To work with young people, the project had specific assistance. A series of activities were carried out: exchanges, meetings, caravans, festivals, learning circles, education, training and encouraging the formation of groups of young people. As a result, there was an expansion of recognition and spaces of action of young people in their social groups. This conclusion is also supported by references to the formation of leaders, multipliers, youth occupation of spaces in associations and their participation in productive projects.

In their role as multipliers, "they [young people] are already managing to talk to their families and communities about the techniques, about the projects' actions that are being developed by young people" (Technical Mediator). The mediator also mentions the greater participation of young people in associations. They occupy spaces, improve their insertion in the communities and obtain more recognition from other community members.

In addition, the Paulo Freire Project contributed to some young people seeking agricultural schools:

When the project started to come, things started to come to the youth, there started to be tours, exchanges, short courses. I started to get attached, to fall in love [...]. The technician who works here in the community, he helped me. [...] Then I went to the Dom Fragoso agricultural school. (Community girl)

The activities of the project and the dialogue with the providers of Continuous Technical Assistance (ATC) were mentioned in other opportunities as catalysts of inclusion in farming schools, not only of young people directly participating in the project. The participation of consultancy in local spaces of social articulation allowed the dissemination of information:

Because [ATC] helped with the information. [...] But it's because people gather at the meetings [...] of the Semiarid Forum [...]. It's just that sometimes they bring everyone together and that discussion starts. Then community leaders pass the information and the people get interested and go. (Community member)

The effects of the training of leaders are observed in the very conduct of the Paulo Freire Project activities: "We get to see the youth leaders calling for us, really demanding it. Because, these leaders, we were the ones who trained them, we contributed to this training." (Technical Mediator).

Young people are occupying spaces and asserting themselves as agents of the processes. Among the Productive Investment Plans (PIPs), 23% of them have young people as holders. Through this integration, young people can see opportunities for action and permanence in the field.

Regarding the work with quilombola communities, in addition to what is linked to other actions, the project presents as a result the approach to the racial issue and acting with a specificity of these communities: recognition.

The shortage of technicians and technical advisors experienced with the racial issue and the quilombola communities is a feature of the agricultural/rural spaces. Likewise, the representativeness of these spaces is limited. Specific trainings were conducted by UGP, through its Gender, Race and Ethnicity advisory body:

We did a whole day of training. [...] And it is a challenge to work with traditional communities because we have a history of access to information that is sometimes a little distorted. [...] How am I going to have a technical quality of action if I am still bound to these common sense thoughts? (Technical Advisor)

Advisors were also important on the community level, "because she [the advisor] is a black woman that was very helpful to the community for us not to exclude ourselves, not be ashamed. She is a feminist and this has strengthened the women's group a lot. [...] she was one of the heads of our exchange" (Community member, Quilombola Community).

The above-mentioned exchange was organized after the training with the ATCs:

From this training, it was decided to hold a meeting between black and quilombola communities [in the territory]. [...] Because not all of the communities are recognized, there was no self-recognition and the State Coordination of Quilombola Communities did not know these communities either. (Technical Advisor)

This meeting also had the participation of the Coordination of Quilombola Communities of Ceará (Cerquice). As a result, according to one of the community members, "we got to know the other communities [...]. And today we are already part of the quilombola movement in the state of Ceará, Cerquice. Whenever there is a meeting with them, we are in, participating." (Community member, Quilombola Community).

The quilombola community expands its connections. This articulation with other quilombola communities, through the state coordination, impacts the strengthening of the quilombola identity:

Through this exchange that we had in our community, [...] we made great progress. Today, the community, it gets to the hospital for an appointment, it gets to Bolsa Família, today they want their identity over there: "I am a quilombola". [...] After the Paulo Freire Project, after this exchange, everyone comes to the association, to the events: "I'm a quilombola, I'm openly a quilombola and I want to be respected". (Community member, Quilombola Community)

From this articulation, the community followed its trajectory for obtaining recognition by the Palmares Foundation and gained visibility: "Our community has been mapped. The government already knows that the quilombo exists here and this is also a great achievement of ours. Being mapped makes it different. All that's missing now is the certificate." (Community member, Quilombola Community).

Due to the inclusion in the mapping, the community already achieves greater visibility as a quilombola. With the help of the National Coordination of Quilombos Coordination (Conaq), the process of recognition by the Palmares Foundation is in progress.

The advisor summarizes the results achieved:

*They are already included in the union, the one that represents farmers, with the quilombo movement, which has this issue of strengthening the identity and various actions, participation in fairs (before the pandemic we had the fair), meetings of mobilization, of political formation. (Technical Advisor)*

In addition to the articulations, mapping and certification, the inclusion of the community in the spaces described above and the productive actions, the project, through a computer kit, helped the community to continue the dialogues initiated from the exchange.

Therefore, the Paulo Freire Project has, as a result of its work with quilombola communities, the strengthening of the quilombola identity, the support for its recognition, and the expansion of the articulations of these communities with other actors and institutions.

## 2. GENDER RELATIONS

Considering the strategies and actions in dialogue with the theme of gender relations, it is possible to visualize a set of results that are distributed in three instances of the Paulo Freire Project: rural communities, ATCs and UGP.

In the context of rural communities, the presence of women on boards of associations and as holders of investment plans is a result achieved by the project. In the first case, field reports highlighted the increased number of women in managerial positions in associations, both in situations in which these associations were created from the project and through the renewal of boards in existing associations. With regard to investment plans, 76% of them have women as holders. In addition to the direct inclusion of women in productive activities and associations, the role of the Paulo Freire Project with this group was observed in the communities by addressing the female condition in social groups, families and communities, the process of recognizing the gender relations that challenge the daily life, and the possibility of interference in these relationships. These elements appear in the narratives in a connected way.

In this role, ATC was fundamental, allowing technicians to be closer to the families, which led to the construction of a process of trust and, thus, to a larger and more diversified space for dialogue. This proximity appears related to the possibility of acting more directly with women and addressing more sensitive issues. Some strategies were used, such as the mixed action, of a male technician along with a female technician, in order to facilitate interaction with women in the communities. In addition, the presence of advisors from the social area brought a differentiated look and way of acting for the technical teams, with greater sensitivity to work with women and their particularities.

Reports suggesting that in the initiatives, such as women-only meetings, there was little presence of women at first and that their lines were restricted value the work carried out by the project and the achievement obtained in the direct inclusion of women in production processes. Ownership of the registry is a way to contribute to the empowerment of this group. The same happens in relation to participation in associations. As the interviewee highlights, "people realized that we, with the gender workshop, woman and man, they are equal too. They have to fight for the same space [...]. I believe it was a very good, very cool empowerment of womEn." (Community member).



From the empowerment perspective, references – their own and collective – to the recognition of the role of women and the importance and significance of the activities they perform appeared in the interviews, contributing to this slow and challenging process. The incentive to the formation of groups of women was also one of the strategies promoted. One of the dimensions involved with the groups is the search for the visibility of the work of women, of their participation in income family. The market place is one of the spaces of circulation of women's products: "There is the development of female farmers. They sell their seedlings [...]. They go selling around the neighborhood. There is also the making of cakes, of foods. Women go developing their things to move forward." (Community young woman).

In this sense, community fairs appear as an additional space for the insertion and visibility of women and their activities, contributing to the empowerment:

*In the communities, by having a small fair, she left the headquarters, she created power, she created strength. [...] Due to the need of the fair, for this empowerment to go out [...]. At the fair you can take everything you produce at home. And the woman, she could see it more broadly. The tea herbs that she used to produce, she also can sell and that tea also is also valuable in the market. (Community member)*

The incentive for the participation of women in marketing channels, local or external, adds to the strategies of visualization and enhancement of their activities, contributing to their empowerment.

The qualification of women in aspects of productive activities, mentioned as a challenge encountered, also makes its contribution to this process:

*One thing I also see as a positive point is that it involves women a lot. [...] My neighbor came here to work at my home and he came to talk about his aviary. He said, "Boy, the woman says I'm not supposed to handle her chicks. That she is the only one who knows how to take care of them properly". She was the one who went to the trainings. (Community member)*

In addition to bringing the gender issue to the performance of technical assistance, counting on the qualification of teams through project advisors, or even on training moments organized by the ATCs themselves, some partnerships were established with CRAS and CREAS to address such issues as violence against women and healthy eating with community members. The presence of quotas of women in the technical teams, and even in the UGP itself, shows that the project makes results of integration and visibility of women, beyond the communities, contributing to the empowerment process still much needed in areas of operation with agriculture and rural matters and society in general.

The agroecological logbooks<sup>3</sup> are directly associated with the idea of women's empowerment, of appreciation of their work and their role in social collectives, both from these women's own perspective and from other social actors' perspective.

<sup>3</sup> Implemented in all IFAD-supported projects in Brazil through the "Project for Training and Dissemination of the Conscious Use of Agroecological Logbooks in IFAD-Supported Projects in Brazil", part of the partnership between the Semear Internacional Program, Centro de Tecnologias Alternativas da Zona da Mata and Grupo de Trabalho de Mulheres da Articulação Nacional de Agroecologia.



According to the narratives of the field, direct participation in the agroecological logbooks was done with a quantitatively more restricted group of women. In order to involve a greater number of women, expanded meetings were held, with the presence of other community female members. On these occasions, procedures and results of individual experiences were shared. To get a greater dissemination of information, it was chosen, also, in some cases, to select members of women's groups already formed, in which dissemination would be facilitated.

The women's group, we started, we were five. Then it increased. And today, we already had a great participation in the ecological logbook. [...] that was wonderful. Because we had great knowledge and many of them thought they only helped [in the family income]. And today they thump their chests with pride and say: "I am a worker. I work harder than my husband". This is very good. At the end of the month you will see what you have consumed, what you donated, what you sold, the fruit of your work. [...] The group of women only grew and became even more united. (Community female member, Quilombola Community)

Recording the consumption, the exchanges, donations and sales allowed valuing the production, giving visibility to the contribution of women's activities in family economy:

It was a very important tool . [...] it has been a year since I've been writing down everything [...]. At the end of the month, you add up and you will see what you spent, what you profited. Something that, before that, we used to say: we have no income at all. [...] But we are now taking notes, and at the end of the month, you see that you have an income. (Community member)

The recording of production, with its consequent appreciation, was constantly monitored by the ATCs team. This monitoring was an incentive:

So, how would I put in the logbook what I produce, what I donate, without someone to be paying attention? This was very interesting because usually the woman takes notes. But having one look from afar, valuing it, makes us feel empowered. Then the whole community gained this value. [...] Every woman has managed to value what she produces, what the backyard produces, what the flood cistern came to do. (Community female member)

The logbooks have contributed for women to feel empowered. According to the excerpt above, the valuation of women reverberates to "all the community."

Besides the contribution to women's empowerment, to the productive boosting of backyards and the impacts on food security and household income, the agroecological logbooks are a tool that, after the experience with the project, came to integrate the actions of one of the ATCs. Thus, the project contributed also to the spread of an important tool for the performance with women.

### 3. PUBLIC POLICIES AND CONTINUOUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

One of the first actions carried out by Project Paulo Freire in all the communities were the training in public policy. These skills involve a broad set of people, reaching 14,579 community members that interacted with the project only in this action. In them, public policies were discussed as a right of community members and in conjunction with such aspects as social organization.

It is something designed to really change people's lives, to improve, whether economically, financially, but in relation to knowledge as well, to public policy. [...] It came to show what public policies are. What it is to be a citizen, to exercise citizenship. [...] since many were not aware of public policies and now live searching: "Hey, in relation to what we heard, it's our right". [...] we talked a lot about elderly rights. ECA was also spoken a lot about, the Child and Adolescent Statute. (Community member)

On the relationship between public policies and social organization, another interviewee states: "Today, with the Paulo Freire Project, we know and are aware that everything that our community got with the municipality was with the endorsement of the community association. It is a public policy that the community association achieves and the mayor only signs below." (Community member).

The training in public policies carried out by the Paulo Freire Project provided an approach to the subject and the availability of information in a broad and multisectoral manner. In sequence, the Continuous Technical Assistance (ATC) actions carried on the articulation of public policies on issues relating to social organization, to associativism as a mediator between communities and such instruments, besides acting to disseminate specific information about certain actions and assist communities and community members in both aspects.

The programs and policies mentioned that had already been accessed by community members prior to the Paulo Freire Project were Bolsa Família, education and health policies, Brasil Sem Miséria (with actions in the building of cisterns and allocation of financial resources for poultry farming), the National Program for Strengthening Family Agriculture (Pronaf), Garantia Safra, PAA, São José Project (electrification) and Água Doce Project. Bolsa Família has been mentioned as the most accessed program. In addition, the information obtained from the UGP cite: PNAE, Hora de Plantar, Casa Digital, Cisternas de Placa and Cisterna Calçadão. It is observed, therefore, that the actions previously accessed by communities and community members include the social, education, health, rural/productive activities, infrastructure and coexistence with the semiarid region sectors, and some initiatives may operate with intersectoral approaches.

Among the public policies accessed by the community after the start of the Paulo Freire Project activities, Pronaf, Agroamigo and Crediamigo were mentioned. Investments in poultry and beekeeping activities were mentioned, as well as handicrafts, in the case of Crediamigo. These were occasional mentions and the narratives revolved rather around projections of possible actions to be accessed. In this context, the São José Project was often referred to, in some cases as a possibility to work on marketing-related aspects.

PAA and PNAE were mentioned by some interviewees as possibilities that have been partly started, but without accomplished examples. Among community members, some statements on PAA and PNAE accompanied considerations on the time required for receiving financial resources, mentioning payments taking long and being delayed and how these aspects would discourage the search for these forms of

institutional commercialization. There was also a specific reference to the technical support provided for access to Auxílio Emergencial, available in the context of the pandemic.

The information provided by UGP mention how policies and programs accessed after the Paulo Freire Project was implemented: Garantia Safra, Bolsa Família, Hora de Plantar, Cisterna de Segunda Água, Auxílio-Doença, Água para Todos, São José, Crédito Rural, Pró-Jovem, Brasil Sem Miséria, Mais Infância, Cisterna de Primeira Água, Crediamigo, Aposentadoria Rural, Programa Uma Terra e Duas Águas (P1+2), and Um Milhão de Cisternas.

The Continuous Technical Assistance operated by the Paulo Freire Project can be considered both as a strategy adopted with external and internal results, and as a result in itself. It should be considered that access to this type of assistance prior to the project was restricted, if any, in the communities reached.

Social organization was often highlighted as one of the challenging elements of the project's implementation and also as one of the results achieved resulting from the provision of Continuous Technical Assistance. ATCs acted in the reorganization of existing associations and even in creating new ones. Social mobilization also was impacted by encouraging the development of activities collectively. As a result, situations were observed in which the growing interest in participating in associations and the increase in members were already portrayed.

The approach adopted in the advisory boards, involving the community in a constant process of knowledge building, allows social organization through associations to contribute to the perspective of internal empowerment of the community and recognition of their rights and possible ways. These results amplify the relevance of this action facing the initial conditions of the communities, weakened in formal terms of social organization and the vulnerability situation of the public reached.

The technical assistance of the Paulo Freire Project was provided by seven third-sector organizations: NGO Cactus (Cactus), Caritas Diocesana de Crateús (Caritas), Center for Studies and Assistance to the Workers' Struggles (Cealtru), Center of Studies of Labor and Assistance for Workers (Cetra), Center for Research and Consultancy Esplar (Esplar) Flor do Piqui Institute (Flor do Piqui) and Instituto Antonio Conselheiro (IAC). These ATCs acted with the 23,646 community members and were often present in communities, mobilizing individual and collective ATER instruments. All ATCs develop activities with priority audiences of women and youth. Five of them work with quilombolas: Esplar, Flor do Piqui, Cetra, Caritas and Cactus; two with indigenous people: Caritas and Esplar; three with artisanal fishermen: Cealtru, Cetra and IAC and one with agrarian reform settlers: CETRA. For advisory actions, in addition to ATCs, the project counted on the Brazilian Service of Support for Micro and Small Enterprises (Sebrae), which provided assistance to handicraft.

From what was observed in this evaluation, the ATC implemented by the project is a continuous rather than occasional advisory service, which acts in several fields – associativism, social, productive – and is guided by the input of information and an approach of actions designed to promote the autonomy of the communities.

One of the legacies that appear in the community members' statements is the access to information, whether linked to productive activities or to other project activities, such as public policies and social organization.

The project worked with a stage prior to the arrival of investment, focused on technical assistance, for trainings and encouragement to participation and interaction. With regard to productive activities, this aspect

appears in community members as a form of preparation prior to the receipt of material investments and contributes to their use. ATC's performance was also described by community members as non-occasional, that is, the assistance provided to the families was not restricted to aspects related to the project's productive activities.

The results of ATC are not only achieved with community members. For these consultancy teams, the project was an opportunity to develop a constant performance close to the public, reaching a high number of communities. This is one of the aspects that allows to say that the operation of the continuous technical assistance, in the Project Paulo Freire framework, is by itself not only one of the results achieved but also a generator of other products.

To act on the project, ATCs had to increase their technical teams. The management of an expanded team was accompanied by moments of education, training, consultancy, dialogues/exchanges that sought to work on a set of themes, instruments and actions aligned with the project. The actions of the Paulo Freire Project have not only produced internal results in advisory services but also leave as legacy a set of professionals with background and preparation for action on such issues as coexistence with the semiarid climate, participatory methodologies, agroecology, as well as the ability to act with collective and social categories whose access to external actions is historically restricted, if any, such as vulnerable families, women, youth, traditional populations. In a context in which professionals like these are scarce, this training is an important result of the project.

The set of actions identified, aimed at the qualitative promotion of the performance and the technical staff, includes: UGP actions in dialogue with ATCs, actions carried out between ATCs and internal dynamics of each ATC.

In the first category, training actions for ATCs technical teams aimed at the priority public were mentioned. They were conducted by advising the project on gender, race, and ethnicity and youths categories. In addition, advisory services were provided to the organizations individually.

The different experiences of the seven ATCs carry particularities that enriched the performance and allowed exchanges between them. Community fairs are an example of an action strategy from ATCs that was shared. These fairs have spread from the trainings organized by UGP, one of the opportunities for exchange experiences between ATCs.

Initiatives of internal formations were cited, in some cases related to the existence of social workers and advisors in the team. From the second stage of the project, UGP demanded the presence of social workers in the technical teams, and the inclusion of women in the technical staff, in the different areas, with a minimum quota of 30%.

The very performance in the project can be considered an opportunity of training for the beginning technical staff, so as to acquire or expand work experiences targeted for the priority public, agroecology, social organization and mobilization, social technologies and others.

The reinforcement to action and constitution of a multidisciplinary team, showing the interaction between social, productive and environmental issues and individual and collective dynamics in their differential nature, allows these aspects to add in the perspective of qualification and expansion of technical advisory experiences. This contribution took place, as seen, both institutionally and from the professionals' per-

spectives. The importance of moving through different fields of expertise, in multidisciplinary dialogues, stands out when the objective is to develop actions with social layers in peripheral situation, of invisibility and precariousness.

#### 4. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS AND SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

The Productive Investment Plans (PIPs) implemented by the Paulo Freire Project comprised 17,742 people, distributed in different groups, according to the table below.

**Table 3: Productive Investment Plans, distribution by social categories**

TYPE OF BENEFICIARY	TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES BY TYPE
ALL THE BENEFICIARIES	17.742
 TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS	1.250
 QUILOMBOLAS	632
 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE	127
 ARTISANAL FISHERMEN	127
 WOMEN	13,578
 YOUNG	4151
 AGRARIAN REFORM SETTLERS SERVED	134
 POPULATIONS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES (TRADITIONAL POPULATIONS NOT INCLUDED )	22,262

Source: UGP PPF Information – Dec./2020

Thus, 93% of the PIPs are linked to populations of rural communities and 7% to traditional populations. As regards the latter, quilombolas and artisanal fishermen reach, approximately, 3% of the total of plans each, while 1% of the plans include indigenous communities. Transversely to the other categories, women are holders in 76% of the plans and young people, in 23%.

During the information survey, PIPs activities had been completed in 2,670 plans. The others were in the execution phase, which comprises 40% of the resources linked to inputs and machines and is subsequent to the installation phase, which counted on the contribution of 60% of the planned resources.

The Paulo Freire Project carried out a series of activities in the communities prior to the establishment of agreements with associations and the arrival of investments. As we have seen, at this stage, technical advisory services contributed to the creation or regularization of organizations. In this preceding period, actions of education, trainings, exchanges, involving both the production and the social areas, were also carried out by ATCs. These actions contribute to the mobilization and social organization of communities, differentiating themselves from initiatives where the collectives are articulated on a ad hoc basis, for example, to receive some external resource.

The Paulo Freire Project PIPs may include more than one activity, which is a characteristic of the vast majority of them. The project sought to work with activities already developed by the communities, which were demanded by them and with a focus on production for family consumption, with the sale of surpluses. The multiplicity of activities and the targeting of food security of the families, with the sale of surpluses, was achieved. In all, there are 16 productive activities and social technologies.



**Table 4: Productive activities and social technologist**

Productive chains or activities (agricultural and non- agricultural)	Number of families	Average cost per family	Invested resource
Poultry farming	6,347	R\$ 3,798.33	R\$ 24,108,012.85
Sheep and goats farming + forage support	4,633	R\$ 4,871.98	R\$ 22,571,904.15
Productive Backyard	3,207	R\$ 786.29	R\$ 2,521,632.03
Swine farming	2,355	R\$ 4,854.09	R\$ 11,431,381.58
Water Reuse with Productive Yard	2,723	R\$ 3,163.57	R\$ 8,614,410.19
Biodigesters	1,759	R\$ 1,659.30	R\$ 2,918,708.70
Beekeeping	648	R\$ 5,389.20	R\$ 3,492,199.43
Handicrafts	224	R\$ 3,833.29	R\$ 858,656.96
Cassava culture	204	R\$ 2,023.52	R\$ 412,798.08
Artisanal fishing	185	R\$ 4,877.38	R\$ 902,315.30
Ecological Stoves	232	R\$ 801.00	R\$ 185,832.00
Fruit growing	93	R\$ 4,896.08	R\$ 455,335.44
Horticulture	73	R\$ 6772.27	R\$ 494,375.71
Cashew culture	64	R\$ 3,170.94	R\$ 202,940.24
Processing Unit	244	R\$ 7,454.28	R\$ 1,818,844.32
Barreiro (environmental project)	40	R\$ 1,759.88	R\$ 70,395.38

Source: UGP PPF Information – Dec./2020

As can be seen, poultry and sheep and goats (with forage support) farming are the activities that involve the largest number of families and financial resources. Next, in terms of number of families, are productive backyards. They are the seventh activity in terms of investment volume. Backyards and poultry farming are activities often related to women. The prominence presented by these activities reflects the project’s orientation towards the inclusion of this specific audience. Swine farming is the fourth in number of families and the third in terms of invested resources. Among social technologies, water reuse stands out, accompanied by productive backyards, being the fifth activity in number of families and fourth in resources, and biodigesters, the sixth in number of families and financial resources.

Backyards, due to their relation with agroecological logbooks and food and nutrition safety, have been previously addressed. The other activities are mobilized in this document according to their articulation with the themes under analysis.

The set of productive assets accessed by the communities through the Paulo Freire Project involves constructions, acquisition of animals, machinery and equipment and acquisition of inputs, which promoted improvements in productive activities. A survey of results carried out by UGP in May of 2020 pointed a 28% increase in volume of production.

Regarding animal husbandry, access to it and increments in the available infrastructure contributed positively for the activities:

They started to have a shelter structure for the animals. [...] many of them used to raise small animals, but in a way that was not properly managed, with the animals free range [under adverse conditions]. [...] There are five communities that have already eaten chicken [...], the productive result is [...] people have improved the animals’ quality of life and theirs. (Technical Mediator)

Improvements in the structures for husbandry and access to animals show results through family consumption and animal handling. The improvement of the infrastructure for swine farming was also cited as a positive aspect contributed by the project as compared to the system used before: “All of them had hogs. But they were raised free-range. The animals hopping indoors, leaving and running home, defecating [...]. It was like that. [...] And now, those who are in the project have the pigsty.” (Community member).

In the case of the above quote, the building of a biodigester accompanies the investments in swine farming. Gas production, the use of animals’ residues, and the possibility of savings in family income by the non-necessity of purchasing gas, obtained by the digester, are added to the increased productive activity.

The infrastructure provided allows improvements and the very joining in the activity:

Some families were willing to, but could not raise chicks. In winter, when it rained, we would run, caught the chicks and put them in a box [...]. But not today. There’s the little house, with electricity [...]. We can leave the house, go to the field and let the chicks locked up without running the risk of the rain coming and dragging them away. (Quilombola Community member)

With the chicken coops, it becomes possible to raise chickens and the interest in the activity increases: “the families already had that movement of raising chickens, but it was not as much as it is today, after the Paulo Freire Project” (Quilombola Community member).

The investments made in poultry farming also included material to install small beds, vegetable, fruit and forage seedlings for grazing by the chickens. In this way, these investments contributed to families’ and animals’ food security and enabled the sale of surpluses.

For animal husbandry, some equipment was acquired:

The producer did not have a place to carry out their sanitary handling . [...] These families did not have, for example, some pieces of equipment [...] for castration of animals. A forage harvester or silage machine that will improve the production of silage, for example, or even food [...], a vaccination injector. (Manager, UGP)

Investments, buildings and equipment have allowed improvements in the handling and raising of livestock.

In beekeeping, the contribution of boxes and equipment, including processing equipment, impacted the quantity and quality of honey, influencing family income, as will be seen below.

Artisanal fishermen had access to instruments and equipment for fishing and storage, involving canoe, motor, buoy, net and freezer. Some cases included coolers. Supported by these investments, artisanal fishermen gained in agility of movement. The possibility of storing fish had impacts on commercialization. Previously, any sale was made to order or the fish was salty, which implied in lower financial returns. Thus, the Paulo Freire Project enabled better conditions for carrying out the activity and selling fish.

Facilities for raising animals are an incentive to carry out productive activities: “Now everyone has a little sheep to raise. Others now have the little chicken coop to buy and place the chicks in. It is a start, right? To make a living. Because this is some help. Very good for the farmers.” (Community member).

Investments in structures for crops and social technologies has also produced improvements in family productive systems, as will be discussed in sequence.

Marketing, as already mentioned, is geared for family consumption: “The Paulo Freire Project families are characterized by producing mainly for self-consumption. There is no large surplus, a processing culture designed to marketing.” (Technical Mediator).

It was observed that the surpluses are disposed, for the most part, by local channels of marketing, and in some cases, to external channels.

Marketing on the community level is one of the channels of sale of production:

At first, it is for consumption. But usually there are leftovers. Then, what's left, people sell. [...] They go selling so that the profit reaches that family. [...] They sell to people who don't have it. In the community itself or in neighboring communities. [...] So, those who don't raise go buy from those who produce in the community itself. (Community member)

The production of poultry that is not used in household consumption begins to circulate in community channels of marketing. This circulation allows to visualize the contribution in terms of food security not only for the families that are producing a certain product, but also for the surrounding communities.

Another community member reinforces the production/self-consumption/local marketing relationship: “this production goes first to consumption. Then, what is left is sold to the community. Since our objective here is to sell here in the community” (Community member).

Local marketing was frequently mentioned in the interviews. In some situations, as already existing in communities; in others, as a channel that had been encouraged. The circulation of products among community members also involves exchanges and donations. Focused on this scope of marketing and production circulation, the so-called community fairs were encouraged. As already seen, this was an initiative that spread through the exchange of experiences between ATCs. These fairs will be discussed in more detail subsequently.

The institutional markets, PAA and PNAE, were mentioned and viewed as possibilities and, in some cases, with ongoing articulations: “Because we were doing a project designed to distribute in schools. [...] it was called off until next year. When the next year comes, we will get. I have signed up to deliver the chickens, the caipirões.” (Community member).

According to UGP information, four families started to access PAA after interacting with the Paulo Freire Project and 18 families accessed PNAE.

Among the possibilities of outflowing the production, there was frequent allusion to middlemen:

We sell honey both to the middleman and at home, to the traders. Honey is always very salable. [...] Because it is a good quality honey, and we have all the equipment we were given by the Paulo Freire Project and it has facilitated even for the sale. [...] Now it has increased more, after the project. For other families were benefited, production has increased. [...] And the chickens too. We consume a lot too. Because instead of buying meat from outside, we consume it. [...] We also consume honey. (Quilombola Community member)

Honey, as reported above, is an easy-to-market product, transported via middlemen, which gained in productivity and quality with the project's support. Both honey and chickens were mentioned as products that can be sold and that integrate family consumption in the community and family income. Chickens are sold on other channels:

The chickens, people sell to the community, sell to restaurants in the municipality. And eggs are sold at fairs, they are sold to other communities. For larger villages, which do not have the habit of raising chickens. It is not so much because they do not want, but it's because many times do not have yard suitable to create. (Quilombola Community member)

Local marketing of chickens and eggs, in communities, at fairs and to restaurants, is the production sales channel. Part of this production, similarly to what was said above by another community member, is aimed at families that do not carry out this productive activity. Through these local sales, the project contributed to the food security of communities and other close social collectives.

Door-to-door sale was mentioned as one of the ways of marketing backyard products, both in neighboring communities and at the seats of the municipalities. This was already a marketing channel used by a community member who reported that, with the help of the technical advice provided by the project, started to hand out business cards with her contact information, something which helped to increase the sales of her products:

I made some cards about my garden. Then, I was handing them out to traders, at the fair. That's where my phone orders started. When I handed out these little cards, that's when more orders started to come. [...] After the Paulo Freire Project arrived, I increased the garden. Previously, I used to sell, but only to PAA. I used to sell to PAA and went out selling in the fields, in the small villages here in [municipality]. Then, after Paulo Freire arrived, I made the cards, then my income increased. (Community member)

The project contributed to the increase and diversification of the community's production. Through the Paulo Freire Project, she also started to sell at fairs: “What about the fairs that Paulo Freire used to do? [...] I took a lot to the fairs and sold it. [...] Wherever there was a fair, I was in it. It was the Paulo Freire's, the stand.” (Community member).

Marketing at municipal and regional fairs was reported more occasionally. Access to some fairs appears to be linked to the experience of technical advisory services. Thus, for example, references were made to agroecological, family farming and agroecological and solidarity fairs, with the participation of some community members. ATCs contributed to the holding of some of these fairs, both municipal and regional. This is the case of municipal fairs of family farming: "Also, with the arrival of the Paulo Freire Project, we did an injection of spirit. We held a fair in the town, which is called Family Agriculture and Solidarity Fair." (Community member).

The above-mentioned idea of organizing the fair came from a municipal forum and its implementation counted on the contribution of ATC/Projeto Paulo Freire. With the pandemic, the fair took on a virtual format. Strategies of this type, for commercialization through sales by WhatsApp in the context of the pandemic, were carried out on regional, municipal and community levels.

The work of ATCs in the territories contributed to the articulation, with such partners as municipalities and unions, of spaces of marketing geared to family farming, for agroecology and under the perspective of economic solidarity. Counting on the background of some ATCs, the fairs are not considered only as areas of marketing, but also as moments of formation and integration between communities. A space for exchanges and learning.

Community fairs were described as spaces for valuing production and the community itself, making them visible, both from an internal and external perspective. Prior to the holding of the community fair, one of the ATCs carried out a work to visualize the community's production. In it, each family took its production and so the community could visualize the magnitude of what is produced by it, "its strength".

*So, with this show we were in a position to hold a community fair. [...] we invited the partners. It was a fair that brought together a lot of people, it had several products. That was too good. [...] After this initiative, several fairs were held in different communities. (Technical Mediator)*

Gathering up the community's production highlights the diversity and the quantity, the significant character of this production, showing the community and its social group how they are "strong." The second stage mentioned, the community fairs, has the participation of external actors. Internal and external visibility contributes to the empowerment of communities.

Community fairs are opportunities to carry out marketing in a more autonomous way, overcoming some of the difficulties of fairs in cities, and to explore the community market:

*It [the community] can manage to have a very strong process of exchange, as well marketing itself, even within the community. [...] it's an easy way to be autonomous and it's a very interesting market. [...] the fair is a very rich space. Of marketing as well, but also of exchange, of both the product and the expertise and knowledge. (Technical Mediator)*

Another interviewee tells a little about his experience with community fairs: "We also held a few small fairs. [...] You got to see, it turned out to be a very good fair here [...], you can bring whatever you have [...]. Things that are really poison free, only natural stuff. [...] This event that had never happened here. [...] Everybody went there and bought." (Community member).



The lines above show the possibilities opened by community fairs: exploring the local markets, valuing the production and the communities, and setting up a space of interaction and learning. In addition, the fairs give visibility to women: "we were wanting to have a fair. [...] Only with the things from the backyards and with the women's production. [...] The fair in our community, for us to invite the entire municipality and see the women's production." (Quilombola Community member).

Considering local marketing as an important space in the context of the communities involved with the Paulo Freire Project, community fairs stimulated not only the mercantile dynamics, but also the recognition and valuation of the production and the interaction of these social groups. Community fairs provided the communities with the opportunity to recognize and increase their capabilities and potential, both internally and externally. These fairs contributed to the empowerment of individuals and communities.

Addressing family income within the scope of the Paulo Freire Project requires following the path indicated by a community member: "income starts with consumption" (Quilombola Community member). As seen, in this project, production and marketing are related to self-consumption, in direct dialogue with family and community food security.

The impact of the project's actions in family income can be observed, over and above self-consumption, in the increase and sale of production of families and social technologies.

The generation of income currency has been identified in the activities of sheep farming, poultry farming, beekeeping and productive backyards. The sale of eggs and chickens generates a financial resource that is used for acquisitions of other products: "Let's say that five or six chickens were sold. Then one will invest in any other thing that he did not plant, rice, market in general. [...]. It's a good thing, because one has to make money to buy elsewhere." (Community member). Through marketing of his sheep in a fair, initiated from the project, another community member mentions: "we would sell the product that remained from our consumption, we took it there [fair], to generate income, to buy rice, noodles, that sort of thing. It's enough to buy the other things." (Community member).

The increase in family income, obtained through the project's actions, also provided families with investments in productive activities:

*The beekeeping staff [...] caught the swarms, harvested and already had income. [...] Those of the beekeeping group, they received the materials and started to profit in the same year, and they are already thinking of investing further, because with that which they are managing to raise allows them to invest in other hives. Profiting from what was received from the project. (Community member)*

In addition to investments, the interest in the activity expands in the communities. In a community where the generation of income from beekeeping was already mentioned:

*Other people who are not beneficiaries also wanted to join, they have already bought one, two, three boxes. Because they saw that the beekeeping generates family income and it was very rewarding, as the whole community interacted and began to work harder and see that people do not need to leave here to survive. (Quilombola Community member)*



Seeing the results in income generation, other community members got motivated to work in beekeeping, which, also by the collective action generated, allows to realize that “people do not need to leave here to survive.”

Furthermore, social technologies are activities that make it possible to establish the relationship between what is produced, the financial valuation of what is consumed and a monetary return. With respect to the biodigester, the technical mediator points the gain of one of the families:

Each case has its specificity and its most specific gain. Increased income? It did. Because [the family] is selling the pigs and they don't buy the [gas] cylinder anymore. But what she found most significant was her son's asthma attacks that disappeared. So, each family has something different that they consider important, you know? (Technical Mediator)

The swine production linked to the digester is geared to family income, by directly generating monetary resources and because there is no need to expend them. The advisor recalls that the families can differ about what could be considered as a result of using these technologies. In the case in question, he reports the direct impact on one of the family members' health, provided by the adoption of the biodigester. This proximity of ATC provides a space for meetings and dialogues, which is reflected in the results of implemented actions.

The importance of the economy made with the biodigester is accompanied by the income obtained by means of other social technology, reuse:

We received a biodigester, which is now three years old and we don't even know the price of a gas cylinder anymore. [...] It was a novelty and money that, before, we needed to buy gas. [...] And we also have water reuse. That's another technology that generates income too. We sell humus to other communities [...] For me it's very important [...], I didn't have this income before and now I do. (Community member)

Both the money that will not be necessary anymore for buying gas and the sale of worms and humus are ways of generating income, contributing to family economy.

Addressing the income indicator in the Paulo Freire Project is an invitation to walk a path that begins by self-consumption and follows to tracks that cross interacting dimensions: gender issue, food and nutrition security, social organization, ATC, productive activities, social technologies, dialogues across communities, individual and collective empowerment.

Actions that involve food safety permeate the Paulo Freire Project. References to the increase and diversification of products, noting the self-consumption/marketing relationship, were present in the words of technical advisors, community members and managers.

In the approach to food safety, in addition to production volume, quality and diversity were achieved. Quality was associated with an agroecological approach, ensuring families to produce pesticide-free foods. The quality of local products is related to the idea of valuing these products. In the matter of food and nutrition security, strengthening local production demands its reevaluation. These two aspects were worked on and achieved by the project.

Regarding the diversification of production, in specific cases the adoption of a different productive activity was reported. The major impact on diversification, a result of the project, is related to the productive backyards. Remembering the importance of this action in terms of the number of families involved (which accounts for both the activity itself and its association with the reuse system and poultry farming), the backyards reinforce the performance with food security, through diversification and agroecological food production, and strengthen the inclusion of women and the valorization of their activities. Thereby investments in structure and diversification in backyards resulted in food security improvements and in the sale of surpluses.

On investments in access to water, in cultivation and animal husbandry, a Community member states that:

The flood cistern [...] increased backyard production. [...] And, after this big cistern, I increased my flowerbeds. Today, I already have quite a large area, with many plants [...] I know that I'll get that water to increase my production. And also [...] I have the water from my big cistern to give to my sheep. This is wonderful. (Quilombola Community member)

The productive diversification includes, in some cases, not only food crops but also forage crops, in dialogue with the family's productive system:

We had only cashew and sweet sop trees and we produced only corn, beans and pumpkin. Then, [...] the technicians [of ATC] kept encouraging us to expand the yard, despite being a small property, but to diversify various types of fruit in it. We managed to do that. Today we grow various types of fruit, from the vegetable garden, fruit and forage, fodder for animals. (Community member)

In the case described above, there is an integrated action of different activities, complemented by the utilization of reused water in thick-stemmed fruit trees and humus in the beds. This integrated approach is related to ATC and is a result of the Paulo Freire Project .

Social technologies integrate the framework of activities implemented by the project. Their incorporation is linked to the trajectory of performance of some ATCs, with more than 90% of these technologies being implemented in the territory of operation of these advisory offices. One result of the project was the expansion of the use of such technologies:

All investment plans that are meant for poultry farming [...] have been associated with the system of reuse of greywater [...]. The first ones who had reuse systems are already selling worms to those who are building them today. All of this strengthens both the food and the income generation of these families. [...] [Those who] chose to work with swine are working with biodigesters. [...] These are small changes, but given the profile of the families we work with, they are very significant changes. (Technical Mediator)

The economy in cooking gas, the possibility of having water for certain crops, humus for use in family crops, and the marketing of worms amplify their results in families in situation of social vulnerability.

If the technologies contributed in productive activities and family income, another result observed is linked to the training processes they involve. The construction of technologies in communities is an opportunity for training:

We do it in a collective way [...], where the association [...] builds the first technology and starts to expand within the community. [...] Besides giving an activity to the person, it will teach all the process. [...] we had experiences of [...] exchange between communities, to be built more and more. (Technical Mediator)

The joint effort process provides community members with training in the building of technologies and involves the replication of social technologies. The exchanges contributed to dissemination, as they allowed the visualization of technologies in the communities where they are already installed and the exchange of information between communities. Thus, the interest in social technologies was expanded and ATC was key in this process.

The dissemination of social technologies, always linked to productive activities, occurs with the direct involvement of community members, from building to maintenance care and forms of use, that is, the community's appropriation of systems is a result of the Paulo Freire Project. These technologies are leaving a trail of productive gains, possibilities of using water, impact on family income and qualitative aspects for families. Qualitatively, the reduction of asthma attacks in a family member who started using the biodigester was mentioned above. Another mention in this regard was the possibility of cooking in a more carefree way:

Previously, people really worried ... I myself was concerned, I was cooking some thing, to turn it off soon not to spend gas. Not nowadays. I no longer have this concern. My concern is only to be feeding the biodigester. Not to mention that we can plant a little bed over it, for vegetables. (Community member)

Finally, access to water for human consumption and for productive use was one of the elements worked on by the Paulo Freire Project. A total of 5,209 first water cisterns and 121 school cisterns were built, totaling the construction of 5,300 structures to capture water. This action involved partnerships with Cetra, Cealtru, the Federation of Rural Workers and Family Farmers of the State of Ceará (Fetraece), and the Christian Base Association (ACB). A technical partner with another initiative housed in SDA, Coágua, offered to arrange the second water cisterns.

**Box 2 : Main Results – Paulo Freire Project**

**RESULTS ACHIEVED – PAULO FREIRE PROJECT**



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**

**17,742** people in production plans. Targeting: working with families in situations of social vulnerability. Experience and strategies with the potential to inform and guide actions aimed at populations in situations of social vulnerability. Strategy-Result.



**YOUTH:**

**23%** of young people as holders of production plans. Formation of leaders and multipliers, occupation of spaces in associations. Insertion of young people in agricultural schools. Expansion of recognition and spaces for action by young people in their social groups.



**TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES:**

**7%** of production plans. Approaching the racial issue with technical advisors; contribution to self-recognition and the recognition and certification of quilombola communities.



**GENDER EQUITY:**

**76%** of women as holders in the productive project; increase the presence of women on boards of associations. Female Empowerment: approach of subjects sensitive to women and questions about gender relations. Visibility of women's work and their participation in family income. Quotas in ATCs – insertion and visibility of women, representativeness. Agroecological logbooks - insertion, visibility, female empowerment. Adoption of the tool by an ATC – dissemination of experience.



**PUBLIC POLICIES:**

Capacity Building in Public Policies: contribution of broad and multisectoral information. Changes of perspectives of communities: public policies as a right.



## RESULTS ACHIEVED – PAULO FREIRE PROJECT

### CONTINUOUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

reaches a public with limited or non-existent access prior to these services; encouraging social organization, creation and reorganization of associations, growing interest for participation in associations and increase of associates; continuous consultancy active in multiple areas: associativism, social, productive. Strategy-Result.

- Expansion of ATCs operation and qualification of the institutional body and ATER agents. Dissemination of experiences: community fairs and social technologies. Constitution of multidisciplinary ATC teams and with a greater presence of women – minimum quota 30%. Consultants and professionals with proven experience in multisectoral dialogues and priority groups, especially women.



### PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS:

- Productive projects include more than one activity: adaptation and strengthening of diversified systems. Strengthening of local systems of production and marketing of food.
- Improvements in the management and structure of small animal husbandry. Feasibility of activities, improvements in food safety and sale of surpluses.
- Productive backyards: improvements in structure, diversification and increased production. Food Security and marketing of surpluses.
- Valuation of community marketing channels. Community fairs. Strengthening of communities, visibility and enhancement of their production.
- Support for the formation of fairs and the participation of community members. Fairs as spaces for exchange of goods, knowledge and experiences.
- Family income: strengthening of food security, increased production and marketing. Income-generating social technologies. Sheep farming, poultry, beekeeping and productive backyards. Generation of monetary income. Beekeeping, income generation as an incentive for other families, not participating in the Paulo Freire Project, to join the activity.
- Food security: increased production, quality and diversity. Agroecological approach, quality of food. Valuation of local production. Improvements in food security of families and communities.
- Productive activities in association with social technologies. Integrated approach to production systems. Dissemination of social technologies.







# PROCASE

CARIRI, SERIDÓ AND CURIMATAÚ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



The Cariri, Seridó and Curimataú Sustainable Development Project (Procasse) is an initiative between IFAD and the Government of the State of Paraíba, which aims to contribute to the development of rural economy and reduce poverty levels in the semiarid region, provide improvements in agricultural and non-agricultural income, in productive assets, organizational capacities and environmental practices of its beneficiaries.

PROCASE’s specific objectives include: developing human and social capital; improve production and market access; promote sustainable management of natural resources, combat desertification and promote institutional strengthening.

Procase operates in 56 municipalities of the semiarid region of Paraíba, distributed over five territories with low rates of economic and social development: Cariri Ocidental, Cariri Oriental, Curimataú, Seridó and Médio Sertão.

For implementing its productive projects, Procase counted on four advisors: Empaer, the Citizenship and Local Sustainable Development Advisory Institute (IDS), the Agrarian Reform Technical Services Provision Cooperative (Cooptera), and the National Service of Rural Learning (Senar). Empaer and the Appropriate Technologies Application Program (PATAC) worked in the strategy of irrigated fields.

The survey of information with Procase was held in December of 2020.

### 1. AUDIENCE REACHED



<sup>4</sup> Irrigated palm fields were a strategy initiated in 2016 within an emergency plan for the direct execution of the project, with the purpose of providing access to water (for human and animal consumption) and forage support to animals. These irrigated fields had areas of 1 to 2 hectares, which received an artesian well or an underground dam, windmill or solar energy plates, a drip irrigation kit and forage palm resistant to cochineal (UGP Information). In this report, the name irrigated fields is adopted for the strategy in question.

In addition to the Productive Projects, this report addresses, at certain times, irrigated fields and desalination plants, since these actions are highlighted by the interlocutors from different aspects, such as: productive, ATER, gender. Throughout the text, these actions will be identified.

In Productive Projects, Procase established agreements with associations and a few cooperatives. Regarding the associations, the information obtained allows us to observe that these organizations were in very different situations as compared to each other and the project worked with all of them, from those that were weakened to the more structured ones. This situation is described in relation to the social groups:

You have the most vulnerable groups that usually are not linked to any organization. [...] There are the most organized groups and those groups that, I say, culminate in cooperatives [...]. We didn't reach the poor because many of them were disorganized, at first. At other times, we even managed to mobilize these groups to have some association. [...] The most vulnerable groups, they are not organized. (Manager, UGP)

Procase acted mostly with already-established associations and, in some cases, contributed to local mobilization and formalization of organizations. With associations that were weakened, monitoring the Procase team's was necessary:

We had communities in a very complicated situation. And the project improved the organization of these people. [...] They needed to access other public policies. [...] For example, some associations were in trouble. Procase helped them regularize the situation and they could also compete for other notices. (Social Mobilizer, URGP)

Procase's action with these more vulnerable organizations was not limited to productive issues: "It is not only be limited to technical, agronomic and zootechnical matters. They also focused on administrative and legal issues. To understand what an agreement is." (Manager, UGP).

Regarding the diversity of the public reached, some aspects should be highlighted. The groups in a situation of greater social vulnerability are less tied to formal social organizations. The performance with this audience in association-mediated initiatives, demand prior mobilization and organization actions. Investing in these moments is an important step. The Procase team conducted this work in some cases, mentioning those that are binding on the priority public.

Based on this panorama, the need to consider support for associations, or even their formation, is highlighted as one of the fundamental steps in initiatives aimed at social groups in greater social vulnerability and, therefore, weakened in terms of formal organization. Procase's experience contributes to this being an aspect to be considered in the context of interventions, whether programs and public policies or other initiatives.

In Productive Projects, Procase involved 351 young people as holders, representing 12% of the total public reached. In the irrigated fields there were 870 young people, 16% of the total.

Procase encouraged the participation of young people in trainings, meetings and Production Projects. The incentive also directed towards increased involvement of young people in associations, occupying spaces in boards and bidding committees: "Today we have associations and cooperatives whose presi-

dent is a young man or woman, or is linked to the board, or is the treasurer. [...] There are conditions to implement [the project] more peacefully.” (Manager, URGP).

Another strategy for involving young people in Procace actions is the revolving funds<sup>5</sup>. The project encourages targeting these funds at young people, representing the possibility of inclusion in sheep and goat farming by access to animals.

The Young Scholarship Program<sup>6</sup> is an action oriented to youth. Through it, young people from rural areas and urban centers in the municipalities where Procace operates were selected. The program published a notice for young people to apply and adopted as one of the selection criteria to be attending high school or college. In this action, Procace worked with 220 young people, who received remuneration. These young people participated in training and worked in the communities:

They carried out a training process on communication, on identification of their communities, of the reality, the potential of communities. [...] in equity, in activities of coexistence with the semiarid climate, [...] several workshops, animal handling, seedling production, nursery... [...] and there was a practical part, which was experienced in the communities themselves. (Advisor, UGP)

The program provided these young people with experiences in which they could have access to information and visualize ways of acting in dialogue with the rural space.

Within the scope of Procace, young people from quilombola communities participated in the program:

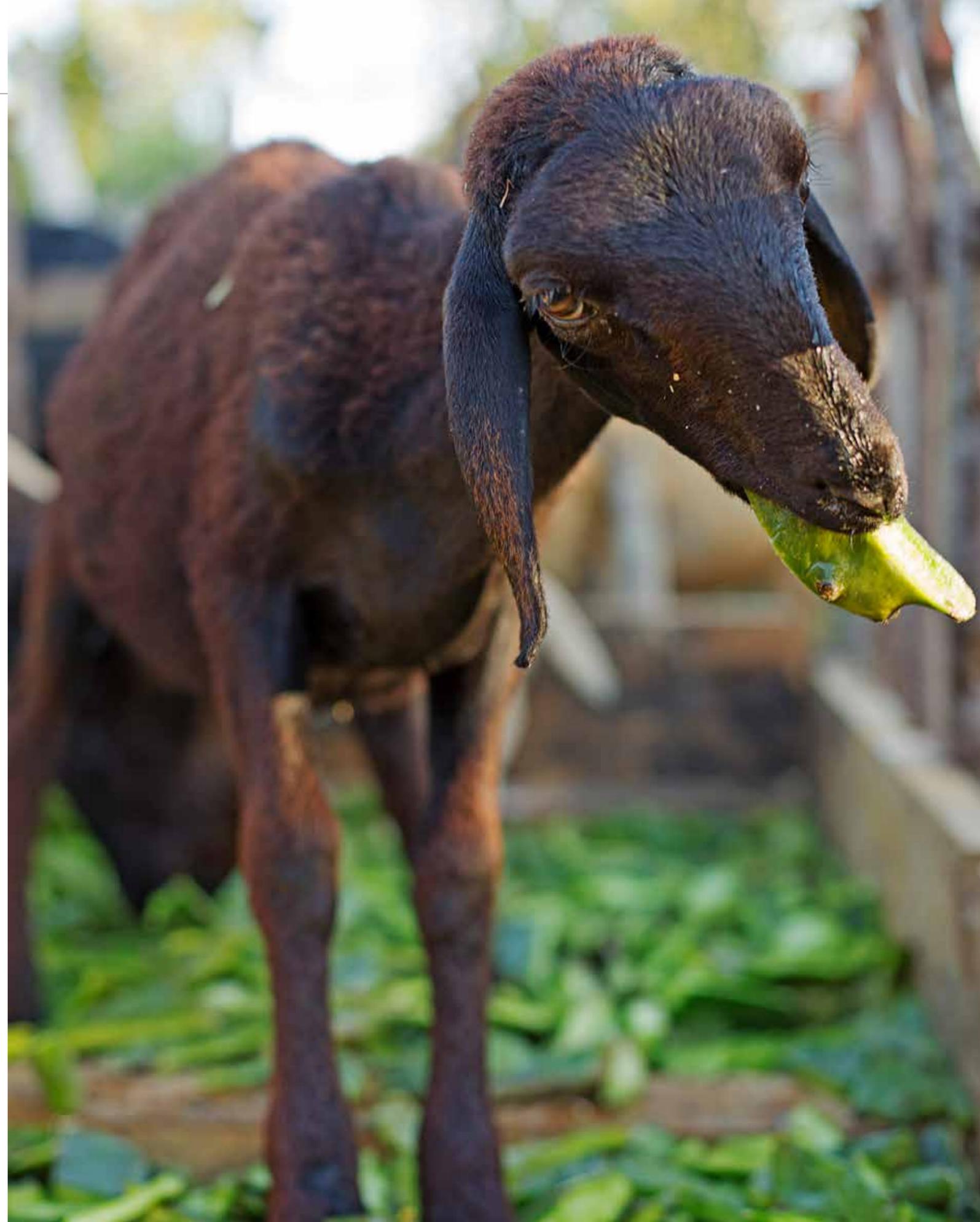
We used to watch the association of lacemakers, the project [...] the meetings helped in the organization. And I also was in charge of helping other quilombola communities [...]. We helped in the process of documentation and community recognition. When I went there, we were organizing, making meetings with them, mobilizing the people, and we helped to write up the document [for certifying the quilombola community], which they did based on the one here. Then, [...] in the beginning of this year, they were recognized. I think this was the biggest achievement for the community. (Young Community member)

As the speech above shows, the young woman from the Young Scholarship Program mobilized, with another quilombola community, the experience of acting in the recognition of their community of origin. Besides an opportunity for learning and exchange, the program allowed for the organization of the youth group, their involvement in recognizing the quilombola community, and the fruits of earlier actions, which were supported by Procace as well, to contribute to actions in other communities. For the quilombola communities, there is an accumulation of experience in conducting certifications by their young members.

In the set of Procace actions, 14 quilombola communities were involved (3 of which are together in a single quilombola certification), with 319 families directly reached.

<sup>5</sup> The Revolving Funds are a strategy encouraged by Procace, which consists in distributing animals' offspring and varieties of palm forage that were accessed by the families participating in the project to other community members. The funds will be addressed again in the following section.

<sup>6</sup> The Program is developed with the State Secretariat for Family Agriculture and Semiarid Development (Seafds) and the Research Support Foundation of the State of Paraíba (Fapesq). The resources come from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). (Available at: <https://www.procace.pb.gov.br/single-post/2019/07/27/conhe%C3%A7a-o-programa-jovens-bolsistas>)



Procasa's performance with quilombola communities encompasses Production Projects, the irrigated fields and certification actions of these communities. In the latter case, the project contributed to the recognition, the self-recognition and the search for certification quilombo by Foundation Palmares. As for actions linked to Productive Projects, Procasa worked with five communities, involving 90 families. Among them, a community obtained its certification after the beginning of the productive actions. The Procasa served in the process of certification of six communities Quilombolas. Besides them, two communities are in the process of certification in progress, since it was started during the activities with the project.

The certification of quilombola communities is a result achieved with the contribution of Procasa. To this end, the team's project worked to identify these communities, to support self-recognition, to support the creation of associations and to monitor the entire process. Along the way, Procasa supported the formalization of groups by means of associations:

Procasa that identified, for example, [...] from the meeting on the notice of 2015, [...] they [Procasa team] arrive at the community, they found a group of black women wanting to make a productive enterprise, to create an association. And then this community goes about this discussion on identity. [...] Then the community does an exchange with another community already recognized. And then they decide to create an association as a quilombola and begins its process of self-recognition. (Manager, UGP)

The support to the formation of the association and the recognition of the community is described:

[The Social Mobilizer] gave a lot of support here in the community, both on the issue of legalizing the association and on recognition. They brought information, taking minutes. And also another step [...] was the issue of exchanges between quilombola communities. There were five exchanges [...]. The second exchange took place here. This greatly strengthened both the community, the people who participated, as well as other communities, in strengthening the black quilombola identity. (Quilombola community young man)

Quilombola exchanges were held annually from 2015. These spaces gathered communities already recognized/certified and others not yet, setting moments of approach and exchange of experiences, information and building the process of recognition: "As we got there [at the exchange] we got to know other communities and saw that the reality there is the same as here and the stories begin to complete. In this case, the same story of one community there was similar and had similar traits to that of [our] community." (Quilombola community young man).

The exchanges involved the work of elaborating the paths and histories of the communities. From this, the "similar traits" were identified, contributing to the "strengthening of the black quilombola identity". Every year, representatives of other communities began to participate in the exchanges.

The community recognition process, supported by Procasa, included self-recognition:

[...] we started to organize ourselves to be asking people, talking from house to house to see what they thought, this issue that the community would be recognized. There were few people. Because at first, people did not have good acceptance, because they feared things would return to be as before, [...] it has been a long process. But [...] after the consolidation

of the association, people started to accept it. [...] the majority voted and decided they would go after the documentation. At the end, in November, during the Black Consciousness week, the community was recognized. (Quilombola community young woman)

In the community, the role of women was fundamental in the dialogue with Procasa, in the formalization of the association, also supported by the project team and in the recognition as a quilombola community: "In 2017, the community was recognized through the struggle of women from here" (Quilombola community young woman). This action led to an articulation for the search for possibilities:

And, from the women, seeing that information was needed here, as well as access to public policies, [...]women began to move. The question of the group, the articulation of women is already there. And, from this search for information, there comes a little bit of identity recognition, right? [...] to recognize the history [of the community]. (Quilombola community young woman)

Information and access to public policies were on the horizon of women's efforts. Procasa contributed to this process, including support for creating the association. In this path of "search for information", there followed the recognition of the community's quilombola identity with the support of the project:

Procasa helped, as regards referrals, the search for other information. When other communities started the recognition process, what all the documentation was to send to the Palmares Foundation to be able to have the recognition. [...] And, with that, with this survey of information, both Procasa bringing to the community and the community going to get it, right? And support from other institutions to further strengthen this issue of identity here. Up to sending the documentation, survey the history of the community, send it with the signatures of those who recognized themselves as quilombolas to the Palmares Foundation. (Quilombola community young man)

The project contributed with actions carried out by its team in local articulations and activities and in building dialogues with other institutions and organizations. The State Secretariat for Women and Human Diversity, through the Coordination of Quilombola Communities, contributed in the organization of associations, of exchanges and to the process of communities recognition. Federal Universities and Institutes have also been involved: "Procasa greatly supported these communities for them do get their recognition. It created a contact with universities, for universities to support this rescue of their history, which is a necessary document for recognition." (Manager, UGP).

Partnerships were not limited to the process of recognizing communities. The partnership with the Federal Institute of Paraíba, in an action with an already certified quilombola community, contributed to the appreciation of the activities performed by a group of women:

The Federal Institutes [...], in the case of [Quilombola women], they were not so aware of the importance of their handicraft. [...] So, the partners were also essential to come together and present this to them, to strengthen this cultural relationship. (Social Mobilizer)

Thus, Procasa's work with these communities, also when established by productive projects, reconciled actions of empowerment and valorization of these women and their social groups:

They are women who process fruit to produce sweets. [...] We also, as Procase, enabled the strengthening of the discussions to strengthen local culture, empowerment in the face of these groups difficulties against some prejudices, both local and beyond. And also, I think, in the matter of self-esteem. (Manager, URGP)

The approach to the gender issue implemented by Procase adds to the themes worked with the quilombola communities:

[The Social Mobilizer] always talked a lot with the people, talking about our development, and we went about finding out, right? [...] And she always said, like, women standing out. Not leaving men apart. We have to put men too, because a man does a lot. (Quilombola community member)

In the case above, the Procase action stimulated and consolidated the formation of a group of women. Procase supported activities of women:

We have a group of women who, at times, gather together. [...] But we do so when we need something. [...] Someone has a pigsty chicken and the other doesn't, we exchange. [...] There were some women who did crochet, but it was just for them. But after Procase it was more developed, and today they make crochet to order [...] and they sell through the internet. That was really good. (Quilombola Community female member)

Returning to recognition actions, along the process other dialogues and partnerships were being established by quilombola communities, expanding their articulations:

Searching inside and outside, looking for more information. As I was getting to know other quilombos, during the training courses, seminars, activities outside, I met other people. [...] the State Coordination of Quilombola Communities. There was a coordinator, I already got in touch with her for more information. There were some people [...] who are also a quilombo. [...] We shared some experiences. (Quilombola community young man)

The contact with the State Coordination of Quilombola Communities of the State of Paraíba (Cecneq) took place during the recognition process, as well as the participation of people from other Quilombola communities. This approach between the communities stimulates external articulations.

In the community, the young people group has been active in the process of recognition: "I followed it from start to finish, because it was the young people group that was pulling the process of recognition, documentation, the people to give their support" (Community quilombola young woman). Procase helped in the mobilization of youths and the organization of meetings that contributed to the formation of the group of young people in the community:

The young people group, both Procase and other movements gave support in their training, right? Because today I am participating in a pastoral [action]: Rural Youth Pastoral action. And thereby, both leading young people to the outside, in Procase meetings, and the formations of the Pastoral action involving the youth. This was also one of the important spaces to consolidate the young people group. (Quilombola community young man)

The Rural Youth Pastoral action worked in the region in previous times, resuming this work at the same time when Procase activities were being developed with the community:

There was a pastoral action already happening here. But it had stopped operating in Paraíba, in general. It stopped, then it came back. Then, as they knew we already had a base here, set up our groups, there was already a whole movement of struggle for the recognition of the community, conversation circles and that sort of thing. And we also had help from Procase and Conarenda at the time, if I'm not mistaken. Then there was all this contact and they returned. (, Quilombola community young man)

This dynamization of articulations and external dialogues was also observed in relation to other initiatives. In a community in which Procase acted in the identification, formation of the association and recognition process, community members mentioned the importance of working with the project:

In the matter of information, Procase has greatly strengthened the community's identity. Both the black and the quilombola identities. That was a key piece, right? And, in the matter of the project that came out recently, the forage kit, I think it strengthened a lot. We saw that it is possible to have a project within the community. And also that you can work with both youth and women. (Quilombola community young man)

In the community in question, Procase also worked by giving support to the participation of female lacemakers of the community in Conarenda and in access to water. In the latter, information provided by the project about the Água Doce Program<sup>7</sup> resulted in the installation of a desalinator in the community. Other initiatives were sought by the community, such as the Sustainable Rural Paraíba Project (Cooperar)<sup>8</sup>, pleading for the drilling of wells and complete water supply.

Obtaining quilombola certification by communities creates other possibilities for these social groups. Thus:

Mainly for the insertion of our young people into the university. Because we were afraid to leave, as we wouldn't be able to remain in college because ours is a poor community. Then, it was a bit difficult. On the other hand, the recognition of the community provided the Permanence Scholarship<sup>9</sup> for those who wish to study outside. And the very organization of the community in itself. Because it made some people see that we are not something apart, we were not something foreign to the city, but something that was inside that needed to be seen. So, I think it gave us a certain independence. (Quilombola community young man)

<sup>7</sup> Procase has a partnership with the State Secretariat for Infrastructure, Water Resources and Environment-Seirhma/Program Água Doce.

<sup>8</sup> Project of the Government of the State of Paraíba/World Bank. For further information: <https://cooperar.pb.gov.br/>

<sup>9</sup> The Ministry of Education's Permanence Scholarship Program is a public policy of financial assistance to students from federal higher education institutions, mainly for quilombola, indigenous and socially vulnerable students. (<http://portal.mec.gov.br/programa-bolsa-permanencia>)

The relevance of quilombola certification is, therefore, its importance to the community, both internally and externally. It allows young people to go to college; it boosts the community's visibility. It expands the community's possibilities in the local and more broad social tissue. The excerpt mentioned above also reminds that there is a lot to be done to achieve: "The appreciation of the people from here. For we see that people do not appreciate. It's as if we were something apart. We try, daily, to deconstruct it." (Quilombola community young man).

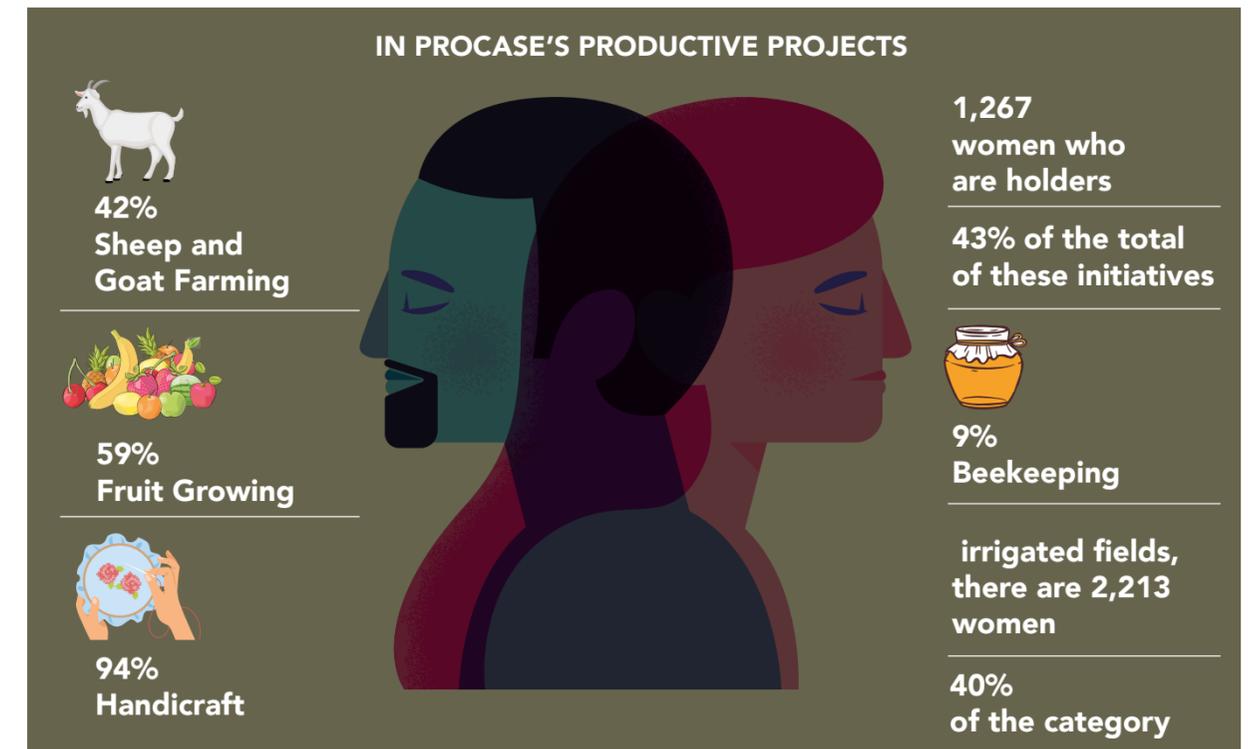
The recognition is one step on the way. Procasa, with its actions, as demonstrated, contributed to this process:

Because I believe it was Procasa that started our walk as a quilombo. [...] Because before, we didn't have any recognition for anything. And then, after Procasa, it was... Recognition, the first walk, they were the ones that... I feel thrilled to speak about the name Procasa. Because I recognize it as a family that came and helped us a lot, here in the community. (Quilombola community member)

It is also important to emphasize the importance of the continuity in these actions, according to the mediator: "We know that Procasa gave visibility to quilombola communities, but working with them is continuous. We hope that another public policy will come and reach out to these communities, because the need is blatant." (Social Mobilizer, URGP).

Therefore, Procasa contributed to self-recognition, recognition and expansion of dialogues and insertions of quilombola communities into the broader social fabric. This is a process that, as reflected in the statements above, is still in progress and deserves attention and investments for its enhancement. Procasa, in the experience of acting with the quilombola communities, has left its contribution.

## 2. GENDER EQUITY



The mobilization part, when we started Procasa, we take this issue of benefiting the priority public very seriously. Because women have always been forgotten, they have always been marginalized in public policy, in the encouragement of women's inclusion in the productive system. (Social Mobilizer, URGP)

From this initial mobilization in the organization/project selection stage, it was necessary to carry on this work of encouraging and monitoring women's involvement: "All the actions we carried out, we were always seeking the participation of women [...] And so, we had quite this challenge of bringing them along to meetings, of making them realize that those meeting were also women's space." (Social Mobilizer, URGP).

The participation in meetings is an instrument to include women and a contribution in the empowerment process. The women: "would go and remain silent, it was their husbands who spoke. Empowerment began in actions within the meetings". (Manager, URGP).





Besides encouraging attendance, women were challenged to occupy these spaces by speaking:

As we challenged the women, we noticed that some women have excelled in the discussion process and it increased. Today, we have women participating in state councils, municipal councils, discussing, taking part in decision making and implementation of projects, in public policies. [...] Some got involved in politics [...]. These are important results. (Manager, URGP)

Empowerment goes beyond the borders of Procase, contributing to the participation of women in other social areas.

Representativeness, by the presence and activities of female technicians, is an ally in redefining gender relations. The female technicians of the Procase team made their contribution in this regard:

The mere presence of women in the team, I believe was something that impacted some men. "Who did you come here with? I came to hold the meeting. Are you the one who is going to hold the meeting?" [...] And the project has always worked in this line, in this quest to break that and making women empower themselves and take ownership of their spaces as well. [...] I said: "You know that without women, this community, it doesn't go ahead, right?" They laughed, others didn't like it very much. So, in this way, we went about stimulating their participation and the space they did have to occupy. (Social Mobilizer, URGPT)

Contemplating the role of women in the technical team was not limited to communities/associations, it was observed in other instances as well. Attention to Gender Equity requires:

[...] a demanding look, because it starts within the team. We got to have this look within the team, how power relations are established, how spaces of speech are established, how opinions are considered within the team, in managerial positions within the field teams. This is not a fad or a discourse. It's a necessity. The fruit of a lot of fight of women and groups that have always been minority in spaces of power to achieve these projects' right to include these issues. (Advisor, UGP)

Some strategies were adopted in Procase, in dialogue with the perspective of a transversality of gender issues: the incentive for direct participation of women on the community/association level; the holding of seminars with technical teams, the monitoring of activities and the formation of a Working Group.

Seminars and workshops with the technical advisors were conducted, addressing the gender issue. Some initial questions on the need to be discussing the subject were reported. In these moments, also described as trainings, they had the Procase demands for the inclusion of women and discussed strategies of action and mobilization on the community level with the technical advisors. As ATER is a space where the presence and action of men is still massive, the project's approach to the gender issue was also reflected in the scope of technical assistance:

Not only for the families to whom we were providing technical assistance, but for the technicians themselves. [...] Regardless of whether it's a technician or a farmer. We broke some paradigms in relation to this and we saw that this part of gender remained. Like the project, it focuses on that [...] like training, the encouragement of the technician to be in the field, pulling it. [...] One can see that the technicians are seeing things in a different way, becoming

ing more sensitive to this gender issue. I think this remained too, it was very important for [technical advisors] as well. (Technical Mediator)

In the words above, one can see the impacts of an approach to gender relations beyond the communities/associations with which Procase worked. Having women as one of the priority groups triggered actions that enabled the inclusion of this theme in the ATER space. To train the technicians on the gender theme so as to act in the context of Procase, considering also the size of the project, represented an internal movement to ATER advisory teams. The project was an opportunity for action based on prioritizing women and addressing gender relations. The possibility of inserting actions and debates in spaces where the presence and visibility of women is restricted is important and is a result achieved by Procase.

The Procase team conducted a monitoring of field activities to observe the presence of women, aiming that this participation was encouraged. In a complementary way, a Focus Working Group was created, involving representatives of UGP, URGPs and technical advisory services. The WG meetings dealt with operational aspects and also configured spaces of study and discussion.

Gender workshops with the communities/associations were held as well:

In the communities where we had productive fields, workshops were always held. And as Procase has this profile of defending women, of prioritizing women, we had this request [...]. And we know that domestic violence exists and we, minimally, we have to work to combat this. So, in the irrigated fields, we had a very strong technical work to combat domestic violence, [...] for awareness, numbers, data. And a workshop on domestic violence, you know it has to be done by people who know how to work with the communities and, especially, with the men. Because the workshops have never been targeted only to the women. The main focus is to raise awareness among men. So these workshops were always carried out by the female technicians of technical assistance. (Social Mobilizer, URGPT)

The workshops described above were conducted by an organization that provided technical assistance to Procase in the irrigated fields strategy. Other partnerships were established to address themes linked to the gender issue:

Another thing that was done within this equity work was a bridge that some technical assistance organizations created in the municipalities with the assistance service. So, we had the councils, the local services of social assistance, the CRAS, holding lectures on addressing violence against women, providing care, disseminating service. For this made it possible to provide services, assistance for women. So, it was very good to see the preparation of these municipal assistance teams in this discussion of the themes of combating violence against women. (Advisor, UGP)

In the line of action of partnerships and addressing violence against women, in the Cariri Ocidental, from a situation of violence experienced by a girl in the rural area, the Procase team, mobilizing other institutions, supported the promotion of a training linked to the Tecendo Redes Project<sup>10</sup>. This activity

<sup>10</sup> The project is a partnership between the Secretariat of Social Defense and Public Security, the Court of Justice of Paraíba, the Public Ministry of Paraíba and the Coordination of Specialized Police Stations for Women (CoorDeam). For more information: <https://www.tjpb.jus.br/noticia/magistrados-do-sertao-que-atuam-em-feitos-de-violencia-domestica-conhecem-projeto-tecendo>

involved representations from the Health Secretariats, Education Secretariats, Assistance Secretariats and Guardianship Councils from 11 municipalities in the territory and had the participation of the Regional Delegates of the Women's Police Station. This mobilization generated results:

We mobilized 90 women, [...] in the region there is a Women's Police Station, but we needed the installation of a Women's Reference Center in Cariri Ocidental. And we mobilized in the plenary of ODE [State Democratic Budget]. [...] in 2018 the Center was opened [...]. That was a very important gain, and Procase was one of the protagonists of this fight. Because if we, if the technicians go to the community, and they realize that such violence exists but they shut up, then this technical assistance is not serving any purpose at all. (Social Mobilizer, URGP)

Procasse's work on gender issues leaves contributions beyond the boundaries of its direct activities. Procasse's fronts of action, the resistances mentioned in different instances that involve the project, and the situations of vulnerability of women portrayed point to the validity of the set of actions put in place by Procasse.

### 3. PUBLIC POLICIES AND ATER

The public policies accessed by the families prior to the project, according to the interviewees, were: Um Milhão de Cisternas, Água Doce, Pronaf, PAA, PNAE and the Empreender Program. According to UGP information, the impact assessment observed increases in access to PAA and Pronaf among Procasse participants.

In the interviews for this evaluation, some mentions were made about new accesses, with occasional reports of cases linked to PAA. In addition, reference was made, in a specific case, to issues of the Declaration of Aptitude to Pronaf (DAP). It was possible to observe that Procasse worked with associations in different situations in relation to the trajectory and current situation of these organizations. In this diversity, the references to policies accessed show that a part of the set of social actors with whom the project worked already had some interaction with instruments geared to family farming. Likewise, considering the diversity of profiles, it was mentioned, in some situations, that this access was initiated during contact with Procasse. This allows to reinforce that diversified publics were affected in their trajectories with the public policies.

As regards technical assistance, according to UGP, based on the impact assessment performed, ATER access increased among the project participants.

In Procasse, activities with the hired technical advisors started in 2017. This start was considered late, representing one of the difficulties encountered during the execution of the project. Between 2014 and 2017:

We only started in 2017, while the project started working with the communities since 2014. So, from 2014 to 2017, there was no hired technical assistance. It was us, the Procasse team. [...] in 2105, when we started the irrigated fields, we had an occasional technical advisory service. [...] Then, technical assistance was hired only in 2017. (Manager, UGP)

The performance of the project team during the period when technical assistance was not available was an aspect that was frequently mentioned in the field by the project team and the participating community members:

We were mobilizers, we were agronomists, zootechnicians, secretary. We always provided technical assistance, especially at the beginning. It was our consultancy staff that carried out all the technical monitoring of the management, the organization of associations into cooperatives, the dissemination of material. (Manager, UGP)

The work of the project team includes its involvement from the initial contacts with social groups, whether through dissemination and selection, to the execution of activities, such as the preparation of Participatory Rural Diagnoses (DRPs) and monitoring of actions. In this sense, even with the subsequent hiring of the four technical advisory services, the Procasse team kept working with them. For the irrigated fields, the Application of Appropriate Technologies Program (PATAC) and Empaer were hired.

Field conversations made references to the different action backgrounds of hired consultants. The Procasse team kept the monitoring of actions seeking to guarantee, among other things, the participatory nature of the activities and the targeting of the priority public.

With regard to women, besides monitoring, moments of training with the technical teams were mentioned. Bringing gender relations to ATER actions was, as seen, one of the results of Procasse operations. With the project, there was an opportunity to return to "work more in the field":

We returned, with Procasse, to work more in the field. [...] It was like a call for us to return to the field and continue this assistance. [...] For us to be there more closely, closer to the farmers. And this gender issue too, which was very important, both for the farmers and for us, as [ATER provider]. (Technical Mediator)

The framework proposed by Procasse, considering the priority public, training and follow-up actions by the team, allowed thus to visualize differences in performance, with important contributions: inclusion of gender issues and acting closer to the field.

The Procasse technical team's performance appears, in the interviews, to be linked to the search for partnerships, both for productive actions and for those involving gender issues and the quilombola public. In the productive scope, partnerships with municipalities were mentioned, which were sewn through the team and which resulted in opportunities for the groups with which we were working. Contribution to the installation of a seedlings nursery and the building of a milking room were directly mentioned. In addition, reference was made to articulations involving groups of female lacemakers, for example, for participation in a handicraft show (Salão de Artesanato Paraibano).

With specific regard to this priority public, the articulation with ATER providers, hired in irrigated fields, and its involvement were cited in relation to addressing violence against women theme, citing the accumulated experience of action in this area of ATER. Therefore, the action of Procasse's technical staff in the advisory service was carried out either directly, at a first moment, and in the wake of the hiring of providers.

The community members' statements bring constant references to members of the project teams. This presence must take into account the time the teams have worked with these social groups. In addition,

it is noteworthy that two of the cases involved quilombola women and the third of them, the work with women and Agroecological Logbooks. With one of the quilombola communities, the Proc case team accompanied them from the formation of the association to the achievement of its recognition by the Palmares Foundation, also running through attempts of forwarding production projects and access to the Emergency Plan. In the second case, the mobilizer was mentioned as a reference and as an articulator for the participation of two community members in a course related to the strengthening of gender and race issues. In the third case, the Proc case team’s performance through the social mobilizer was mentioned in its contribution to the Agroecological Logbooks, with SAF, being considered by the interviewees as an ATER. These three cases point to a close interaction of the Proc case team with these communities.

#### 4. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS

Proc case designed 98 agreements for productive projects, of which only one was cancelled. Of the total amount of resources planned – R\$16,420,189 –, R\$14,718,993 were executed, representing 90% of the initial amount.

Through Productive Projects, Proc case worked with 2,930 families. The main chains worked and the number of families involved in each of them can be seen in the table below.

**Table 5: Productive Chains , projects and families**

Productive Chains	Number of Projects	Total % of Projects	Number of Families	Total % of Families
Sheep and goats farming	54	56%	1,256	43%
Fruit growing	14	14%	227	8%
Handicraft	10	10%	321	11%

Source: UGP Information – Dec./2020

The other productive projects, which account for 20% of all projects, are distributed between beekeeping, productive backyards, reuse of water with productive backyards, poultry farming, fish culture and community kitchen.

Linked to these chains, six projects of solar energy targeted to cooperatives were installed. The sheep and goats farming production chain involved three of these initiatives: Goats and Bovine Farmers Cooperative of the Municipality of Cabaceiras Ltda (Capribov), the Rural Producers Cooperative of Monteiro Ltda. (Capribo) and the Farming and Agriculture Cooperative of Cariri Ltda. (Coapecal). The other cooperatives that had solar energy systems installed were: Seridó and Curimataú Paraibano Agroindustrial Cooperative Ltda. (Cooasc), the Free-Range Poultry Farmers Cooperative of the state of Paraíba (Coopeaves), and the Leather Tanners and Artisans of Cabaceiras Ribeira Cooperative (Arteza), covering thus the chain of fruit growing, poultry industry and handicraft (Information provided by UGP).

In the interviews carried out, there were references to the sheep and goats farming chains, fruit growing, handicrafts, beekeeping and productive backyards. Irrigated fields and desalination plants were also mentioned as regards productive activities.

Proc case’s productive sheep and goats farming projects involved investments in machinery and equipment, buildings, acquisition of inputs and animals, and other unspecified items. In 57 agreements, about 400 animals were acquired, between goats and sheep. The contribution of animals and forage were the aspects highlighted in relation to the chain.

Investments in animals, genetic improvement, forage, equipment (forage machines and balers) and access to water are project actions related to goat and sheep farming, as mentioned in the interviews. Through the project:

With water support, they had forage support. They advanced in production, they diversified it. Acquisition of both dairy and meat animals for genetic improvement of the herd. With this result, they managed to reach a promising market. There are associations here that, for example, are groups of dairy farmers, [...] they used the income, what’s left of the project, for [purchasing] a cooling tank, to collect milk. (Manager, URGP)



The spread of forage palm was a result of Procasa, implemented by means of the Irrigated Fields action:

The forage palm in Cariri [...], currently we already have a very large reserve. During the implementation of these fields, we advised them to plant sorghum and other types of forage. [...] Today, those who have an animal are able to go through drought periods more smoothly. [...] Because there was no feed, there was no palm. Most of the animals, the breeding stocks had been sold, because farmers had nothing to feed them with. [...] The herd was improved. Some people are taking four liters of milk a day. (Manager, URGP)

The replication and distribution of palm, used in a Learning Unit<sup>11</sup>, in which an Agroforestry System (SAF) is employed, has been happening: "It's been good, isn't it? [...] There are people taking the palm also for planting. One thing is coming along with the other. It's good, others can also encourage other people to plant" (Community member).

Likewise, in a quilombola community, the spread of palm introduced by Procasa was mentioned:

And about the palm, we are going to make the first cut now to benefit other people. [...] For other people in the community. [...] palm field, which came along with the goats, the seedlings nursery. We have some palms there. We are also doing, giving others some palm rackets for them to start, right? For the animals. (Quilombola community member)

With Procasa, the raising of goats in the community was expanded: "Few people raised goats. Sheep raising is more common. After this project, the people began to raise more goats. The project was for beef and dairy. Some people already place the milk to the mill." (Quilombola community member).

Also according to the community: "some people still have goats, some have died, some people sold them" (Quilombola community member). From this, different possibilities derived from the Procasa action in goat farming in the community are noted: its continuity, the marketing of milk, the mobilization of these assets to obtain financial resources, and also the loss of these animals by death.

From the male and female breeding stocks, a revolving fund was arranged:

We did, the project was of 30 families. 60 nanny goats and three billy goats came [...] there is the project that we held here in the community [...] to set the revolving fund. If the first kid was a female, we donated it for those people who were not in the project. (Rural community member)

In this way, the people who were not participating directly in the project might have access to goats, thereby widening the number of people who received these animals. The revolving fund is a stimulus for participation in the association, being directed to people "who are part of the community and who are part of the association. [...] Because it's an extra incentive for you to be part of the association. [...] we preferred it this way so that they would be more encouraged." (Quilombola community member).

According to UGP, eight revolving funds of animals and five of palm were installed. On the occasion when this information was obtained, these funds involved around 500 families.

<sup>11</sup>Learning Units are spaces of installation and sharing of productive and environmental techniques and practices located on the community members' properties. Procasa set up five learning units, directly involving 19 families.

The impact on forage production was also observed in irrigated fields. They were cited as initiatives that enabled the spread of palm. With regard to animals, there were references to the existence of revolving funds as a mechanism for expanding the initial action.

In irrigated fields, diversification with other forage species was encouraged. By initiatives of the community members, food crops were also implemented in these areas. A study carried out by Procasa in 2019 indicates that 57% of beneficiaries who had access to irrigated fields reported that they intercrop palm with other forage plants and 16% declared that the fields have been multiplied. It was also observed that initiatives for access to water with forage support stimulated the introduction of crops intercropped with corn, beans, fruit, vegetables, sweet potatoes, vegetables and others.

In a Learning Unit installed from an irrigated palm field, a SAF was implemented by local initiative, involving a diversity of crops in an agroecological system: "planting of palm [...] intercropped with fruit [...] is agroecology. And there is an intercrop of fruits with native plants." (Community member).

Considered in the action, irrigation by dripping was introduced:

Our waters [sources] were practically dry, little water. [...] When Procasa arrived with this project, we irrigated by dripping and then we realized that we could do irrigation with little water. And today we have an irrigated area of palm and fruit trees. [...] Even with little water there is a lot. (Community member)

The needs of the community were water and animal feed production:

We met the community, we talked, saw what was the most urgent. [...] We needed water, needed something to produce feed to the cattle, because the cattle was in need. We were not used to growing palm, these things. When it was dry, the cows started to get skinny. [...] [The project] helped a lot to feed the animals. (Community member)

As a Learning Unit, exchanges and visits were carried out as a way to share the experience. The participants of these moments:

Observed a lot of things here, because their planting, they also have very little water, it had not worked very well. [...] They realized that with little water it is possible to produce very well, the drip. [...] And in the middle of the palm, fruits too and more native plants species that serve as fodder. Forage plants that are in the middle of the palm [...] to feed the animals. (Community member)

The experience of the Learning Unit and its sharing are added to the action of irrigated fields and the diversification of forage and food crops, encouraged by the project or even implemented voluntarily by the community members. To do so, they count on the water support included in the action.

The diversification of crops is mentioned:

Many people took part of this kit to plant vegetables, to plant beans, corn. [...] We put in a well that surpassed all our expectations. Because the family built a vegetable garden [...] and they built a pump with their own resources. [...] Today they make a living from coriander, chives, cassava, okra production... (Social Mobilizer, URGP)

The well, with the family's investment and associated with the irrigated fields, enabled the development of horticulture.

The diversification of production, contributing to food safety, was cited as connected to irrigated fields:

The model [of SAFs] has been replicated in palm fields where only monoculture existed. [...] They started to carry out [...] a diversification process. [...] This, of course, contributed to food security. It also contributed to income increase and, above all, to diversify the families' food. Because they started producing there what they previously had to buy outside. Before, they saw themselves as breeders, some saw themselves as breeders [...]. And today they are managing to generate some income. (Manager, URGP)

The contribution to the family income, supported by Procasa, is due, therefore, to the results obtained in the production of fodder and milk. In both cases, the marketing of these products as well as their consumption by families and their animals are mentioned. Regarding forages: "While in the past the family used to buy this forage, today they save that amount, because they have become their own forage producer. This has increased the income by virtue of the family's economy." (Manager, UGP).

Forage production allows to reduce the costs of breeding and affords greater autonomy in conducting the activity. In addition, surpluses can be traded. For forage production and even for human and animal consumption, access to water was also a support provided by Procasa to families:

The beneficiary saying: "with the well, I stopped buying water. I saved, my income increased, because I stopped buying water. With the well today, I have fodder production for animals, forage-related spending decreased, I do not have to buy fodder outside." (Manager, UGP)

The reduction of families' maintenance and their productive activities costs is linked to water support actions:

From the moment we start investments for drilling wells, implementation of underground dam, the community that will be benefit from that water, it will not spend on water truck. [...] The community that is receiving desalinator, it will also have water to drink. There will be water for their animals, it also means saving on the purchase of water. (Manager, UGP)

Forage fields and access to animals are subject to multiplication and make their contribution through the genetic material made available in crops, palm and livestock.

Experiences of beekeeping, fruit growing and horticulture, with impact on family income, were mentioned. In addition to them, the diversification of products and their commercialization were mentioned in relation to the financial return obtained by the productive activity. Increased production of milk, cheese and vegetables was mentioned.

Data provided by UGP, produced by an impact assessment, show that the marketing, in productive projects, underwent an annual increase of 13% in the period between 2015 and 2019. The chains that had the most significant increase in marketing were: beekeeping, fruit growing and sheep and goats farming.

In the interviews conducted, there were reports of marketing of products that had increments of production, linked to goats and sheep farming, fruit growing, beekeeping and handicraft, reinforcing the above information. Informal and formal markets were cited as being used in the outflow of production:

[...] because the informal market is often a less demanding market. [...] Cheese production, many communities already do it, then they managed to increase it. [...] Fruit pulp also grew a lot in the informal market. But what we always seek is the formal market [...]. But within the informal market, indeed, there was a lot of income increase. (Manager, UGP)

Citing cheese/milk and fruit pulp production as examples of products that had a sales increase in informal markets, the quote above highlights the greater expression of these marketing channels.

Keeping the local marketing, with the increased production, in some cases the marketing channels expanded to other territories:

It was still pretty common to sell door to door, in the local market, selling at local fairs. And nowadays, they managed [to] jump over the local market barrier, for example, by moving to another territory. There are dairy stores that come to fetch milk here. [...] [local markets] are still kept, it is never discarded. Moreover, they are able to add income to dairy production by making homemade cheese. They have already put it on the local market. (Manager, URGP)

In this way, local and informal markets remain an important commercial space. Increase and diversification of products, like cheese, strengthen the marketing.

The production of productive backyards, associated with agroecological logbooks, was an action aimed at women and resulted, among other aspects, in the diversification of products and in directing part of this production to marketing. Through this work:

[...] we held training also on this point, of starting to take the goods, to exchange, that thing of trading a product for those we do not have, with our neighbors, the donations, of those [products] we do not need [...] We were not in the habit of taking the surplus to exchange, to sell, to make some profit for us. Then, we saw that, a positive point, we harvest, we can sell, exchange, donate, too, to those who do not have it. For me it was, it's very positive. (Community member)

In addition to marketing, which, in the case above, is done at free municipal fairs, the agroecological books addressed the possibilities of exchange, donation of surplus and from family consumption, thereby being an action directly related to families' food security.

Procasa contributed to product diversification:

And, in the guidance, we learned a lot. [...] And to use it. Take advantage of something that I was not using to make sweet, cake. I've sold a lot of sweets, too. The boy also enjoyed the milk. He already did it, but they get guidance, more cheese, he used to sell it at the fairs, now he's selling it at home, delivering to the homes. (Community member)

The use of production, in addition to diversification, encouraged by Procasa, results in a greater variety of products sold.

According to UGP information, impact evaluation mentions the increase in access to PAA. In the interviews in this study, this marketing channel was mentioned when linked to a fruit processing initiative and to a milk production initiative, both involving women and, in the second case, quilombolas.

Other references were made, considering situations in which PAA had already been accessed. In one of these mentions:

They accessed and started to access it better. We had a group of young people in [locality] that sold vegetable gardens to PAA. With the Emergency Plan, we placed a well, an irrigation kit, a windmill, a water tank. This strengthened. For example, the settlement [...], our focus was on milk production, we improved it genetically [...]. And that was important because milk is a strong item and they sell it to PAA. ( Social Mobilizer, URGP)

The Emergency Plan contributes to the productive activities, in the case above, horticulture, in situations where PAA was already an accessible channel. The productive project, also mentioned, enabled the genetic improvement of the herd in a settlement that produces milk and sells it in PAA. Both actions brought results for productive activities.

With regard to cooperatives, Procasa expanded the possibilities of institutional markets, promoting the commercialization of the Cooperative of Rural Producers of Monteiro Ltda. (Capribom) for the Exército Nacional e para a Maternidade Frei Damião, in João Pessoa. This cooperative and Coasc implemented solar panels in their units through the project. With the savings in electricity, both of them directed resources towards the acquisition of vehicles to transport production, opening up the possibility of regional expansion of their markets.

In handicrafts, Procasa supported the participation of lacemakers in the Salão do Artesanato Paraibano in conjunction with the Handicraft Program of Paraíba and the Human Development Secretariat. The building of a Handicraft Reference Center, a space for marketing renaissance lace, was being supported by the project.

From what was presented, formal and informal markets were reported as production marketing channels driven by Procasa. Of the cases mentioned, the project's actions turned to efforts to integrate the former, such as PAA and other institutional purchases.

**Box 3 : Main Results – Procasa Project**

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PROCASE**



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
productive projects, **2,930** people. In total, **24,413** families.



**YOUTH:**  
productive projects, **12%** of young people as holders. Young Scholarship Program, **220** young people. Quilombola youngsters participating in the program gathered experience in support of recognition and certification of quilombola communities, strengthening of quilombola communities.



**QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITIES:**  
**3%** of quilombolas as holders of productive projects. Identification of quilombola communities , self-recognition and recognition/certification – five communities certified and three in the process of certification.  
Valuation and empowerment of quilombola women and their communities, expansion of dialogue and integration of quilombola communities in the wider social tissue.



**GENDER EQUITY:**  
**43%** of women as holders in productive projects.  
Female Empowerment: actions geared to the approach of subjects sensitive to women and questions about gender relations, visibility, and approach to the issue of gender in the space of ATER.  
• Contribution of the project to the installation of the Cariri Women’s Intermunicipal Reference Center.



**PUBLIC POLICIES:**  
increase in access to PAA and Pronaf (Impact Evaluation).  
• **ATER:** increased access to ATER.

### MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PROCASE



#### PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS:

- Goats and sheep farming: genetic improvement of animals, improvements in food security of herds, expanded fodder production, spread of forage palm, increased milk production.



- Irrigated fields: diversification of forage and food crops. Impact on family income – especially goat farming. References to fruit growing, horticulture and beekeeping.



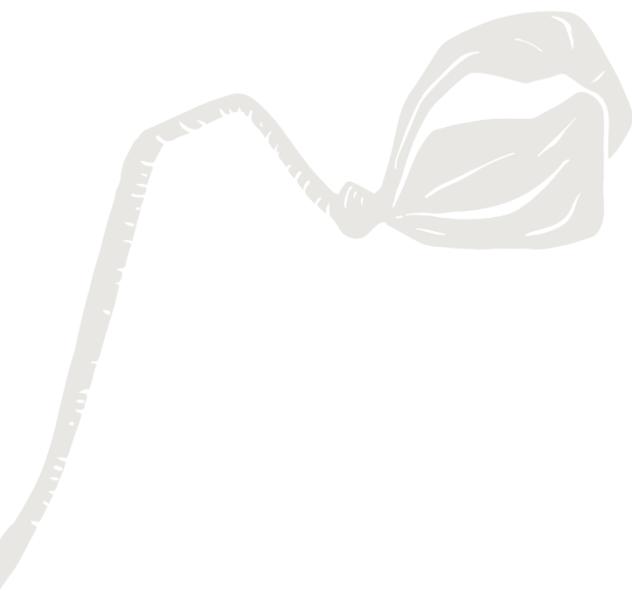
- Increase in family income: 68.8% of the Productive Projects had an increase of more than 20% in income (Impact Evaluation). Forage production and access to water resources: economy of families' financial resources, contributing to their income.



- Marketing: growth of 13%, especially beekeeping, horticulture and goat farming (Impact Evaluation)



- Marketing increase: product diversification, informal markets.





  
VIVA O SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT



The Viva o Semiárido Project (PVSA) is an initiative that involves IFAD and the Government of the State of Piauí and aims to reduce poverty and extreme poverty levels of rural populations in the semiarid region of the state.

Viva o Semiárido seeks to improve agricultural and non-agricultural income, employment and income-generating opportunities, and access to productive assets for beneficiaries.

The specific objectives of the project are:

(a) To improve agricultural and non-agricultural production of poor producers and access to the market and relevant value chains, providing adequate technical assistance, financial resources and strengthening their social and productive organizations; (b) To strengthen the capacities of the target population, in particular young people, to generate income and access labor markets, through the dissemination of specific knowledge to the semi-arid environment, as well as the promotion of technical and professional education; (c) To strengthen the capacity of key rural institutions to develop technical assistance systems, design and implement rural development policies in the semi-arid region. (IFAD; Government of Piauí, n/d)

PVSA carries out its activities in 89 municipalities in five territories: Vale do Sambito; Vale do Rio Guaribas; Vale do Rio Canindé; Serra da Capivara, and Chapada Vale do Rio Itaim.

In its work with the communities, PVSA provided Technical and Systematic Advisory Services (ATS) through 13 ATER providers: Association of Goats and Sheep Breeders of Betânia (Ascobetânia), Caritas Brasileira (CNBB), Center of Beekeeping Cooperatives of the Brazilian Semi-arid (CASA APIS), Education Center and Environmental Assistance (CEAA), Research Center Linked to Alternative Techniques (CELTA), Center of Cashew Growers Cooperatives of the State of Piauí (Cocajupi), Mixed Cooperative of Beekeepers in the Microregion of Simplício Mendes (Comapi), Working Cooperative for the Provision of Services for the Rural Development of Family Farming (Cootapi), Institute of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension of Piauí (Emater), Agricultural Planning and Technical Assistance Company (Emplanta), Rural Technology and Management Company (Engeter), ARC Consultancy and Mobilization and Advisory Service for Sustainable Regional Development (SEMEAR).

The survey of information used in this evaluation was carried out in March of 2020.



## 1. AUDIENCE REACHED

**ACCORDING TO DATA PROVIDED BY THE PVSA'S**



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
**23,085** families through productive and social actions. Among them, **8,597** families are covered by Productive Investment Projects (PIPs)

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**YOUTHS:**  
**10,763** in training activities and **3,725** in Contextualized Education and Professional Qualification of Youth actions.

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**WOMEN:**  
**9,500** families are represented by women, which corresponds to **41%** of the total, involving the three actions of the project.

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**211** productive projects, which encompass five cooperatives and 206 associations, PVSA reached **8,579** families. Considering the priority public, the contingents reached by PIPs were: women, **2,880 (34%)**; young people, **1,457 (17%)** and quilombolas, **987 (12%)**.

According to the interviewees, the work with the priority public was promoted in the final third of the project and, in order to identify and act with this public, it had the support of the Municipal Councils for Rural Development (CMDR) and the Association of Residents and Small Producers of the State of Piauí (Amppepi). In the second case, the association linked to the Small Farmers Movement (MPA), contributed to the preparation of a PIP for women of quilombola communities and agrarian reform settlements.

The municipal councils, for their part, were constituted in local instances for identification, selection and coordination of the associations with PVSA. Besides them, agriculture secretariats, trade unions of rural workers and associations were referred to as mobilized institutions in identifying the organizations with which the project worked. The first two were mentioned by community members in the interviews.

12 Ações dos subcomponentes de Desenvolvimento Social e Humano do projeto, implementadas pela Secretaria de Estado da Educação (SEDUC) e Secretaria de Assistência Social e Cidadania (SASC), coexecutoras do PVSA.

For the selection of associations:

Criteria were established with our field teams with the councils. Because in these councils everyone was represented. This group that I spoke about, the executive, the legislative, the churches, the rural workers unions, which is very strong in the line of action of our project, and the associations. So there was this selection process, the criterion was created and associations were selected. (Manager, UGP)

This initial mobilization was described by the Technical Director of Emater as follows: “We held meetings in each city council and said the following: you will do a survey on how many associations exist in the city and, at first, you deliberate, let’s select some six or seven associations to start the work.” (Technical Mediator).

The project found, on the municipal level, different situations. In some cases, municipal councils were reported as active and structured. In others, they were referred to as weakened:

For this we had to carry out some work with all the councils of the municipalities, the Municipal Council for Sustainable Rural Development. Some were untidy, others virtually extinct. Others were still on a good level of performance. This was also a work that we started, so that the gateway to the project was via the council, and it really was. All of the projects were approved by these councils. The communities were selected because we could reach them all. In all of them, they had and continue to have strong demands. (Manager, UGP)

Considering that the municipal councils were the “gateway”, in cases where these instances were not active, it was necessary to act to ensure that this was the instance of approval of PVSA projects, thus contributing to its dynamization, at least for the project-related activities.

The increase in participation in trade unions, associations and councils, driven by PVSA activities, was reported: “Today, it is as if a group of actors was awakened, motivated to these movements. People started to attend the union, associations are more empowered, and they are more present on the councils, both the territorial and the municipal ones” (Manager, UGP).

Among the interviewees, it was observed that they had access to information about PVSA through organizations/institutions and local leaders with whom they already had contact. Among these organizations/institutions cited are unions, agriculture departments, and Emater.

The projects were accessed through associations and five cooperatives. As part of its work with these organizations, PVSA held management training courses. Another instrument used, mentioned as an aspect that has helped the associations accumulate knowledge and experience on the management of organizations and projects, was the Bidding Commission. According to field information, these commissions were established involving members who were not the leaders of the organizations. Thereby:

It was qualitative leap within the process of organization of associations. Because, for the most part, the president solves everything. But today we see associations that have evolved a lot. [...] The level of organization of the associations has improved a lot. Of course, some more than the others. This is a legacy, this leap in the level of social organization. (Technical Mediator)

The impact on associations and local mobilization was mentioned among community members. Thus, reflecting on the results of the project, one of them states: “This project has improved everything. It even improved the way we see things in an associative way. Even this, of so many things we have to solve together, ideas gradually matured.” (Community member).

This contribution of the project, the way to “see things in an associative way”, took place in a scenario in which the association, prior to the project, was described as paralyzed, with demotivated associates and cases of abandonment of the organization. At the beginning of the PVSA activities, the association in question had 24 members. On the occasion of the field visit, this number reached 31 members.

The project was cited as an enabler of mobilization and interest in the association through the participation of other community members: “For this is a lesson learned: by including the community within the association and within the project, which is also important, this way of participating. This, in my opinion, is very important.” (Community member).

This participation is linked to the possibility of non-members using the equipment and infrastructure installed by the project, in this case a honey processing unit. This possibility should be set to the demands of the members who are priority users. “Why? Because this is important, you bring people to membership, you improve the associativism” (Community member).

Investments in equipment and infrastructure, therefore, not only resulted in increased production and quality of honey, but also the possibility of expanding its use beyond those directly involved with PVSA. Furthermore, the fact that the project came to fruition was mentioned as a booster of interest in the association.

The previous trajectory with programs, projects, and external actions appears in the interviews associated with “discredit”:

We developed this project, which was discreet, we have developed [projects] for a long time. For more than 25 years. [...] We used to take a little program, it got stuck [...], we developed it, started [the PVSA project], but there was a total discredit. We did not believe. We came from many, which we knew how it worked... And we went there. First, a lot of people came in, gave their names, and then didn’t want to participate anymore [...], we had that sort of thing going on, people came and took the money to buy whatever they wanted, it was the custom in the past. No, it’s not like that. Then some said: “ah, if it’s not like that then I don’t want it”. (Community member)

In addition to the discredit, the fact that the financial resource is directed was commented as an initial demotivator. Previous experiences that “stuck” resulted in “discredit”, in fear:

Here, in our association, a project was prepared, we made sacrifices to buy a piece of land and they duped us. We were afraid of this upcoming project. [...] Why? Because we were afraid of not coming and we had been tricked... That it wouldn’t work. We were scared. [...] We were already deceived with the well, we were deceived with the mill. We were concerned. (Community member)

With this background, in the initial mobilization, the project related to the above quotation had 29 people interested, a number that was reduced to 19.

If, on the one hand, the scenario was of fear and disbelief, the realization of experience contributed to somewhat recast the initial impression, “We, after it came out, I myself, I feel fulfilled by one thing, the project having been successful.” (Community member).

After we got it, people saw it, then everyone was dying to join. Folks saw that the thing flowed. Then, quickly, a lot of people: “boy, if something comes up I’ll want it”. [...] Most were discouraged, but now we can see that the people are excited. It opened the minds of many people and I believe it is sure to succeed. She said she was fulfilled, so am I, thank God. Because the project is a fact. You claimed it, it came. Just a few things are missing. (Community member)

On the occasion of the survey, facilities and equipment for the flour house and chicken coop had already been received and built by associates. Animals and equipment were being awaited for the production of cassava gum, which was acquired on the basis of a relocation. With the projected actions partly implemented, the members, due to the delay in release of project funds and the arrival of the rains, acquired cassava cuttings with their own funds. In this way, the financial resource destined to these cuttings was redirected to a gum washer.

In turn, the destination for the project’s financial revenue was already planned by the associates: the building of a structure for collective use to house the chicken hatchery, also an investment by PVSA. As the project progressed, the participating members made their own investments, relocations and new planning, linked to the PVSA activities. The members were mobilized and engaged in actions. If the community came from a scenario of disbelief and fear, the experience with the project was already showing results in terms of local social mobilization.

As in the previous case, the flour houses built and equipped through PVSA, directly involving 19 members, can be used by other community members, but a fee is charged for this. In this way, the installed infrastructure is used by a larger group than the community directly participating in the project.

As a result linked to the formalization of social organization initiatives, PVSA support in the creation of a cooperative was cited:

We have a very concrete, very palpable example [...]. With the support of this project, a cooperative was created and this cooperative is now at a very advanced level regarding commercialization. They put animals here in Teresina, trucks come weekly bringing the animals that they sell. They have a slaughterhouse in place, just some inspection details missing. They were already organized, but the leap was spectacular. Then, if you suddenly ask, what is the greatest legacy? It’s hard to say what the biggest legacy is, as there is a series of variables to be analyzed, but this cooperative is one of the examples. [...] And now, despite their organization and everything else, certainly most of the merit is theirs, but the secretariat, through the project, led this process very competently, by creating the cooperative and being supportive. It has professional consultants, experts, specialists giving support. And the results are coming. (Technical Mediator)

In the creation of the cooperative, with the support of PVSA’s Associativism and Cooperativism Advisors, the organization’s Social Statute included elements aimed at the participation of women. In this sense, the following were cited: incorporation of a gender-inclusive language in the document; inclusion of 50% of women in the composition of Management and Supervisory Boards; 26% participation of women in the constitution of the cooperative, as founding members, and participation of women as members from the conditions created in the statute that allow affiliation of up to three family members.

The cooperative in question, in addition to the support of specialists and the contribution to the inclusion of women in the aforementioned statute, sold animals for the projects of the associations within the scope of PVSA.

## 2. PUBLIC POLICIES AND SYSTEMATIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The programs and policies accessed by the public reached by the project, prior to PVSA, informed by the interviewees and the UGP, are: PAA; PNAE; Minimum Prices Guarantee Program (PGPM); Seguro Agrícola (Agricultural Insurance); Pronaf; Agroamigo and Crediamigo. With the performance of the project, according to managers, there was an increase in access to PRONAF and PAA.

In the specific case of PAA, the trainings undertaken and the technical assistance, linked to the productive backyards, with one action with women, were mentioned as promoting the increase of participation in the program.

Previous access to public programs and policies was reported by the community members: “I am [enrolled], yes, government federal policy, Agroamigo of Banco do Nordeste. In fact, not just me, most are. Those who are not part of Agroamigo are in Pronaf B. [...] Most participate in this other public policy as well.” (Community member).

Starting from a scenario in which the communities already reported their involvement with other external actions and organizations/institutions, PVSA, based on the information in this assessment, leaves as a result experiences in which it is observed the strengthening of these initiatives through local mobilization mediated by the project’s actions.

Through the 13 ATER providers, PVSA worked with 8,597 families that are covered by 211 PIPs. Among these projects, 84 are led by seven private providers, 67 by the public provider, and 60 by 5 third sector organizations. Following the public one, a private company is responsible for the second highest number of PIPs, 62, followed by a the third sector organization that provides advice in 29 projects.

For ATS, individual and collective methods and techniques are used: technical visits, meetings, problem-solving meetings, practical demonstrations, experimental units, courses, workshops, excursions, demonstration units and exchanges. The techniques and methods are used depending on the characteristics of each project served. The frequency, number of visits, courses, workshops or other activities also depend on each project. In general, the frequency of individual visits was defined as regular.



ATS accessed through PVSA was mentioned and described by the interviewed community members :

And when something is needed? We go after them. [...] So, if anything arises we go after them. [...] We had no problem in this regard. They pay visits as necessary, gave courses, do some kind of seminar, whatever it takes, they do it. If necessary, we request it. And they come. (Community member)

The community member describes an action through visits and collective activities. When necessary, according to his words, ATS support is requested and it is always there.

An action articulated with the community demand was also mentioned in another field visit: "There is, indeed [ATER]. The [technician] helped us a lot. Many doubts, he clarified. In the beginning, every day we phoned him, we called, queries were answered" (Community member).

The community member addresses, in the sequence of his speech, the technician's visits to clarify doubts about greywater reuse system: "He [the technician] came with another two men. He clarified doubts about clogging, about the plumbing, about the installation of layers, which a lot of people had doubts about the assembling." (Community member).

Results achieved by the project were related to the joint work with ATS and the increase in productive infrastructure:

It improved production. It improved in management, which we learned to manage in a better way, in a more qualified way due to the courses [...]. We would work in the wrong way. I won't even say it was the wrong way, it was the way available. We didn't work to the required standard. Also because we did not had one house of honey suitable to harvest the honey. (Community member).

Thus, the learning provided through the project actions adds to the investments in infrastructure and equipment implemented in the context of PVSA, improving management and production. The community member's words also allow us to highlight that the house of honey represents the possibility of a new product standard that reconciles with new procedures in the productive activity, both included in PVSA actions.

The results achieved are also identified in relation to ATS providers. In this sense, the field information on the performance of the public company providing ATER describes a scenario in which the operationalization of PVSA was a process of learning and experience accumulation. In this way:

There is a history to get here. This project, all the tools had to be built, so it was a slow process, but it gave us a lot of know-how. I usually say that today, if we get involved in another project similar to this one, we have know-how and we will have much more significant advances. We had to begin by writing up the form to design the project. Each one was defining by his own will how the projects were going to be developed. We created a script. [...] And the entire follow-up process, all the instruments, the methodological instruments. The [ATER provider] built a step-by-step document, from the joining of the community to project design. [...] So we had many problems, but now we have a load of accumulated knowledge. (Technical Advisor)

The development of operational instruments and the acquired know-how are accompanied by other experiences/lessons learned by the ATER provider. Having women as one of the priority publics and the inclusion of some productive activities were elements that resulted in actions that were more attentive to the groups.

That is very good, because the backyards question took some time to "catch" in the project. Because for the technician who was not involved in the theme, the backyards already exist, the backyard is there. But there was no notion of improving, or proposing a change. Everyone has their backyard, everyone has their vegetable garden and that's it, they left it for some other activity, goats farming, another activity. But then this theme started to be better worked, systematized and today we have a colleague who says: "today my view about backyards has changed". So this is another legacy of the project. It is a differentiated look on the work with backyards, and so much so that, at a given time, we have specific projects for backyards. So, this has evolved a lot. This is a remarkable thing about the project. (Technical Advisor)

The action aimed at productive backyards, through PVSA, allowed for the way of approaching/working these spaces to be changed, resulting in a "differentiated look". If, in general, these productive areas/activities were seen as existing, but not demanding of actions, the backyards, to be worked and systematized, gained visibility within ATER's scope of action. The systematization mentioned is linked to the agroecological logbooks. Also, there is the peculiarity that these areas of work are occupied by women. The visibility of this activity reverberates, therefore, in the action with this public.

Also in this sense, the field information reported how the prioritization of the public women tensed an approach directed to the "families where the head was the man": "The issue of women as well. It is observed that they were most contemplated in the final third of the project. Even due to the training of the extensionist and everything else, of looking for the family, but the family where the head was the man. So this issue had to be worked on. So, it was in the final third." (Technical Advice).

Another activity mentioned as a highlight, accompanied by considerations that until then it had not channeled attention and investment, was poultry farming. In this case, the field information points to the work carried out with PVSA as linked to the process of valuing the productive activity.

Therefore, through the work with PVSA, the visibility and inclusion of actions geared for women, to backyards production and poultry figure as a result in the ATER scenario.

### 3. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS

Through ATER actions and investments, PVSA operated with 12 productive chains/activities with the families who participated in the project. The table below shows the production chains and activities worked on under PVSA, the number of families involved and the financial resources employed.

**Table 6: Productive Investment Plans, families and resources by productive arrangement**

Productive arrangement	Plans	Mixed Activities	Productive Backyards	Families	Resources (R\$)
Sheep and Goats Farming	73	46	-	2,439	20,522,760.89
Beekeeping	41	19	1	2,789	12,519,688.65
Mixed Activities <sup>1</sup>	58	-	-	1,692	13,104,677.89
Poultry farming	11	31	5	314	2,390,805.86
Pisciculture	5	7	-	104	894,528.49
Cassava	5	3	1	224	1,462,285.33
Productive Backyards	10	-	-	333	2,483,492.14
Small Irrigation	3	10	-	133	1,154,040.56
Umbu Processing	1	-	-	21	163,712.47
Cashew culture	two	5	-	476	1,937,363.33
Swine farming	1	two	-	25	221,981.01
Handicraft	1	two	-	47	284,978.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,597</b>	<b>R\$ 57,140,315.00</b>

Source: UGP Information – Mar./2020. (1) involves more than one productive activity/chain

Note a concentration of the number of PIPs, families and resources between sheep and goat farming, beekeeping and mixed activities. Table 5 also allows visualizing the presence of sheep and goats farming and beekeeping in mixed activities. Thus, of the 58 PIPs of this category, 46 of them involve, among other activities, sheep and goats farming (76%) and 19, beekeeping (33%). Beekeeping is also present in a PIP of productive backyards. These are the chains that involve the largest quantity of families and resources, being in the largest number of investment plans.

These productive chains/activities were equally highlighted in the field interviews, bringing up some characteristics of each one.

Sheep and goats farming and beekeeping are related to their relevance in the project’s territories of activity:

[...] because the strength of our project here, which is observed by study, by demand, by everything, the strength in our region of action is the question of beekeeping and sheep and goat farming. These are the productive activities that permeate the majority of families in this project’s area of operation. (Manager, UGP)

Considering that they are activities developed by the “majority of families” with which PVSA operates, it is considered:

In the productive projects, 211 projects were supported in the seven main productive chains. Numerically, the highlight was for sheep and goats farming, a state tradition. Beekeeping comes next, which is an activity that is growing a lot. We have the productive backyards too, which were very still on the home straight, now they have grown a bit. (Manager, UGP)

Sheep and goats farming and beekeeping stand out, the former for being a “traditional” activity and the latter for being in expansion. In addition to these two chains, productive backyards are mentioned above as an activity that have “grown a bit” in the final stretch of PVSA. This idea follows on from the earlier finding that the visibility of productive backyards and women in the project increased at a later stage in the implementation of PVSA.

The presence of more than one productive activity/chain in PIPs can be seen in Table 6, both through the mixed activities and in the productive backyards. Thus, except for umbu processing, all the other activities/chains are, in different combinations, covered by the mixed activities. Productive backyards, by their turn, are associated, in some PIPs, with beekeeping, poultry farming and cassava culture.

Poultry is the fourth production chain in number of PIPs and invested resources and the sixth in number of families. However, its presence among mixed activities is quite expressive, being in 31 of the 58 PIPs in this category (53%). Poultry is also associated with productive backyards in half of these projects, in 5 of the 10 PIPs.

The highlight, in quantitative terms, adds to the peculiarities of this activity. Thus:

We have two [production chains] that stand out, in fact, three. Why? Because the free-range poultry farming, free-range chicken farming is something that at first is not considered important, but it is fundamental. It is essential for the insertion of the family, especially the woman. Indeed, the woman is the one that gets more involved in this process. But she brings the man, she brings the daughter. And it’s an income you have there every week, eggs. Every week the money is coming. So it has its importance. (Technical Advisor)

The investments in the poultry industry bring with them contributions on family income, in short time intervals, through the production and marketing of eggs. The excerpt above also highlights the involvement of women in the activity.

Regarding the actions carried out by PVSA, in sheep and goats farming, investments in the breeding system were mentioned, including the acquisition of animals (with improvement of genetic material) and handing. This is a chain, as previously seen, considered relevant in the territories where the PVSA operates: “sheep and goats farming, this already had a better structure and, in certain situations, it has been strengthened” (Technical Advisor).

Among the actions and investments of PVSA, the families that work with sheep and goats farming had access to animals, increasing their herds qualitatively through the genetic material provided, which enabled the introduction of new races, as reported. In addition, there were quantitative benefits, in view of

the increase in the number of animals. The role of the project in partnership with a cooperative included, as already mentioned, its participation as one of the suppliers of animals.

Regarding livestock handling, actions related to food, health and breeding aspects were mentioned. For animal's food safety, investments were made in planting of grass, palm, protein banks, and hay and silage production.

The use of local forage species was encouraged and disseminated through PVSA actions, involving demonstration units:

Most of the projects you've seen are of animal production, small animals, mainly sheep and goats. So the preservation of pastures was hit hard. [...] The projects demanded a lot of good things in the forage palm issue, which was not strong here in the state. [...] There are many locations with a demonstration unit, with a planted area already. There was a very strong demand. [...] It's a way for them to escape this adverse situation of protein, silage, the hay part, which has a lot of material. There's a lot of things in the semiarid region that you can reproduce, already adapted, and keep. [...] Now that you're taking advantage there, you are taking advantage of the grass for animals to eat at those times when there is no rain, so you have to take advantage of it all (Technical Advisor).

For using local species as forage, actions to restore the caatinga were carried out. Another production chain that is related to this recovery action is beekeeping. In it, the caatinga species were worked as bee pasture.

One of the field experiences visited links up to beekeeping. In this case, the interaction between technical assistance and investments in infrastructure resulted in improvements in the production volume and quality of honey, as seen above. With resources from PVSA, two honey-houses were built and 17 honeydew boxes were purchased for each of the beekeepers. The honey-house can be used by project participants of the two communities and by other community members, according to the stipulated norms. Added to this possibility is the information that these are the first honey-houses in the municipality, in which the production chain in question stands out: "If you consider the size of the population with income provided by honey, the income is very great. It beats the big ones by far. So this is what mostly sustains the municipality here, the honey business." (Community member).

Considering the increase in quality of honey obtained by the processing provided by the equipment of the honey-house, the possibility of using this structure by more beekeepers, the importance of the activity for the city and qualification in the conduct of activities worked in the actions of ATS, it is understood that these investments are shared beyond PVSA participants.

Investments in infrastructure that allow for improvements in the quantity and quality of production and in working conditions were observed in the field visits also in relation to cassava culture. With PVSA funds, two flour houses were renovated and expanded and equipment for processing cassava was acquired. With these improvements, the possibility of processing cassava in less time, of saving resources and improving the quality of the final products, flour and gum, was projected (because structures and equipment were not yet operating at the time of the interview):

It's time and cost-effectiveness. Because the oven today, the way we do, manual, is R\$ 120.00 a day. Mind you: R\$ 120.00 a day, the cost of oven-keeper labor. You will still have to buy firewood, because we practically don't have it here, you have to buy firewood and there will be transport costs. What you spend in a day in this manual oven you can do for a week with the electric one. It can be maintained for a week, divided by firewood, that sort of thing. [...] It certainly does [results in improvement in the quality of the product]. The people there [another locality], they get a better price. The quality is quite different. (Community member)

The work routine of the community in cassava culture, without the investment accessed through PVSA, was thus described:

Per day, we used to work between 13, 15 people per day, in each flour house. We get up early the morning, go out very early every day, go to the farm at five in the morning, pulling up. When it's 8:30 we're already home and then we help women scrape it. We start to grind so as to be removing the gum, passing it on. It's all manual here. By the early afternoon we usually have nearly halted. Not the women, though, because they will take care of the gum, will wash it. It's a laborious process. And this washer will make life much easier for women. Men lift and grind. Women scrape, make the gum. (Community member)

The job described, "all manual", finds better conditions for being done with the equipment provided by PVSA: the oven, the grater and the gum washer, the latter standing out due to its impact on "the lives of women". As mentioned above, the acquisition of the gum washer was not initially planned and was possible with resources that were intended for the acquisition of cuttings, carried out by the community members: "We also didn't wait for the cuttings that were coming from there, we bought and planted them. Because here, it's like this: when you have it, you help the neighbors." (Community member).

Because, within this project, we were supposed to acquire the cassava cuttings, to buy them. But that was when the project was a little delayed, and then the rain came and, were we to wait to buy, we would miss the planting cycle. Then we did it by our own account, we planted. And this money for cassava will be used in the gum washer. (Community member)

Initially the project did not include the gum washer, since the oven and grater were prioritized, due to the available financial resources, for use in the steps considered as demanding heavier work, according to field information.

The gum washer, in addition to providing better working conditions, allows for a reduction in the number of people needed: "When [cassava] is ripped, they arrive early. Four women do the job. Because it's too heavy. With this new implement, the job of four will drop to two women. Washing the gum is too heavy." (Female community member).

The investments of the project have repercussions on the activity: "It is improved by 90%, both in facility and in the cost-benefit ratio" (Community member). Better working conditions, cost reduction and increased production capacity are related to the increase in equipment.

The description of the work involved in cassava production and the impact of the investments made by the project follow considerations related to the lack of interest of young people in the community. This is because the activity is conducted, in all its stages, by the older people of the region. This is an element that adds to the importance of better working conditions, in order to ensure that the activity can continue to be carried out by the community: “That is a deficiency we are having. Because today young people just want to go to school, they don’t want to work. Older women can’t take it anymore, the demand is too heavy.” (Community member).

In addition, the production of cassava and its derivatives was described as being “rather slow” as a function of cost-effectiveness:

Because labor is expensive and the return on the product is small. The drought of four, five years, we almost lost the seed of the crop, because here we usually cultivate cassava in March and April [...] in those months there was not a raindrop. We were like that... We planted, sometimes it sprouted, but it didn’t grow because of the lack of rain. This in recent years. Now, since last year, it has been improving, there is a lot of cassava. The project encouraged planting cassava. (Community member)

Therefore, the PVSA project contributes by encouraging the continuation of cassava planting, which was facing adversities: “People who had stopped planting because of the drought now are back to planting.” (Community member).

According to another interviewee, the project:

It was a wealth for our community. I am finding it a wealth. We already have the chicken coop and the oven, a grater. Now we are waiting for the gum extractor. Very wonderful and important to the our community to grow. [...] We were glad because we already received the chicken coops, the electric oven, the grater. Now we are about to, we can authorize the delivery, [...] the pasta washer, to remove the gum. (Female community member)

Mentioning investments in cassava processing equipment, the community member also highlights chicken coops. At the time of field visits, chicken coops had already been built and the animals and feed included in the project were awaited.

Poultry farming was one of the productive chains/activities that stood out in the project. Seen as an activity of quick financial return, through eggs production, the sale of animals was also boosted by PVSA:

Then there is the free-range chicken, breeding free-range chicken, which is an activity that they already work on normally. But rather thought of for consumption. The very rustic way, of spending a year with the bird until reaching the point of slaughter. So, you improve that breeding with a wild breed. It’s not the farm chicken, it’s free-range chicken, which has a strong market demand. Something that is coming back, the people have started to appreciate it more. (Manager, UGP)

The sale of eggs and animals was mentioned by female community members, who received investments for poultry farming, as an activity prior to the project: “Now, my mother and I, we breed [chicken], but I sold chicken all of my life. I sell it both alive and after slaughtered, I sell eggs.” (Community member).

Considering the market demand, poultry farming was boosted by the project in the work with the female quilombola community members visited:

And today we are already raising our chickens, to sell outside. Because I sell roast chicken, whole chicken, which is called auction chicken here. It’s those big chickens, whole roast chicken. We transport to outside. [...] We sell slaughtered chicken by about R\$40.00, R\$50.00 and people like it fine. Chicken treated for 15 days in the backyard. (Female quilombola community member).

Building chicken coops contributed to chicken raising by offering protection to the animals:

It was a help. Because there was plenty of caracara, a lot of animals that ate, right? That ate the chickens, carried them away. And today, thank God, if we take 10 chicks, all of them survive, and production increases. I think that we have about 60 chicken heads and it helped a lot, indeed. (Quilombola community member)

If building the chicken coop was a way to enhance chicken farming, due to the protection offered, the structure for productive backyards, also implemented under PVSA in the quilombola community, was recalled in a similar sense:

Because it’s R\$6,000 in materials. This is very important. No family can afford to build their own backyard. As our friend said, that she was dying to fence it off because of the crows, because of the cattle that came in. She could not have a yard. And this project came and she snatched it. I loved it too. I already have a lot of things in the backyard, a lot of people come in, visit it. (Quilombola community member)

Here again, the infrastructure financed by the project and built by the community facilitates the development of the productive activity, in this case, the backyards. The female community member also mentions the importance of the financial resources available and the her backyard with a “lot of things” and as a visited place.

Productive backyards, mentioned as an activity that was only promoted at the end of the project, are directly linked to the families’ food security, and are generally spaces for women to act upon. The production for family consumption is accompanied by the possibility of marketing some products:

For me, this backyard was more than an important thing. Just going to your own yard to pick up your own food is already a wealth, where I can produce vegetables, legumes, fruit. I consume and produce for outside clients. I can sell too. [...] many people fail to buy at the fair and come buy it from my property, in my own house. (Female quilombola community member)

Note that the production in backyards is relevant to the family's food security. In addition, the direct access to a variety of products, "vegetables, legumes, fruits," is a "great wealth". The result of this initiative is expressed in the affirmation of the possibility of producing: "in other words, our backyards do bring production, some productivity, that we can produce with our own investment" (Quilombola Community member).

The agroecological logbooks are an initiative developed alongside productive backyards. In interviews, this action was mentioned in association to a feature of the community: union.

And we get together for everything. The logbooks came for us to write down our consumption, from our backyards. And everyone took it, even to do it on the day the [technician] came to help: "Do you want it?" "Oh, I can't read, I can't write". "Get it that we work it out." And then, those who can't read, we get together. Ask what you ate, what you didn't eat and we write it down. I help them and I am very proud that we are family. (Quilombola Community member)

For the conduct of agroecological logbooks, therefore, social mobilization was counted on, with the help of active community members in the group of women. PVSA, through their actions, contributed to women's affirmation, as mentioned above, and to enhance their role in social groups. The project adds to other articulations that the community's women's group has established, thus contributing to the continuity of the group's actions .

Regarding the marketing of production, as mentioned above, it was reported that PVSA contributed to increasing the number of community members who access PAA. In field visits, the project's impact on marketing was connected to its results in the production. Direct marketing in local production and on community level were cited.

In the case of beekeeping, the increased production and quality of honey were mentioned. In cassava, the expectation was to have an equal impact. Asked about the improvement in the quality of products (flour and gum), due to the equipment and the structure installed by PVSA, the community member responds:

It sure does. These from [another locality], they get a better price. Quality is something else. Most come to buy here, we sell it here. We sell it all, practically directly to the consumer. The people from outside who don't do it come to buy. Our gum is already well known. People from [municipalities], they come to buy here. We want to create a brand of this flour. [Municipality] Also, in the interior the people sell quite a lot. (Community member)

The expectation, therefore, was to get better quality of the product and, consequently, better prices. The community member also describes the sale of the product in the production location to buyers from other municipalities.

In the quilombola community visited, it was reported, as already described, the sale of products in the community member's "own house". For the marketing of chickens, fairs were cited.

The impact on family income appears, in the interviews carried out, in relation to the result of the project's actions in production. However, general data were not available. From what has been observed in the field visit, results in income were observed in beekeeping and for productive backyard/poultry,

similarly to marketing. It was found that the facilities and equipment for cassava production were not yet functioning, and the animals and feed for poultry farming had not yet arrived. It should be noted, again, that the project was underway, with actions still to be performed, implemented.

Investments in infrastructure, equipment and ATS resulted, in the beekeeping experience visited, in income generation: "And then the main thing, which is income generation, which has increased, is the focus of the project, which I know it is , got it? Improve income [...]. Then it did." (Community member).

In the quilombola community, with whom PVSA worked in productive backyards and poultry farming, the reports presented above refer to the importance of the investment made to improve both activities and the commercialization of production, impacting family income.

**Box 4 : Main Results - PVSA**

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PVSA**

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**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
productive projects **8,579** families.

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**STRENGTHENING OF ASSOCIATIONS:**  
training in management and interest in these organizations. Increased credibility in external initiatives, such as the design, realization of investments of community members in PVSA-related activities. Support in the formation of a cooperative.

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**YOUTHS:**  
productive projects, **17%** of young people as holders.

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**QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITIES:**  
**12%** of quilombolas as holders of productive projects.

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**WOMEN:**  
**34%** of women as holders of productive projects.

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**PUBLIC POLICIES:**  
Increased access to PAA and PNAE.  
• ATER: training of community members in productive activities. Visibility for the productive backyards (agroecological logbooks) and poultry among ATER providers.

### MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PVSA

#### PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS:

Highlight in number of PIPs and families: sheep and goats farming, beekeeping and mixed activities. Through mixed activities, highlights for poultry and productive backyards. Visibility of activities and the work of women.

- Sheep and goats farming: qualitative and quantitative improvement in herds. Increased use of forage plants and the production of hay and silage. Use of local species as forages, restoration of the caatinga.



- Beekeeping: increased volume and quality of honey. Beekeeping pasture with native species, restoration of the caatinga.



- Installed structures and equipment: unrestricted use by project participants. Contribution to strengthening the production of communities. Better working conditions, reduced costs and increased capacity of production.



- Structure: viability of the productive yards and of the poultry industry.



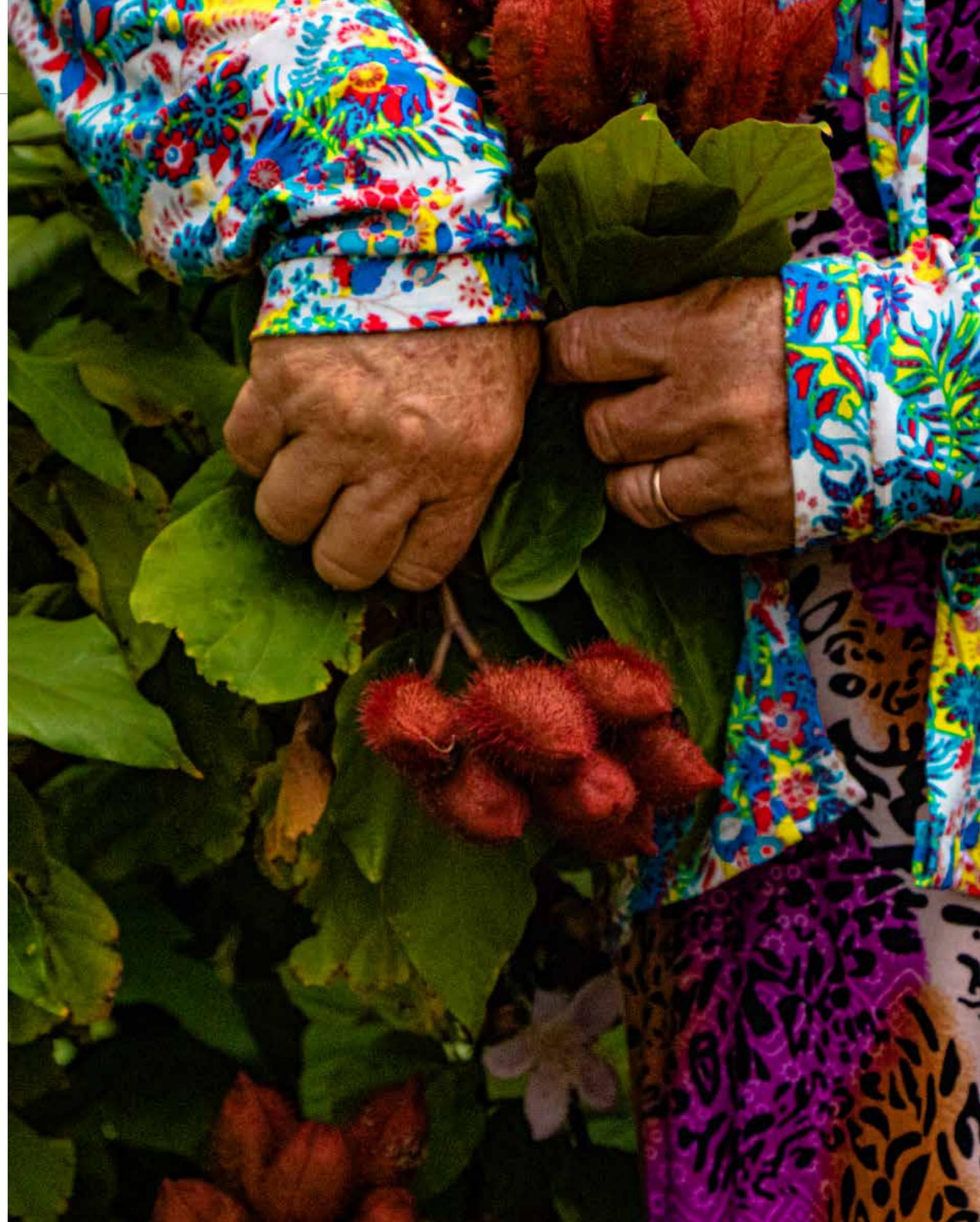
- Families' food security: productive backyards, increased production and diversification; poultry, increased production.



- Local, community and fair marketing: increase related to increased production. Productive backyards and poultry farming.



- Increased family income: beekeeping, poultry farming and productive backyard. Poultry: considered an activity of fast financial return.





# PSA

PRÓ-SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT



The Sustainable Rural Development Project in the Semi-arid Region of Bahia (Pró-Semiárido), a partnership between IFAD and the Government of the State of Bahia, aims to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty. To this end, it is supported by actions that seek to generate income, increase production and work opportunities in the agricultural and non-agricultural spheres, and the development of human and social capital, focusing especially on women and young people. The Pró-Semiárido works in 32 municipalities in the interior of Bahia.

Continuous Technical Assistance (ATC) is carried out by 10 civil society entities: Association of Small Producers of Jaboticaba (APPJ), Cooperative for Work and Assistance to Sustainable Family Agriculture of Piedmont (Cofaspi), Cooperative for Consultancy, Research and Support Services to Sustainable Rural Development (Coopeser), Association of Technical Assistance and Advisory Services to Rural Workers and Popular Movements (Cactus), Institute of Social and Agrarian Development of the Semi-arid (IDESA), Regional Institute of Small Appropriate Farming (IRPAA), Regional Association of solidarity Groups of Income Generation (Aresol), Canudos, Uauá and Curaçá Agricultural Family Cooperative (Environmental assistance Service in Field and City (Sajuc), and Advisory Service to Popular Rural Organizations (SASOP).

The information used in this evaluation were obtained through research field carried out in February of 2021.

### 1. AUDIENCE REACHED

THE PRÓ-SEMIARIDO (PSA)



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
**14,410** families, including family farmers and traditional peoples. With regard to the latter, the project worked with **5,088** families from the communities of Fundo and Fecho de Pasto.

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**COMMUNITIES:**  
 With Among these families, **1,454** are quilombolas, **447** riverside dwellers, and **85** are indigenous. Thus, **49%** of the families with which PSA works are from traditional communities.

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**WOMEN:**  
 The priority public, in addition to traditional peoples, are women and young people. Due to the transversal nature of actions for gender equity, the inclusion of the public women is addressed as related to this perspective in a following topic. Strategies and actions specific to young people and traditional people are presented in sequence.

Directing actions to young people, PSA developed meetings and assemblies of young people, the Young Communicators project, supported groups and included this audience in the actions of the project, in addition to productive initiatives through ACRs and cirandeiros. This last action was not exclusive to young people, but sought to include a greater participation of this public.

The meetings and assemblies were mentioned as spaces for debates in which exodus was one of the topics covered. Exodus, youth and the work with PSA were mentioned as integrated to the struggle and search for the best for the community:

My fight has always been this, to seek for our community the best to serve our population, our young people, for them not to be leaving our community to go to the big city, as often happens. So, if it worked out, we will fight to keep coming more and more. For the youth to embrace this cause that we embrace with the Pró-Semiárido project. Not only in relation to beekeeping, but also everything else that came, the backyards, the vegetables. (Quilombola Community member)

Productive activities appear related to the permanence of young people in the communities and PSA's contribution is also recognized in this regard.

PSA's actions with the youths results in mobilization of young community members:

We did not use to see young people mobilizing to discuss issues of community problems, territory problems, or perhaps municipality problems [...]. After the Pró-Semiárido, we began to move on with these debates. I started a group of young people here within the community. [...] There is also a territorial group. [...] We see this Pro-semiarid region issue expanding a lot. (Rural community agent)

The Young Communicators project involved 300 young people in actions of training, meetings and exchanges. PSA's initiative was directed to:

more cultural issues. We worked on how to take pictures [...], the issue of string literature (cordel) [...], the process of formation on citizenship, where the gender issue and the ethnic-racial issue were included. [...] you can't just say that there must be 30% of young people, there must also be, in addition to the strategies, some kind of activity, action, small projects for their inclusion. (Advisor, UGP)

Young Communicators was an action for the inclusion of young people. According to a community member who participated in the initiative, this was: "a very important experience for us to communicate and act within the community" (Female community member, Fundo de Pasto Community). Thus, the result of mobilization and inclusion of young people, promoted by PSA's actions, impact their communities as well.

In the set of actions developed with the Traditional Communities, the PSA contributed to their recognition and certification processes. For this, the project established a partnership with the Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality (Sepromi) of the Government of the State of Bahia. Partnerships were also established with the Coordination of Agrarian Development (CDA), to work on land regularization, and with the Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA), with a focus on environmental regularization.

PSA supported self-recognition and recognition of these communities. Answering about the results of the working experience with the project:

I think it is mainly self-identity that we are achieving right now. Our self-recognition as traditional communities. [...] This was a very rejected term, people did not know what a traditional community would be, what would be their benefits within the community, for being a resident of a traditional community. During these three years when we have been working on this social side within the community, we see a lot, both young and older people, they get in places and soon introduce themselves as residents of traditional communities of Fundo do Pasto. Until three years ago, nobody knew about it, the city hall had no knowledge. Precisely because the residents, they didn't identify themselves. [...] And today, we see it clearly in people's eyes, that they really live in the ways of tradition. (Fund of Pasto community member)

Formal recognition, the certification, carried out by other social and institutional actors, and self-recognition are processes interconnected and supported by PSA.

They didn't say they were brejeiros (from the swamp), because they were a little ashamed and they said they suffered a bit of prejudice. [...] who suffered a lot of prejudice. [...] With the Pró-Semiárido project, it gave us visibility [...]. So the people started to value themselves [...]. He does not say anymore that the brejeiro is a toad, which comes from the swamp, he says: "I'm proud to be a brejeiro", because he lives in a rich place, in a place of nature without equal. (Fundo do Pasto community member)

The importance of these processes, supported by PSA and which result in the strengthening of communities, is also linked to the possibility of defending territories and ways of life:

We created an association to be able to defend the territory. Also because the territory, it is very threatened, by many things, many companies [...]. And we want to defend our way of life, this Fundo do Pasto that we have. Which is a way to raise free-range animals, enjoy the products of the savanna, or fruits, many medicinal plants that we have, wood, even firewood that we grow to burn. This is all being threatened, we are about to lose. (Fundo do Pasto community member)

As a specific contribution, PSA leaves these communities with their process of self-recognition and recognition strengthened.

## 2. GENDER EQUITY

PSA actions aimed at gender equity included a series of strategies and activities related both to those developed with the communities and in other instances of the project. In these actions, the visibility and the participation of women in the communities and in ATER appear as results of PSA.

In implementing PSA actions on the community level, the establishment of quotas to ensure a minimum percentage of women among the participants was a measure adopted transversally to other strategies and other instruments of action:

Having 50% of women within associations, seeing this woman take over a place where she did not manage anything. She wasn't the one who took the money, the income, the sale [...], it was the husband who defined it. [...] And this woman, when joining the Interest Group, which said there must be 50% of women [...]. This woman also organizes herself. She joins an association or is on a council, in the Social Control Commission (Advisor, UGP)

In addition to quotas in Interest Groups (IG), this was a strategy adopted in associations, in the Social Control Commissions, stimulating the participation of women.

The use of quotas was also extended to ATER providers that worked with PSA. Considering that inequalities affect the entire social fabric and based on the search for equity, the importance of "also having 50% of technical women is mentioned. Because it was important for facilitating these themes, to get closer together. [...] in the Pró-Semiárido we had this" (Female advisor, UGP).

As a strategy for working with the gender theme, a minimum women's participation of 50% was established for the technical team and among Rural Community Agents (ACRs). The actions of female technicians and ACRs with the female community members, besides enabling to "get closer together", contributes for them to envisage more equitable situations: "Because, imagine then, we, as a woman, as a female technician. We feel in the field as an example for other women. That they are able to study, ride a motorcycle, ride a car. That they can make decisions, be in the same spaces as men." (Female technical mediator).

The "example" mentioned above goes beyond the boundaries of communities. PSA, in adopting quotas and encouraging the inclusion of women on the technical staff, produces results in quantitative presence and visibility of these women in the action with ATER, a space where their inclusion is still restricted. Representativeness is also a strategy – a result of PSA.

Considering gender equity in a transversal perspective, other strategies and instruments operated by the project were permeated by it. With respect to ACRs:

The project, in saying it wants to include women or allow for these women to have gender equity, for these women to become empowered in the process, it must have affirmative actions that make it happen. One of them is to make it possible for them to get a driving license, so that they have the same chance to take on this position, which is to be an ACR. [...] And now, she will have a salary and also a means of transport, which is a defining thing in the rural universe, for mobility of these people, for articulation. (Advisor, UGP)

Through PSA, women, men and mixed meetings were held. With regard to women, these meetings "are playful, are lively, where we question dreams with these women, we lead these women to reflect on their place, [...] to reflect on their life." (Gender Advisor, UGP).

These spaces for reflection were also developed with exclusive moments for men, in which: "When we hold a meeting for men, we get together to discuss this masculinity. What is the male? How is it built?" (Advisor, UGP). As a third action, meetings with both sexes were held:

We have a third meeting with them, bring together the women who participated in the women's meeting, bring together the men who participated in the men's meeting and have a meeting together in the community, a meeting with both men and women. [...] In this meeting, it's time to discuss sexual relations at work, the division, how they organize themselves. (Advisor, UGP)

Enabling the participation of women and aiming to work in a generational perspective, children's circles were used:

In gender action, we think of the generational question and on that account we have the children's circle dance. [...] But the children's circle is a tool, it's a true affirmative action. Why saying one works with women and not to think of sons and daughters... You do not really have a look for inclusion of this woman. (Advisor, UGP)

The generational aspect is linked to the possibility of working with children "on the same themes as the father and mother are working too" (Advisor, UGP). For this, cirandeiros (hosts) were hired, with pay, in communities, and underwent training for their performance:

They participated in a training process to discuss the issue of being a child, their rights. We discussed what is living with the semiarid, agroecology, food safety, gender, racism... Several themes and how to work these issues with the children. (Advisor, UGP)

The training and actions of the cirandeiros were based on themes aligned with what was developed in the communities by PSA. To bring these issues to children, the project organized kits with books, educational toys, modeling materials, and drawing. Children's circle dance expands PSA actions for the younger generations and provides one more opportunity of acting with the PSA themes, now with children and cirandeiros.

PSA operated with approximately 520 cirandeiros (female hosts) and 70 cirandeiros (male hosts). The inclusion of male hosts is yet another strategy adopted, as "men also have to learn the task of care. In this way, they are closer to the children, they cease to be so violent. They get to know and better appreciate this woman's work." (Advisor, UGP).

The approach to gender issues in PSA exceeds the women-only work, mobilizing tools that bring men to these actions. PSA can develop an experience that includes different actors in the communities.

Women's empowerment is integrated with PSA actions:

We have female empowerment too. We have some activities, some women's meetings. We discuss this matter of gender equity a lot and we see some women excelling within their communities, within their homes. When we visit a household and we see that a woman, she is more strengthened, we see an extra organization inside her property, inside her house, in her home. It's a different partnership with her partner, with her spouse. All of this is helpful in the development of the family, in the development of the property. Consequently, within the community, the territory and the municipality itself. (Rural Community Agent)

ACR describes women's empowerment in their relationship with the "development" of the family, of their spaces. More than that, from this "more strengthened" woman, the "development" reaches the

community, the territory and the municipality. Women's empowerment is a work that is integrated with the social spaces. Thus:

The Pro-Semiárido, it has been operating not only in the productive way, in technologies, in training. But indeed, the social part, in which these actions were greatly important. The workshops for women, the workshops with men... All this conversation, this dialogue, this empowerment that brought a new reality for the communities. [...] And the project brought this enthusiasm, this pleasure, this willingness to fight and act within the communities. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

The interviewee mentions how PSA, combining productive and social actions, resulted in a "new reality for the communities". In this new reality, the communities are empowered through "enthusiasm", "pleasure", "willingness to fight and act."

The agroecological logbooks, a tool geared to women, were implemented by PSA:

Agroecological logbooks [...] are a milestone within the project, for having worked just with the public of female participants, the women, the women, the female farmers. From the moment we have advisors, technical advice for geared to female farmers, the whole context changes, the context of the reality of those farmers. (Technical Mediator)

The targeting, along with technical advice, adds to a strategy that allows the visibility of the work, of the action instances mostly occupied by women, as well as their contribution to family income, including the size of consumption: "And the women stay with the activities that the income... are smaller or are not considered as income, as is the case of consumption. [...] The agroecological logbook. [...] is a process tool, of empowerment." (Advisor, UGP).

PSA produced podcasts with testimonies of women about logbooks that circulated in WhatsApp groups. This action adds to the empowerment process.

Agroecological logbooks enabled to view specificities in their priority public, the women. In a perspective of overlap with the generational question:

In our research on the agroecological logbook, we see a large productive role played by women over 60 years of age. At times more than what the young. [...] but that 20-year-old has a lot of children to take care of, and that 60-year-old increases the production, she focuses, she realizes, she already has this cultural training. She has knowledge from her ancestors, her ancestry. And she is able to access, for example, the local market, selling at the neighbors' doorsteps. She manages to go to the open fair [...]. Because these older women, they enjoy greater freedom than the younger ones. (Advisor, UGP)

The importance of this observation provided by the logbooks lies, as also mentioned by the gender advisor, in the reflection and design of public policies for women, focusing on generational specificities and the absence of actions aimed at those. This approach enables the visualization and appreciation of older women. It is noteworthy that the visibility and insertion of women, as the target of actions aimed at rural areas and productive activities, are still restricted. Thus, the PSA experience is a result in itself, for having

designed and implemented a series of actions based on gender equality and for allowing thoughts and reflections, such as the one of the overlap with the generational aspect, which can fuel future initiatives.

The meetings also addressed the ethnic-racial theme: “We hold specific meetings to discuss the ethnic-racial issue. [...]. We are women, but the fact that I am woman, one is white, the other is black, the other is red, who is the indigenous one, another being of a Asian origin yellow, makes the difference.” (Advisor, UGP).

PSA presents as a result a trajectory of operations based on strategies, instruments and actions guided by gender equity, and it has been able to work on such intersections as generation, race and ethnicity.

In actions for gender equity, PSA has established partnerships with institutions and organizations such as territorial councils, CRAS and CREAS, women’s police stations, departments of health, networks and centers for women.

### 3. PUBLIC POLICIES AND CONTINUOUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The programs and public policies mentioned in the interviews, which were accessed before the project by the participating community members, are: Bolsa Família, Pronaf, PNAE, PAA, Garantia Safra and Agroamigo. After the beginning of the works with PSA, access to Pronaf, PAA, PNAE and Agroamigo were mentioned. In addition to these programs, the State Forestry Registry of Rural Properties (CEFIR) was mentioned in the interviews.

The following items related to access to public policies in the period of the project were mentioned: information about these tools, impact on production growth/diversification, contribution in obtaining documentation, and empowerment of communities.

The circulation of information provided by the provision of technical assistance allowed access to public policies not known by the participants of PSA. Describing the public in the rural territory in which it operates, the ACR explains:

*Inside the territory, we always had a huge percentage of people who have accessed the Pronaf. [...] The people who do not have the DAP, it is sometimes because they have no property in their name. And so, several people began to access other public policies. [...] Agroamigo, for example, which some people were not aware of, they started to access it. We have the Garantia Safra, the CEFIR. (Rural Community Agent)*

In a scenario in which many people use Pronaf and cases where non-proof of ownership prevents DAP issuance, the obtaining of information has provided access to Agroamigo.

The technical mediator describes the increased access to public policies and partnership with the Bank of the Northeast, manager of the Agroamigo policy:

*It was small at first, few families. We did not have this active participation in these other accesses. And from now on, I believe that because of the partnerships, involvement and knowledge, which also comes when we establish a partnership, the Banco do Nordeste comes here and makes a campaign. [...] through these partnerships, knowledge expands. Farmers are more willing to access the credit. And even because of the investments, the external consultancy... One receives a [vegetable] bed, wants to increase one’s production, wants to expand, and then resorts to credit. So, it is an access that has increased. (Technical Mediator)*

The speech above covers the access to public policies information and the impacts on productive activity, which configure the motivation for seeking support for expansion. In the sequence of her account, she mentions access, from PSA, PAA and PNAE.

A reorientation of the actions of the Interest Group (IG) of cassava culture in a rural area has diversified its end products, resulting in its marketing through PAA: “We produce and sell, we have the bakery, since last year, with a public policy of the municipality, which is the PAA. We made the registration, we are already managing to supply these products.” (Fundo de Pasto Community member).

The contribution in structure for a community kitchen and in assistance, the reorganization of the planned and in training, resulted in an action geared to the women, in diversification of the end products of the activity, and in access to PAA.

PSA has been working with the environmental regularization of traditional communities. For this, it is necessary to issue the CEFIR:

*We are working with environmental regularization of these communities [...]. Because every credit that these communities must access by means of public policy, there must be the CEFIR. Environmental regularization is necessary for these communities to be able to maintain the integrity of their own territory and thereby preventing occupations. Especially at this moment, when the wind power process is advancing a lot, and mining. (Manager, UGP)*

The issuance of the document, therefore, is necessary for access to other public policies and for the maintenance of the territory of traditional communities. The support offered by PSA and the obtaining of CEFIR are results of the project. Reflecting on the access to public policies, the community member commented on the obtaining of CEFIR:

*Sometimes, those who participated did not have the necessary documents [...]. And then, with the project, the incentive, documentation was facilitated, CEFIR and everything else. It’s now a lot easier. Many people have joined, too ... These other public policies, also through the Semiárido, which provided incentive. [...] the search for other things has increased too, public policies for the family farmer. (Quilombola Community member).*

Through the work with PSA, the communities were encouraged and had access to the necessary documentation for public policies. If, on the one hand, PSA has contributed to the obtaining of documents, on the other hand it contributed information to the community members, allowing the reformulation of their interaction with these instruments:

It is in relation to public policies, about which we previously depended on third parties, that is, the middlemen. They arrived, induced and we fell for it. Regarding PNAE, we participated if they wanted, it would be indicated by someone. Not today. With the coming of the project, with the guidance we had, today we have this autonomy to get there and claim and require participation. It is our right, you see? So this force it was, bringing this clarity in relation to public policy. For we knew what a public policy was, but we did not really know what our rights were and how we should do it. So, with the arrival of the project, it became clear, and today we have a notion of what our rights really are. And we know how to search directly, where to go. (Quilombola Community member)

Thus, “clarity regarding public policies” is a result of PSA. This result is linked to a perspective of including these instruments as a right and to being informed about how to proceed to guarantee it. PSA contributed to the empowerment of these communities.

For providing Continuous Technical Assistance (ATC), the Pró-Semiárido relies on the work of 10 civil society entities and 115 Rural Community Agents (ACRs). Furthermore, in the context of advisory services, PSA had the support of accountants for the projects. As will be shown, the participation of community members was present in all these instances. ATCs acted from the initial contacts with the communities. Thus:

In order to reach their participation in the process, there were several meetings, several visits to the communities. And then, it culminated in the preparation of plans, both for investment and development, with collective participation [...]. In fact, the project, it didn't come with the demand, saying: “look, we in the project have so many thousand to use like this or that”. Quite the opposite. There was this participatory building, we spoke of the project itself, its design. (Technical Mediator)

In the interviews, reports were made of initial suspicion of communities in relation to the project because of previous experiences. In this sense, the initial approach, the meetings, the learning circles, as well as the participation of community members in the directions and definitions of projects were highlighted as elements that dissipated fears, contributing to the engagement of communities. Therefore, PSA helped these communities rework their perceptions of external experiences, which makes them more confident and empowered, resulting in the interest in seeking other initiatives.

The initial work of getting closer to the communities was an incentive for participation: “Even before the project, they already visited us. They paid home visits and showed how the project would be. So that's what most encouraged us to sit, talk and really see what the community needed at the moment.” (Quilombola Community member).

“See what the community needed,” an aspect that is in contrast to experiences in which the projects were “ready-made”:

Because whenever there was a small project, it was ready-made. [...] But this one was different. It came for us to build, for us to choose. So, this was not easy. Talk people into participating, we had to collaborate, give our contribution, do our part. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

Defining aspects of PSA with the communities was a differential of the initiative:

We are used to participating in other [projects], but everything came from the top ready and finished. But not this one. We designed it here, along with the technician, along with the coordination. [...] And the good thing, because, generally, in previous projects it was like this, [...] we didn't have to cite names. [...] In other words, there was not such list as: only so-and-so will participate. The technician went from door to door: “Do you want to participate? Don't you want?” (Quilombola Community member)

This approach, the initial activities and the participation of the communities in defining the actions made it possible to accept:

Then we accepted. But there were several rounds of conversation. But we are always suspicious, afraid the project might not come. But things were happening [...]. When the project did start to arrive in the community, we realized it was going to be successful. And it really did! We were very glad about that, because nothing had ever come to our community. (Quilombola Community member)

The learning rounds used in ATC were carried out in the initial moments and in the project's activities throughout its implementation in the communities. Reflecting on the technical assistance, the interviewee explains:

He [technical advisor] attend to us practically three days a week in the communities and is always present in the learning circles, rounds of conversation, field days indeed. He is guiding us to make feed for our animals, our chickens. Besides that exchange of knowledge from farmer to farmer. Those rounds of conversation are not only... The technician both teaches and learns about our experiences. He also allows us to expose our ideas and that's very good, that's very gratifying. (Quilombola Community member)

The interviewee describes an activity of technical assistance in dialogue with the community. The involvement of community members and their participation in the conduct of activities, described in early moments in the project, are continued.

The learning circles are considered by the technicians as “a milestone in the methodology within the Pró-Semiárido Project . [...] We also carry out a learning circle among the technicians. A day of study for us to know what we are going to bring to the farmers, for us to discuss in the collective activity.” (Technical Mediator).

The ATC entities, according to field information, had a working background of coexistence with the semiarid and agroecology. The circulation of methodologies and instruments between ATC and PSA included references, besides the learning circles, the Transition Agroecology Indicators (ITA), the economic-ecological analysis of agroecosystems method (LUME), and the children's circles (cirandas). It was mentioned that, from the PSA experience, the practice of training cirandeiros started to be considered and incorporated by some ATCs that already used these circles.

Training and qualification actions for ATC teams were carried out by PSA, such as the creation of the Center for Studies in Agroecology and Coexistence with the Semiarid (NEACS):

This is all very new for the technical staff, even the technical staff of the project's UGP, as well as for the technical advisory entities [...]. So, we advanced quite a lot in the technicians' training process. [...] it was a very strong innovation, we [...] setting up a Center for Studies in Agroecology and Coexistence with the Semiarid here, within the project. (Manager, UGP)

In NEACS:

[...] we study at the office, with the technicians, hold days of study with themes. At first, we picked out themes that we deemed necessary to be worked with the farmers, such as: health management, breeding management, agro-ecology and coexistence with the semiarid. So, this learning circle was an involvement, an exchange. It is a methodology that proposes an exchange of knowledge between technicians, technical advisors, and farmers. (Technical Mediator)

Different themes and methodologies worked on in NEACS contribute to the preparation of technical assistance: "All of the themes go through it and there is a preparation for the theme. So, this is an action of NEACS, the study center, it prepares the technician. And the technician prepares. And then, he goes there alone to develop that activity in the rural territory." (Manager, UGP).

The trainings also involved PSA's management teams, who underwent training in the areas of regional development and technical advice, using the Paulo Freire method.

ACRs also pass by moments of training/capacity building.

We cannot imagine the project without the presence of these young people. They are trained on a daily basis, but there are also times when all the young people in a given office meet, so that we can do the training. And we've already had three meetings on the general level, which encompasses all 115 young people who have been hired. (Manager, UGP)

Given that ACRs are young people from the communities that were indicated for this role by these groups, their incorporation into the PSA team, in addition to their role in the project of mobilizer/articulator and its capillarity, results in an investment in local social capital. It is noteworthy that, as well as the training process and the experience provided to these young people, the adoption of ACRs follows the transversality of gender equity actions, promoting the participation of community members. PSA provides, for acting as an ACR, structural conditions, through remuneration of ACRs or even access to some conditions, for example, license to drive a vehicle. The promotion of this social capital is a result of PSA, not only on an individual level, but of social collectives:

What I see is a growth of this figure [ACR] for the execution of the project, as well as for the communities, the associations, for the rural union. And you have there the formation of a human capital [...], many entered the town halls in this work related to education, culture, and the Department of Agriculture. Many entered through private activities or the participation of community radios. (Manager, UGP)

Acting as an ACR involves experiences not only with the communities and with ATCs, but also with other social and institutional actors with which these young people interact in their work. This is an important element in building social capital. The strategy of using the ACRs is, in itself, one of the results of the project.

The performance of ACRs was mentioned in conjunction with the work developed by ATC as one of the positive aspects of the project:

It was the support of the technicians. Whenever we needed it, he was here with us. And also the ACR, which was of great importance from the beginning of the project. A person who was chosen by the people themselves. There was an indication and she was chosen. She showed what she came for, did a great job and always worked together with the farmers. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

Another action with support and advice of PSA was the management of agreements and the rendering of accounts. For this action, the project hired accounting consultants. This was yet another activity monitored by ACRs, resulting in another opportunity for training, gathering of experiences and dialogue. In this process, the boards of the associations were also involved.

The impact of the work developed with the associations, in the management of agreements and in the rendering of accounts, is considered one of the results of PSA:

With this agreement, in this project, we managed to develop a lot in the area of resource management and everything else. [...] we didn't have yet the skills to manage the resource. But over time, the people were picking up the practice [...], it was beginning to be clarified, also with the help of the staff that were helping us. (Quilombola Community member)

Advice in the management and administrative area, with its character of involvement of communities, is yet another action that adds to women's empowerment, who expand their scope of action, their experiences and training:

And suddenly these women are empowered. They say this: "Now I know how to talk, I go to the secretariat, I talk to the bank". Because the bank is the big challenge. Because she's poor, she's a farmer, she's worthless, the big businessman in the region is the one who is valuable. But today, the women can do it. (Advisor, UGP)

Project participants are led to dialogues in instances and with other actors, such as municipal secretariats and banks. They thus gather experiences that contribute to the empowerment of individuals and social collectives.

The involvement of community members directly in the management of the projects and the resources used was considered a motivation, "the greatest ever": "It was very clear, in relation to the application of the resource, how the participation of the population in this rendering of accounts would be. We were active, we were together. [...] And we really knew where the resource was being applied." (Quilombola Community member).

The Bidding Group and the Social Control Commission, active in project decision-making, were other instruments with the participation of community members. The members of the Group participate in

the meetings and then share the decisions made with the other community members. The role of the Social Control Commission also involves monitoring of the actions and the planning of ATCs by the community members:

*So anything that we have to decide, [...] we hold a meeting with the Social Control. Even [...] our work plan for technicians. We deliver it to this Social Control, for them to have a notion of the technician's activities in that territory. (Technical Mediator)*

#### 4. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS

PSA concluded agreements with associations and implemented 154 of Productive Investment Plans (PIPs). Productive activities/chains are organized with the communities by Interest Groups (IGs). The agreements are linked to different activities: sociocultural; agricultural and non-agricultural productive; energy and water management. Each PIP includes more than one activity.

According to UGP information, the productive activities most present in the PIPs and with the largest number of community members involved are: goats and sheep farming (105 PIPs and 4,242 people); agroecological backyards (76 PIPs and 2,541 people), poultry farming (56 PIPs and 2,221 people), agro-biodiversity (34 PIPs and 1,257 people) and beekeeping/meliponiculture (30 PIPs and 1,190 people). Besides these, PSA actions include: agroextractivism, handicrafts, processing, biomass, cattle farming, agro-ecological sugarcane, cut and sewing, fruit growing, fish farming, polyculture, food processing, hay production, sisal and agroforestry systems.

PSA investments in productive activities are remembered by interviewees as integrating the improvements, or even the access to equipment, infrastructure, facilities, with the accumulation of knowledge obtained through the project's activities. Reconcile investment and advice was considered a differential of PSA: "Other projects just came and gave a benefit. Not Pró-Semiárido. Pro-Semiárido came with the proposal to give, but also to teach, to work side by side with the producer, side by side with the family farmer." (Rural Community Agent).

The interviews highlight that the arrival of material investments took place when the communities had already received some information through ATCs' actions:

*I saw how many flour mills stopped, rusting, because it arrived [...] and was halted. The people didn't even know what to do with that. And we don't either. First we went to the school, we learned how to do, where to walk, and then see the project proper, so to speak, the material part of the project. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)*

The access to information about the productive activities allowed for "changes":

*Early in the project, before of all the implementations, before the trainings, we saw a somewhat unprepared people. They had no knowledge of some practices, [...] sometimes they did it the wrong way, wrongly. And since Pró-Semiárido, we have been noticing several changes within the areas, of this productive side. (Rural Community Agent)*

Productive activities are mentioned in the interviews with multiple references, that is, more than one of them is mentioned. This shows the diversity of family production systems and the approach operated by PSA through ATC. Still, the interviewees contemplate, in their reflections, the agroecological approach, the agroecological transition and the non-productive dimensions of PSA, such as the work with women and young people.

The process of defining the activities and which of them the community members were engaged with were accompanied by a description of local possibilities:

*Within the territory, we always had several strong cultures. Like the cassava culture, poultry farming, goats farming, handicraft [...]. When the project was presented, it didn't get here with a ready-made proposal [...]. It was built along with the beneficiaries. We reported how the experience within communities was and the project was adapted according to people's interest. (Rural Community Agent)*

Considering this multiplicity, observations are made below about some specific productive activities.

In goats and sheep farming, according to the interviews, PSA actions involved investments in structures, equipment, animal handling and in production of forage and feed stocks. This set of actions resulted in improvements in health and reduction of animal mortality.

The support offered by PSA for breeding is compared with the situation prior to the communities' work with the project: "The project came to add to our community, to develop our culture, which was not very good. Well, we raised the animals as in the saying "as God created avocado". It was out there, free-range." (Quilombola Community member).

The loss of animals due to the lack of a place of protection, or to the scarcity of food, also appears in interviews as a situation encountered by PSA and to which the project contributed to improvements in both structures and equipment and in the production and handling of the feed stock:

*Remember that there were goats that died in the cold, in the sun. And now they have the fold, where they can be at ease. [...] And the question of feed. So, it changes. Animals that died in the summer for lack of food, today they have the feed saved to provide throughout the summer. And this will show up in the results, which we might fail to calculate. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)*

PSA contributed to the improvement in the feeding of animals, goats, sheep and chickens:

*Without us having handling knowledge, without having feed knowledge... With the support, we learned from our technician about the feed for goats, sheep, and the chickens, and how to plant, how to harvest and how to adapt each piece of knowledge they brought to us. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)*

The manufacture of feed, planting and harvesting are possibilities, adaptations and knowledge worked with ATC. The impact on animals' health was observed by the community.

The goat-raising people are seeing with the folds how much the animals' health has improved. We may even not take it into account, but it is valuable, it is worth remembering. [...] We also had some training with the veterinarian, who helped a lot in the matter of treating the animals, how to make medicine. We had workshops for feed production. (Quilombola Community member)

This set of actions results in local changes in animal husbandry:

In the group of goats, what is it that we noticed before: they did not manage to perform the sanitary handling properly. Their livestock were more prone to fall ill, more frequently, they died with more often as well. Not today. Today we have a different result. On the question of feed, we already visit the producers and we already note a greater amount of feed stock in households, on their properties. Something we didn't see. And they used to bag, to stock it the wrong way too. Not today. With Pró-Semiárido's guidance, with ATER, they do it more efficiently [...], they get to use around 95% of what is stored. There's no loss. (Rural Community Agent)

Concerning knowledge, acquired experiences, the access to forage machines is linked to the possibility of giving continuity to what has been learned:

The knowledge, in fact, was something very great for us, the acquired experiences [...]. And it left, or is leaving, a very good legacy. These forage machines, which are with us now, they are processing the food of our animals. We could not afford to buy these fodder machines. It got here and it is staying in the community for us to continue doing what we learned, got it? (Quilombola Community member)

Material investments are added to the accumulation of information, techniques, knowledge, making it possible for these investments to be used or potentiated.

In the manufacture of forage, palm and lesser known species in some communities, such as gliricidia and leucena, were mentioned. These possibilities were taken to the learning circles, and may also be implemented in the "agroecological assay", "which is one unit of ½ ha, with forage and food species. To [...] instigate farmers to realize what can serve as animal feed, what the caatinga offers, or what is very well adapted to the region, which they can replicate in their property." (Technical Mediator).

The citation above comprises the incentive to the use of caatinga species for human consumption and for cultivation:

Several practices come from this, several other ideas, several tests and experiments that farmers previously questioned and now carry out, such as sanitary management, cleaning of facilities. Before, they did not know how to use the caatinga, the caatinga biodiversity, for their own use. Because the plants from the caatinga are for their own use as a medicine, as well as for cleaning the facilities. Also as medicine for livestock. For the plants, as a natural insecticide. (Technical Mediator)

The caatinga biodiversity was mentioned for the manufacturing of feed in relation to the description of the diversity of these species in traditional communities' areas: "There is the handling of animals, the breeding handling. Feed production too, from the caatinga. Because here, our Fundo de Pasto caatinga is rich in several plants that can be used to feed the animal." (Rural Community Agent).

In poultry farming, investments in infrastructure, management and availability of food for the animals figured in the interviews. The aviaries implemented with PSA investments have been mentioned in relation to the choice of the activities developed: "A meeting was held, where the farmers kept saying that it would be good to build an aviary, which was the most coveted thing at the time" (Quilombola Community member).

The project's impact on animal feed can be verified in situations in which autonomy in feed production was mentioned:

In the past, everything had to be bought. [...] today I don't even buy corn. Because I plant corn. Besides our technician having taught about the feed. I don't buy feed anymore. I myself produce my feed, with all I have in my backyard, there is no need to buy anything. So I think the benefit just made me richer. (Quilombola Community member)

Chicken rearing appears associated with agroecological backyards. Participation in PSA resulted in diversification of backyards production, marketing and change in the handling of chickens:

And I have my vegetable bed, I see how much my backyard has changed. Because I didn't use to grow what I am growing now. It's little, but from that little I sell my lettuces every week, I sell my coriander. I raise my chicken in a different way. So this is something where I can see results. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

The sale of vegetables adds to other products sold and appears as a result of PSA, following the "knowledge acquired":

I have my yard, I have my vegetables. I sell not only from beekeeping, but also from my vegetables, the yield has been good, about which I was given a kit and was very glad. [...] I was glad and still am. And, with each passing day, I become more and more glad. Because of the knowledge we gain with the passing of time. (Quilombola Community member)

Diversification of production and an agroecological approach are added to investments in structures. The use of ecological gardens with shading enabled the production in "times of drought":

For example, the people dealing with vegetables, these things, there was no ecological garden, something that could preserve the watering, so that we could produce in the dry season. And today we [...] can produce [...] during the drought. So, this is something that has improved a lot. [...] For those who grew these ecological gardens, the produce was of good quality. They have their own cistern. Their own covered backyard, protected from the heat of the sun. (Quilombola Community member)

In addition to raising chickens, agroecological backyards are related to the greywater reuse system and the agroecological books, mentioned in interviews as an instrument that gave visibility and allowed for valuing the yards production:

Because, until then, we had all this and didn't really know how much we had, how much I can buy from my own backyard. [...] keeping one's notes, now one knows, 'hey, how much I can produce and what the yield is, my income.' [...] Farmers... Knowing how to write down what came out, what is coming in, got it? (Quilombola Community member)

The agroecological logbook makes it possible to visualize results: "But now, based on the logbooks that we have been keeping, the agroecological logbook, and we can see the results appearing. So, it was something that brought results, indeed!" (Quilombola Community member).

The visibility and valuation of the yields contribute to the empowerment of women. The agroecological logbook:

[...] is to monitor the families' performance, especially the activities of women. Empowering the woman. Showing that she is part of her family. Because it's about quite an income. That everything doesn't revolve only around her husband, that what she does also contributes for everything being done. (Rural Community Agent)

In the interviews conducted in rural areas, raising bees was an activity whose interest was being expanded in communities beyond the community members directly involved. PSA's advisory and training actions for the activity were accompanied by investments in equipment and boxes.

The inclusion of beekeeping as one of the project activities met resistance, doubts and fears:

But in the swamps [...] a myth was created that beekeeping was not going forward, that it was no good. [...] How come it's not going forward? A place that has such fauna, such flora [...]. I was talking [...] with the elders, people from the community, and they told me stories that they were going to pick up bees in the bush [...]. So, people said it didn't work from box. That people were a little afraid of bees, because bees had killed people here in the swamps. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

The fear was discussed and overcome in a quilombola community:

I already knew that the beekeepers association already existed here. But I had never been interested, because I was terrified of bees. But from the time I participated, I went to the field to gather swarms along with our colleagues from the association and the project, also from the people who came to provide training on how to deal with this situation. The first day was intense, with fear. But then I fell in love with bees. And today I'm passing it on to my sister, who is not in the project, and also to my nephews, who aren't in the project either. (Quilombola Community member)

The statements highlight the importance of the training actions for beekeeping to become an activity that generates less fear and an expanded participation of the community members. Likewise in the quote above, in the Fundo do Pasto Community the interest in raising bees has increased.

Reporting cases in which beekeeping provided community members with a financial return, the respondent mentions changes in handling and in the community's relationship with the activity:

And beekeeping worked out so well that this year broke the record for honey. [...] Today, the passion, in addition to buriti [...], is beekeeping. It's people's livelihood right now. And the others were more interested, going after it, not so much in that burning the bees stuff. The bees land on the mango trees and form their swarms and they go there take them off. They're not even carrying fire anymore, they're taking the fumigator. Those who do not have one borrow it from those who do. And they wear clothes so as not to set fire on themselves, on the bee. [...] and they go take it off, with the overalls and the fumigator. Without killing the bees. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

An activity that found initial resistance happened to be the "passion", "people's livelihood", breaking the "record for honey." The increased production, the expansion of the community working in beekeeping, and the change in the handling of bees are complemented by the sharing of equipment, overalls and fumigator. Once again here, material investments accompany training actions, producing results in productive activities. It should also be considered that both equipment and the circulation of information about beekeeping were not limited to community members who worked directly with PSA, as they are being shared in the communities and involving more people.

The buriti is also one of the "passions", according to the passage above, for those communities that have worked with the palm tree:

The knowledge we had of buriti was to make lapa do buriti. And it's toilsome. Women suffer a lot. They spend all day long[...] making buriti, they work together [...]. And then, at first, we just thought about knives, some tables for them to sit at, some big pots for them to make the oil. But then, the project ... [...] they had such a great visibility about us that we said, "No, we can do something bigger." And it was a space to produce. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

With such a "great visibility" of PSA advisors, a buriti processing unit was installed. In this process, the interviewee tells how the inexistence of these structures in the vicinity prompted ATC to look for experiences outside the state, thus finding a pulper. Finally, the unit was built and installed, counting on the direct involvement of the community. With the buriti processing unit in place, improvements in working conditions of an activity conducted by women were attained.

Directing actions for the inclusion of women in a rural territory where cassava culture was worked on, from the initial planning of actions aimed at cultivation, a reorientation included a community kitchen:

Here, we already had the flour house [...]. But the reality was just making flour. And then the project brought another reality. [...] At the beginning, the cassava culture GI was rather thought of for higher cassava production. Then the plan was changed, the goal was changed. The kitchen was thought to be encompassing yet another work with women. And the women accepted that idea and embraced it. And with the training, all these products related to cassava [...] were promoted. (Fundo do Pasto Community female member)

With the shift to actions geared to women and the diversification of production, the female community members began to market its products in PAA. Besides the institutional market, marketing is done at free fairs, in the municipality, and locally, in the communities themselves.

The production of the community kitchen involves more people in the communities than those directly participating in PSA. In this case, the community kitchen comes in as a dynamizer for community marketing:

Through this community kitchen [...], we have been adding and encouraging family income. [...] there are families that we, with this marketing within the community, we help and end up participating in the project as well. The project encouraged the marketing. Because it has been teaching us to get more marketing and prioritize marketing within communities. [...] For most of the ingredients we prioritize buying here, from the community families. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

Encouraging sales in communities, the community kitchen impacts the generation and income of families not directly involved with PSA.

Community marketing channels and free fairs in the municipalities were mentioned in the interviews. PSA's contribution to the holding of agroecological fairs and training of community members for participating in them was mentioned too.

By diversifying, expanding and strengthening production, PSA also contributed to the families' food security:

They do not produce only for sale [...]. They began to produce for their own benefit, for their own consumption, failing to buy at the fairs. At the fairs, we do not have a 100% guarantee that it is an organic product. And by producing in the backyard, we know how it was produced. (Rural Community Agent)

In the scope of the evaluation carried out, the impact on family income can be observed through the increase, diversification and commercialization of products, in the investments made by the community members in productive activities and in the strengthening of the autonomy of family systems. The agroecological logbooks allowed to visualize the results of PSA in family income. It is also worth mentioning the dynamization of community marketing and the use of material investments by community members not directly participating in the project.

The increase in family income was one of the motivations for the participation in the project:

So, the expectation was of development for our community, of generating income for our families. Because there are people who do not have a minimum income, [...] for a parent, which works for a day, one job, to get R\$40.00 and receive such a project in their own community... It is gratifying for us (Quilombola Community member)

PSA appears as a possibility of strengthening the productive activities of family in the composition of income, in contexts where that income involves multiple sources, with the sale of labor.

The "expectation" has been achieved: "One of our main expectations... [...] To think that it would increase the income of our families, our farmers. [...] And it's matching." (Fundo de Pasto Community member).

Further on in his speech, the community member considers that the increase in family income has been happening, even with the limitations of marketing and circulation experienced in the pandemic. In the rural territory in question, the impact of beekeeping was mentioned:

There was a farmer [...], he was the only one interested in box. She already had some little boxes halfway to the plantation. He did it, in the first harvest, took almost R\$4,000.00 of honey, look at that. [...] The others were R\$ 1,000.00, a thousand something. [...] So, he was already an interested person, but he did not have the technical part, did not know it, and only did it the rough way. But now he is producing, thank God, not only him as the others. [...] I also took honey, I already had some income from my bees. (Fundo do Pasto Community member)

O PSA aparece como uma possibilidade de fortalecer as atividades produtivas da família na composição dThe impact on family income with beekeeping was accompanied, according to the quote above, by the change in the form of handling.

Referring to its territory of operation, the Rural Community Agent comments on the results of agroecological backyards on family income: "On this productive side, we have some reports of producers who increased their income by 50%, others already say they managed to increase it by more 100%" (Rural Community Agent). Next, she explains that one family expanded the screened area of her agroecological backyards by three times: "[The community member] tells me with all the joy in the world that he earns up to two salaries a month. This coming from family farming, organic crops, he does not use any pesticides. And this is a growth that started from the Pró-Semiárido project." (Rural Community Agent).

The structure and assistance of PSA contributed to the expansion of the activity. The capacity and interest in investing in it are related to the results, in terms of income and training, achieved by the project. The community agent adds: "We see a certain multiplication within the areas. What we left is no longer there. What we left, they expanded: expanded aviaries, there are expanded screens." (Rural Community Agent).

In the end, the set of PSA actions shows its seam: "We learned to value what we have, to value ourselves, what we do. This is something that I think will remain for us and for the community and can be passed on. This knowledge, this way of understanding and valuing things." (Fundo de Pasto Community member). Thus, the baggage of working with PSA leaves its footprints in the path of the communities: "I am glad to be participating in this project. [...] improving the income, improving the quality of the condition. All of this is an incentive for us to encourage ourselves every day and fight even more to further improve it." (Quilombola Community member).

**Box 5: Main Results – Pró-Semiárido Project**

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PRÓ-SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT**



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**

investment plans for **14,410** families, including family farmers and traditional populations.



**YOUTH:**

Mobilization and inclusion of young people.



**TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES:**

**49%** of families in investment plans. Self-recognition, recognition and certification of traditional communities. Strengthening of communities, defense of territories and of ways of life.



**GENDER EQUITY:**

Visibility of participation of women in communities and associations.

- Representation at ATER, quotas for technical women.
- Approach of equity gender in a generational perspective, circle of children.
- Female empowerment.
- Generational empowerment of women, agroecological logbooks.
- Acting at the intersection of gender, race and ethnicity, generational.
- Strategy-result that can come to supply other initiatives guided by gender equity.



**PUBLIC POLICIES:**

Information on public policies, public policies as a right. Issuance of documents required for access to public policies. Increased search for public policies. Empowerment of communities.

**MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – PRÓ-SEMIÁRIDO PROJECT**

**CONTINUOUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

Participatory ATC. Strategy-Result. Empowerment of communities.



- Training of ATCs and their teams, circulation of methodologies boosted by the project.
- Community Rural Agents, promotion of local social capital in individual and collective levels.
- Expansion of the communities' dialogue with external actors and instances.



- **Productive Activities/Chains:** Improvements in productive activities and in information/knowledge of community members
- **Goat farming:** improvements in health and reduction of animal mortality. Improvements in the production of fodder.
- Improved feed for animals, goats, sheep and chickens. Use of species from the caatinga.



- **Poultry:** improvements in animal feed with promotion of autonomy in the production of feed, improvements in handling.



- **Agroecological backyards:** diversification of backyards production, commercialization and change in the handling of chickens. Visibility and appreciation of backyards production (agroecological logbooks).



- **Beekeeping:** increased production. Expansion of community members working in the activity. Change in bee handling. Expanded interest in communities beyond those directly involved. Beekeeping equipment and information shared in communities.
- Improved working conditions, cassava culture and buriti processing.
- Promotion of community marketing.
- Impact on family income, growth, diversification and marketing of products, investments made by community members in productive activities and strengthening of the autonomy of family systems.
- Increased family income, beekeeping, backyard production and cassava culture.





# PDHC II

DOM HELDER CÂMARA 2 PROJECT



Dom Helder Câmara is a project established in partnership between IFAD and the Federal Government, operating in 11 Brazilian states. The project's objective is to contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequalities in the semiarid region of the Northeast. Dom Helder was proposed to improve the articulation of rural policies of sustainable development, the access of rural population to public policies and the formulation of these policies. It is guided, in the first case, by a territorial focus and, in the third, by the replication of innovations.

Through the National Agency for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Anater), PDHC 2 articulated, for the implementation of ATER actions, 27 institutions, organizations or companies, reaching a public of 54 510 families. The ATER providers are: Innovation Institute for Sustainable Rural Development of Alagoas (Emater-AL), Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company of Ceará (Ematerce), Capixaba Institute of Research, Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Incaper), State Agency of Agricultural Research and Rural Extension of Maranhão (Agerp), Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company of the State of Minas Gerais (Emater-MG), Agronomic Institute of Pernambuco (IPA), Institute of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension of Piauí (Emater -PI), Institute of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Emater-RN), Emdagro, Association for the Development of Communities (Adecom), Agreste, Association for Guidance to Cooperatives in the Northeast (Assocene), Barra, NGO Caatinga, Cactus, Cetra , Agricultural Work Cooperative (Cooates) Coopersam RPM, Coopersam RPM, Desenvolver, Diamantina, Flor do Piqui, GR, Planejar, Centro Sabiá, Sertão Verde and Tupinambá.

For this evaluation, information was obtained through field research conducted in March of 2020.



## 1. AUDIENCE REACHED AND PUBLIC POLICIES

### ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY UGP, THE PUBLIC WITH WHICH DHCP 2



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
54,510 families



**QUILOMBOLA COMMUNITIES:**  
2,918 are quilombolas



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**  
346



**MULHERES:**  
46.631 mulheres responsáveis pelas unidades de produção



**YOUTHS:**  
11,033 young people (7,501 women and 3,532 men).  
The categorization of production unit head can be shared with other family members.



**PUBLIC POLICIES:**  
According to the interviews, of the total, about **22 thousand families** have participated in the first stage of the project. The others fit in the profile of situation of vulnerability that guided the delimitation of the public. It is also considered that this group included those who are in "extreme poverty", as informed by the managers.

To reach families in situations of greater vulnerability, DHCP 2 used information from the Unified Registry for Social Programs (CadÚnico), of the Ministry of Citizenship. Based on the data obtained, it was up to the ATER institutions to access these families, based on a target of reaching this audience by municipality. Working with this group was described in the interviews as a challenge:

There is a very important particularity, which is the profile of part of our public, which, as I mentioned before, we serve an extremely poor public that also brings difficulties for the service. Because part of the families are beneficiaries of CadÚnico and are in extreme poverty, this is already a very challenging situation. (Manager, UGP)

According to information provided by UGP, 45,225 DHCP 2 families have one or more of their members registered in the CadÚnico. In this register, 6,311 people identify themselves as quilombolas and 853 as indigenous.

In local actions, with the ATER provider approached in this evaluation, the identification and adherence to the project's public in greater vulnerability situation were remembered as difficulties faced by over the implementation of the project. The technical mediator describes this scenario:

There is always a fear [of the most vulnerable families] that the work will not be carried out, that we are deceiving them. The misconception that we are going only once and will never return. So, it is a more difficult start. In the sense of building that trust and identifying families that are farther apart, in the ends. In this sense, we also turned to our leaders or councils to ask for help. (Technical Mediator)

The fear mentioned by the technical mediator, a "distrust", resulted, according to her, in the lack of interest and non-integration in the project by some families. The need for preparation of the technical team for this initial dialogue was reported. One of the visited families mentioned: "I was expecting that it wouldn't come out, that it wouldn't work out." (Female community member).

Identification, access and adherence of the most vulnerable public thus constituted an initial stage of the project, which requires building relationships and mobilizing local partnerships. The mediator complements the list of mobilized partnerships: "We have the help of the unions, also count on some departments of agriculture [...] help of the health people, such as the health posts and their community agents to know many people in the community." (Technical Mediator).

In this way, the access to the public in extreme poverty demanded, in DHCP 2, in the outline covered in the evaluation, the mobilization of partners from other sectors, such as the Ministry of Citizenship and the Community Health Agents, besides the circulation sectors due to the dimensions of agriculture and rural environment cited above.

## 2. PUBLIC POLICIES AND ATER

The importance of intersectoral and local articulations is associated with the profile of the families that were accessed with the purpose of serving those of greatest vulnerability. Thus:

We have worked from this project with families who are much more needy of information due to their socio-economic profile, who are in a field of invisibility, generally excluded from the scope of public policies. And when we could get closer to these families, unlike other communities we had previously seen, we saw that the current realities are shocking. [...] those are families that live off Bolsa Família [...]. And families who work as day laborers, pulling up stumps, for example. And, even with this low income, the families end up developing at least a minimum activity, such as goat farming, poultry farming, sheep. (Technical Mediator)

From the scenario described above, we highlight the invisibility, the restricted access, if any, to public policies and a multiple composition of income, which is limited, and the activities carried out. These are families that develop small scale agricultural and breeding activities, taking advantage of social policies, the Bolsa Família, when they have access to it, and the sale of their labor-power.

Regarding the mentioned invisibility, in addition to the considerations that emerged in the interviews, that part of the identified families in extreme poverty did not even have access to Bolsa Família, rural and agricultural actions did not reach these social groups. In this sense, one aspect was pointed out: the limitation of the fractions of land that these farmers have. This characteristic was remembered as an impediment to accessing rural and agricultural public policies. One can also add the non-majority composition of family income from an agricultural source, which makes access to a portfolio of initiatives difficult. These are, therefore, farmers who are invisible, outside public policies.

In this sense, identification, access and integration of the public in situation of greater social vulnerability in DHCP 2 is both a purpose and a result. Considering that the extreme poverty portion of the accessed public is in a situation that is distanced from the actions developed within the rural area, DHCP 2, by operating the inclusion of this group, produces, as a result for the set of public policies, the experience of working with these families. Not only the visibility, but the accumulation derived from operations with the population in extreme poverty constitutes an important result for managers and operators/agents of initiatives that aim to access and work with these families. It should also be remembered, according to the report above, that these families are in "shocking" realities and different from those accessed by ATER agents. In this case, the importance of preparing such agents so that their actions would result in the inclusion of these social groups in the project was also mentioned. Thus, DHCP 2 produces, among other results, an intervention experience, mediated and operated by ATER organizations and institutions, which manages, at least in the experience in question, to access an audience that was outside the intervention initiatives, families in extreme poverty. This experience allows to refine the projection and implementation of other initiatives aimed at this public.

The formal instrument for accessing the project is the Declaration of Eligibility for Pronaf (DAP). In addition to an operational strategy, the issuance of DAPs constituted, depending on the profile of the public accessed, one of the results achieved. This is due to the need to acquire this document for access to public policies directed to family farming. Here again, the interviews highlighted the establishment of

local partnerships. In this case, the issuance of DAPs to farmers for inclusion in DHCP 2 had the aid of rural workers unions and the Agronomic Institute of Pernambuco. This demanded a longer time of action:

It was a task that took much longer than planned in the project schedule, as it was not just about registering the family. We needed to gather all the documentation, from families that even didn't have an identity, CPF; for being unable to afford at least the bus ticket to the city to collect such documents. (Technical Mediator)

Having DAP as a family of insertion tool in DHCP 2 demanded actions of issuance of the declaration, because in the implementation of the project situations of extreme vulnerability were reached out in which individuals did not have even basic documents. The interviews also report situations where the farmers were reticent about the need for DAP, falling to ATER to clarify about the document. Such information is important in a perspective of strategy-result, both for individuals who were able to obtain their basic documentation and DAP, and as legacy for actions designed to deal with extreme rural poverty. DHCP 2 allows us to highlight, as one of its results, the need to adapt the designs and operating strategies of the projects to actions aimed at the public in a situation of greater vulnerability.

According to the information provided by UGP, 14,144 families accessed Pronaf in 2018 and 14,462 in 2019. Pronamp was accessed by two families in 2018. Other lines of credit, not specified, involved 55 families in 2018 and 31 families in 2019.

Regarding PAA and PNAE, actions were carried out to disseminate information about these programs, but data on the participation of farmers in these actions were not available. In the scope of the field research carried out, the advisory technicians interviewed mentioned that there were still no concrete initiatives to access these programs and cited an ongoing negotiation with a municipality. Considering the public reached by the project:

So far, they have not joined other policies, as we see it as a gradual process for them. However, there were families that do not receive the Bolsa Família and, from our arrival, they did. There was no access to institutional markets, for example. (Technical Advisor).

If, on the one hand, access to public policies for family farming was not achieved, on the other hand, some families were able to integrate into Bolsa Família.

Among ATER providers, 37% of them are public, 20% private and 43% from the third sector. ATER held regular individual and collective activities by means of visits, seminars, workshops, courses and exchanges.

DHCP 2 worked with families through ATER contribution and, in part of the cases, access to a financial resource, through the promotion, reconciled with ATER.

According to the interviews, a good part of the families that were reached did not have advisory services previously. The manager highlights the target public, the lack of access to public policies, the ATER actions and the forms of action of the project:

[DHCP 2] was basically focused on the poorest population in the semiarid region, who have been suffering from a lack of public policies and long periods of drought, and it is there where poverty becomes more severe. And who have, in general, no technical assistance. So this project's central focus is to help the poorest people in the semiarid region, with support in technical assistance and also a part with promotion, which is carried out by the Ministry of Citizenship. (Manager, UGP)

The promotion reached, as reported by UGP based on data from the Ministry of Citizenship, 15,520 families (28% of the total), providing R\$2,400.00 to each, which were used in promoting improvements in their production and breeding systems. These investments were accompanied by ATER and provided improvements in production, resulting in positive impacts on the families' food security and, in some cases, on the marketing of their products:

So we identified, for example, families whose rural development had some effectiveness on it [food safety], with the raising of small animals for consumption, production of eggs for home consumption. People who grated cassava manually to supply flour and sell it locally and managed, with the promotion, to buy a machine that accelerated the production process. From that, he was able to sell and thus buy more food. (Manager, UGP)

Positive results of ATER actions without the promotion were mentioned too:

According to reports, even the families that did not have any support or financing projects approved, only with technical assistance activities, they have already managed to improve their production, life and food conditions. Basically with the technical guidance, without the applied resource. Reports I heard [...] they said they can see successful experiences, only due to having had technical monitoring for some time. (Manager, UGP)

Considerando que uma das ações do PDHC 2 consiste na elaboração de projetos produtivos para cada família, estes aspectos, positivos impactos em atividades produtivas, aparecem nos depoimentos dos mediadores e produtores e serão explorados em sequência.

Reconciling collective and individual ATER activities was a configuration adopted in the project, which is highlighted as important to ensure that the specificities of families were addressed. This aspect also gains relevance, according to the interviews, if the public in greater vulnerability is considered:

The technical assistance provided by the project has a different characteristic, [...] the possibility of visiting each family individually, being able to identify what their need is and, accordingly, prepare a proposal for that family. It may be considered a differential as well considering the specificities. There is a very important particularity, which is the profile of part of our audience, [...] an extremely poor audience [...]. The project has a the characteristic of working collectively, and a large part of this audience do not have the culture of collective work and are usually isolated and lack a movement, an association, a cooperative... So individual care is essential. It was a differential to have this specific audience. (Manager, UGP)



Considering that one of the DHCP 2 actions consists in designing productive projects for each family, adequate to the conditions and local productive activities, individualized action is configured as an important tool. This aspect was highlighted for the public in extreme poverty that, as highlighted by the manager in the section above, is “isolated” and does not have any history and involvement with other collective actors.

The integration between collective and individual practices also was mentioned in the interviews by representatives of the ATER provider. According to the technical mediator:

There are four visits planned, but we ended up meeting more often. [...] And this frequency is too little, because the [collective] practical activities are important, but the individual activities help us see things that are over there, but the people of the family do not realize and it does not is taken in practical activities. (Technical Mediator)

The importance of more individualized action for ATER to be able to get closer to the families is expressed in the mediator’ words, who mentions a higher frequency of visits than expected for the project, considered insufficient. The farmers interviewed receive visits every two weeks, according to their statements.

It should be considered that ATER activities involve the identification and the initial contact with these families, passing through the planning and, according to what was reported in the interviews, the monitoring of the actions designed with the families in situation of greater vulnerability. Unforeseen actions, such as issuance of basic personal identification documents, were added to these activities. Another element which reinforces the need for more frequent and continuous actions, as narrated by the mediator, refers to said initial distrust of this public, which demands an interaction that results in their engagement in the project. Thus, the field experience selected by managers to be considered in this assessment shows that some adjustments are necessary, if we are to work with people in a situation of extreme poverty, considering the access to this public a highlight of the project.

With regard to the collective activities, one of them is the holding of exchanges, visits to denominated units of reference, where farmers develop experiences that stand out and come to be shared with other DHCP 2 participants. These occasions were described as opportunities for information and experiences exchange, for holding practical activities and, in some cases, as spaces for participants to exchange seedlings and creole seeds. According to the technical mediator, exchanges are moments in which it is possible to:

Having contact with other people, with things that worked out, things that went wrong, but which they tried in other ways. The exchange is very important in the life of the farmer and of the technician too. Because they see new technologies, they are learning. They add their idea to that of other farmers and get to something new. (Technical Mediator)

An occasion for learning, exchange of experience and knowledge that add up and that result in something new. This baggage, this “something new” resulting from exchanges and ATER actions in general, was cited by the interviewees as one of the motivations and one of the results achieved: “The main motivation is to always be learning. In addition to being able to share my experience, because so I can contribute and get to exchange, for example, be given seeds and other things.” (Community member).

Participation in the project is motivated by the learning opportunity which, in turn, follows through the sharing of experiences and exchanges. The property of the above-mentioned community member is a

unit of reference where they share knowledge and experiences in the conduct of an Agroforestry System (AFS), in the production of vegetables for own consumption and marketing, in the manufacture of mineral salt and the cultivation of forage palm. The farmer explains how techniques and practices learned are objects of exchange and as she herself encounters new information through these exchanges:

I can show how I feed the animals, for example. In this new way of working that I could learn during this period. Animal handling, how to live with the drought... [...] At times, some farmers come over and I explain everything that I do. And I like to pass on my knowledge, as well as enjoy receiving it too. I learn from other producers and that pleases me. Such as the drip that I was shown. (Community member)

In a second reference unit visited, farmers commented on the visibility of their activities:

Previously there was an exchange and I asked if I wanted to receive them [...] and then, we feel like accepting right away. And, despite some hesitation, I agreed and the exchange was then carried out. I was called to be part of some meetings. In a way, we were more noticed. We did use to work before, but we had no visibility. (Community member)

And this is precisely where the facility that we have today in terms of water is included. Because through this project we managed to provoke the city hall staff. And so they wanted to be a part, they could see that it is important for us to have water. (Community member)

Through the project, the holding of the exchange, the participation of farmers in meetings, their work was increasingly being visualized and, as described by the farmer, it facilitated the coordination with the municipality for consideration of their demands.

This visibility also involves the internal and external valuation of the activities undertaken by farmers, “when people come over here, we take these things for granted, but we see that people get amazed.” (Community member)

The exchanges result in learning, exchanges and the work developed is strengthened, through its valorization and visibility. The differential of exchanges, where community members interact with each other and on the basis of concrete experiences, was summarized as follows:

This method of exchanging information is important to us, as the realities they experience are close. And, when the producer sees that the change is advantageous, there is a difference in acceptance as compared to when they just listen to the measures from us. Additionally, the knowledge passed from one farmer to another makes a big difference. (Technical Advisor)

If this dynamic of exchanges between DHCP 2 participants finds its formal instrument in the holding of exchanges, this flow of information was also reported in the field as occurring between neighbors. On these occasions, the sharing of what is being done within the project was mentioned. The flow of information, whether through exchanges or in a more restricted and informal way, in interactions with other nearby residents, is one of the outcomes resulting from the “something else” mentioned above. The learning process mentioned both as a motivator for interacting with DHCP and as a positive aspect derived from the project, and therefore it is a result.

ATER is an aspect that was highlighted in the work with DHCP 2: “I believe it is the directions that the technical assistance gives us. Their action is the plus. It is part of the day to day. When we have a doubt, we text them via WhatsApp.” (Community member).

It is observed that their performance, considered positive in the speech above, highlights an intense, close interaction, represented by the expression “day to day” and the ease of dialogue between the farmer and the organization, who can also resort to non-presential channels of contact. A frequent ATER and which establishes relations of proximity with the farmers adds to the configuration of an accumulation of “directions”, “learning”, “knowledge”, representing one of the results of DHCP 2.

Again come the references to no access prior to ATER by part of the public reached. To this condition, DHCP 2 resulted in the “something else”:

We work with farmers who have never had technical assistance in their lives. [...] The technician can bring the path and the information. [...] Once this is acquired, he goes in search of his goal. [...] we manage to have concrete results. [...] What we take is something that is already very big. It's knowledge, the exchange of knowledge, because he already knows a lot. (Technical Mediator)

Farmers who had access to ATER for the first time through DHCP 2 were granted an “exchange of knowledge” and information, which remain and come to be shared through exchanges or informally, between neighbors, as reported by some families.

ATER's support and the baggage of knowledge that results from its work are described in the interviews:

I had no other person, no other thing, no union or city hall providing support. So, as [ATER] offered me support, I decided to accept. And today, I am one who learned a lot of things in [ATER]. I am called to sign and I am a partner. The main reason, then, is the knowledge that I get. (Community member)

The support received by ATER without similar previous initiative, having as motivation and result the access to information and knowledge, is built and is derived from the possibility of the farmer becoming a partner of the ATER provider. The farmer in question, besides DHCP 2 actions, started to participate in other initiatives of the service provider, such as the Revolving Solidarity Fund (FRS). The technical mediator explains what FRS is and how it works:

It's a resource that spins in the communities. Which they have access to, with a specific time for return. And this resource goes back to the community. Many of the families that are currently included in the Dom Helder Câmara Project, we chose as a strategy that these families were eligible to access. [...] Therefore, since these are families from small areas, they are prevented from accessing public policies due to the size of their area. Then, through the Revolving Solidarity Fund, they can avoid these barriers to access. (Technical Mediator)

In addition to the FRS description, the mediator considers the differential for families that have small areas of land and are unable to access public policies. This experience denotes, once again, specificities of acting with a public whose resources are restricted: the need to plan and operate instruments that are adequate to this reality. It also brings information on the importance of providing financial resources so that these farmers can increase their productive activities. FRS has supported acquisitions of small animals, structures, supplies and equipment for processing of production of families, targeting mainly women and youth<sup>13</sup>.

In the case of the community mentioned above, the FRS resource was:

The first one I managed to do and the one I decided to do, with a payment in three installments. When this money arrived, I decided to go to the fair to buy a few lambs. And, working with them, in January I decided to sell. After a good rain, I managed to sell the ten lambs and got a return of R\$ 1,200.00 in five months. (Community member)

In the interview, the community member mentioned that he was already planning to access FRS again, now planning the acquisition of a forage plant that will allow him to maintain the production and sale of forage bran. These initiatives and their planning are directly linked to the activities worked in the context of DHCP 2.

Through the project, the community member had access to technologies for the artisanal production of palm, *Cereus jamacaru* and pigeon pea bran. At first, this production was geared to feed the animals, but part of the bran turned out to be marketed. Moreover, the project contributed for the community member to broaden his knowledge concerning forage and animal handling. In this context, the practice of vaccination is included. As of DHCP 2, the community member started to act as a daily worker in the vaccination of cattle in his community and in neighboring communities. The “learning”, the “knowledge”, the “directions”, the “something else” enable, in addition to the increase in productive activity, a form of action, that of a vaccinator, which contributes to the family income. Thus, the project's activities are linked to the own initiatives of the ATER entity, something that is exposed even in the farmer's planning for future activities.

In addition to FRS, some young people of DHCP 2 were included in the ATER provider's actions, with the youths participating in the Committee of Young Multipliers of Agroecology (CJMA). CJMA is a space of animation, mobilization, training and coordination, which seeks the insertion of young people in the dynamics of agro-ecology and political spaces<sup>14</sup>.

Two young women interviewed participate in CJMA. Activities for the multiplication of knowledge, design of collective agendas, training meetings, exchanges/share of experiences and debates around agroecology comprise the actions they mentioned. CJMA considers the possibility of access to non-refundable financial resources. One of the young women visited had accessed this resource to purchase wire, adding to the actions developed with DHCP 2.

<sup>13</sup> Information available at : <https://centrosabia.org.br/noticia/fundo-rotativo-solidario-contribui-para-transformacao-de-vidas-de-familias>. Accessed: 07/13/2021.

<sup>14</sup> Available at: [https://centrosabia.org.br/assets/uploads/pdf/t4cr-cartilha\\_comissao\\_de\\_jovens\\_multiplicadores.pdf](https://centrosabia.org.br/assets/uploads/pdf/t4cr-cartilha_comissao_de_jovens_multiplicadores.pdf). Accessed: 07/13/2021.

The inclusion of DHCP 2 families in other actions of the ATER provider sets up, therefore, the opportunity to amplify the work carried out within the scope of the project. This adds to the performance trajectory of the organization in question and the targeting of the aforementioned actions, FRS and CJMA, at women and youths.

### 3. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS

DHCP 2 actions included, as seen above, ATER actions and, in part of the cases, financial resources through rural promotion. In both cases, the families count on technical advisory services.

The support offered by ATER and the access to financial resources complement each other: "If [ATER] brings the benefit and in the meeting we do not address how to use and apply it, we do not deserve the benefit, we really do not learn. If [ATER] brings the investment, but we fail to go learn how to use it, it may go wrong or we may do it without knowing." (Community member).



The association between promotion and ATER was considered as a differential for productive activities:

In our lot of 15 municipalities, we observe that we have three municipalities are promoted. So these are families that have a few more resources to invest in their productive capacity. And we realize that families who rely on this resource end up with a faster process to manage to develop their activity. (Technical Mediator)

Among the community members, mention was made of the possibility of making improvements to their production systems with the resources provided. In some situations, this allowed the resumption of a productive activity: "We already raised chickens, but it was free-range. I had stopped raising and decided to only go back raising when I had a structure to raise them enclosed. As this project came about, I managed to do a good installation." (Community member).

If the increments made possible by the access to rural promotion were reported as important, the ATER work, even without this possibility, also found its relevance, as previously seen. In this context, it should be considered that part of the beneficiaries did not have previous access to this assistance. Thus, reflecting on the results of the project for the families, the technical mediator considers:

Quality of life. The farmer who is currently in the Dom Helder Câmara Project can speak of a before and an after. So, before being part of the project, many of the families did not have access to information, workshops, meetings, visits, encouragement, dialogue. And this information has made a difference. We bring the incentive that first they need to have food. (Technical Mediator)

This access to ATER information and dynamics, such as meetings, workshops, dialogues, resulted in the adoption of practices and adjustments in production systems.

We realized that the need for handling these animals remains, [...] One of the biggest costs that these families have in relation to raising the animals they have is the high value of food [...], and food does not come exclusively from the area of these producers. Therefore, it is part of our operations, as well as the part of sanity in the production, care with the vaccines, in addition to encouraging the use of the things of the area that the producer could be using in the handling, for example, use the banana tree leaves for worm control. (Technical Mediator)

ATER provides improvements in production systems based on the input of information and on the use of resources available in the communities.

With regard to productive activities/chains worked by DHCP 2, at the time of conducting the field survey, it was reported that there was not an overall survey. However, the raising of small animals was mentioned as a highlight: poultry, goats and pigs. This information also appears among technical mediators and the families visited, with the complementation of vegetables cultivations:

We have many chicken farms, not in volume, but families have chicken farms. There is also goats farming, mainly for meat, but also for dairy. Pig farming is also present. There is the handling of the vegetable garden, usually for consumption, however, in some cases, these products are already marketed. (Technical Mediator)

The same highlight is given to poultry by another technical mediator, who mentions other animal farming:

The flagship today is the poultry industry because it is an easy production, cheap as well, because we can make feed on the property. There are several ways to make this feed, reducing the cost. [...] There are some cattle too, but since these are extremely poor farmers, not all of them reach the level of having cattle. (Technical Mediator)

The emphasis on poultry farming is complemented by the possibility of reducing costs through the production of feed on the property, improving the producer's autonomy in the activity.

In field visits, the results observed in poultry include the increased production by increasing the activity or even due its viability through DHCP 2 contributions. This production appears linked to the families' food security and the marketing/generation of income.

Through DHCP 2 it was possible:

Everything, because there was nothing. It was possible to build a chicken coop, which we did not have before. I currently have five head of chicken, two little chickens to turn into roosters and breed, and a hen that is in my mother, as it will have chicks. And my chicken coop is well done. [...] They are directly for the family's consumption. (Community member)

With the aid of DHCP 2, contribution in infrastructure, animals, knowledge and ATER monitoring, it was possible for the family to start the raising of chickens and producing eggs. A similar situation, this time with the family resuming the activity, was previously mentioned in this report.

Among community members, it was possible also to identify improvements in poultry in families that already had chickens: "Previously we did not intend to build a chicken coop and this has been possible thanks to the project. Previously, the animals stayed out in the rain, today no longer. There is the right space and covered, the environment for them is now much better." (Community member).

The infrastructure provides improvements and the very raising of chickens by some families, as seen.

Among the interviewees, the access to information through ATER actions was considered important and emphasized in interviews. In poultry farming, the possibility of producing feed on the property itself, based on species from the semiarid region, is one of the techniques disseminated by DHCP 2, which contribute to the autonomy of the systems.

Asked about the project's contributions to poultry farming, in addition to animals and infrastructure, one of the interviewees replied: "It helped us in production too. It inserted some new plants, such as palm, which we already planted, but it has not yet produced a harvest. We plant before the rain and they are yet to come." (Community member).

In one of the families interviewed, bran initially produced in order to feed to their own chickens had its surplus marketed locally in the neighborhood. This made it possible to generate financial resources through an action, the artisanal production of bran, not initially designed for this purpose. The income obtained allowed the community couple to visualize a marketable product and what would be needed to expand this activity: "If I had forage, I would be able to sell a lot" (Community).

Besides bran, the marketing of eggs, supported by DHCP 2, also is held: "I sell in the neighborhood, who come over here to get it, also because the egg in the fair goes by R\$0.70 and I sell it by R\$0.50, so they come buy here. It does not pay to go farther away to negotiate. And a lot of people buy from me to eat, mainly." (Community member).

The difference of the sales value of the eggs between the fair and the one obtained in the community, according to the farmer, does not pay and represents a better price for the local buyers. Neighborhood customers, as mentioned above, purchase the product for their own consumption. In this way, the thrust of poultry farming by DHCP 2 results not only in improvements in food security and income of the families directly involved, but also strengthens the access of other residents close to production and at lower prices.

Regarding the rearing of chickens implemented by DHCP 2, the interviewee below mentions the destination of the production obtained, the local marketing of the animals and consumption by the family:

We had no animal farming and the project helped to buy goats and chickens, in addition to facilities for the animals as well. Poultry are for sale and some for household consumption as well. I currently have close to 18 chickens and three heads of goats. [...] I have to go to the town to sell the products, but chickens we sell here, in the community, at R\$35.00 each. (Community member)

The statements above allow to highlight the role of the project in obtaining the assets required for the activities of raising small animals: chickens and goats and the infrastructure required. These contributions have been mentioned by other families, referring also to aspects of animal handling and information obtained through ATER actions. So, for the goat farming, in the field visits paid, the same contributions of the project were cited: animals, infrastructure and information on handling and local sources for animal feed: "With regard to goats, previously they used to be all grouped in the same place and that influenced in many things, for example, the delay for them to get pregnant. And today it's different, we separate them and this helps in the process." (Community member).

Handling aspects added to the availability of appropriate structures for their implementation allow improvements in the activity and are DHCP 2 results. With regard to plant handling and the use of semiarid species and/or those that community species have for animal feeding, the same interviewee comments on the use of forage palm: "The palm we used to plant previously was different. Even the way we worked with it. The one we currently plant, I think is up to 10% better than the previous one." (Community member).

The access to a new variety of palm and the information on the handling of culture was also made possible by the project's actions, positively impacting the activity of animal breeding. Palm seedlings were obtained by ATER in a partnership with IPA.

The situation of vulnerability of families amplifies the need to adopt strategies in the breeding activities that leverage the use of the resources available and explore the potential of the semiarid region. Thus, these options are worked by ATER not only for the food, but in sanitary management, as the aforementioned banana tree leave.

The incentive to the cultivation of palm upon the access to these plants, reconciled with the ATER work, was mentioned in several opportunities by the interviewees: “I earned, indeed, palm seedlings, which I already planted and has grown. We use for animal feed” (Community member).

Another technique worked by ATER and inserted into the nutritional management of animal breeding and local production of alternative sources is the production of mineral salt. This possibility and the diversification of animal feed were mentioned, highlighting, once again, the role of the Technical Assistance:

Animal food and nutrition, where we have quite a significant work. Because the animal feed was only grass and today we have a very technical technique of making artisanal salt, palm bran for the chickens, cereus jamacaru bran. (Technical Mediator)

Through the knowledge and practical activities facilitated by ATER, one of the interviewees mentioned having started to produce mineral salt in artisanal fashion. The activities she conducts are shared on her property, which is a reference unit. On these occasions, she says: “I can show how I feed animals, for example. In this new way of working that I could learn during this period. Handling of animals, how to live with drought etc.” (Community member). A “new way of working” as a result of interaction with ATER, involving animal handling and the coexistence with the semiarid region.

The use of plant species from the semiarid region in animal feed also included catingueira hay, which can be used for goats and sheep. The adoption of local sources for animal feed “shows how important it is to learn to use the resources that are present in the region” (Technical Mediator). It is observed that a series of techniques involving the use of plant species from the semiarid region and others available locally for food and animal handling were implemented by DHCP 2. In view of the scarce financial resources of the project’s families, the mentioned cost of animal feed, and the possible local options, the adoption of such techniques gains greater significance.

The production of vegetables appears, among the productive activities worked by DHCP 2, as linked to food security and, when possible, the marketing of surpluses. Among the interviewees, the diversification of species, made possible by the activities facilitated by ATER, was mentioned involving exchanges between community members and the contribution of seeds and seedlings through the advisors. Reflecting on improvements in family nutrition, derived from working with the project, one of the interviewees cites vegetables, fruits and the sale of part of their production:

I currently [produce] vegetables, fruits such as papaya and guava. I can also sell many of them as green onions, lettuce, peppers, cabbage, kale, the which I sell using a wheelbarrow and alone, along a two-hour round journey. And I usually manage to sell the entire production. I sell from house to house and get considerable capital as I already have known clients. If I took it to the fair, there is a lot of competition and, therefore, a drop in the values I can get. (Community member)

The family’s food safety is strengthened by the increase and diversification of production, with the marketing of some products. Again, local marketing is mentioned, “along a two-hour round journey”, added, in this case, due to the advantage in obtaining the best prices.

From the perspective of coexistence with the semiarid, with the objective of improving the use and storage of water resources, ATER encouraged the use of economic garden beds for crops. The base of the beds

is lined with cement or tarpaulins, increasing water retention and saving. In some situations, this type of garden bed makes the production of vegetables possible.

The storage of creole seeds was also encouraged by ATER:

And we make a point of putting it to all the families, whether in individual visits or in hands-on training with the families, teaching them such strategies as having one’s own seeds, as they are seeds adapted to our region. These are seeds that are passed on from generation to generation and this gives them greater autonomy, as the family does not need to go to town to buy it after the rains come. [...] Therefore, we always encourage them to have their own seeds. (Technical Mediator)

In addition to its strategic importance, the exchange of seeds, as already seen, is included in the actions facilitated by the technical assistance.

Among the experiences visited, by means of techniques implemented in dialogue with ATER, a couple of farmers, passion fruit producers, obtained results in the reduction of use, better use of water and in soil conservation. As techniques used, they cited reduction of the spacing between plants, the planting of two seedlings per hole, the use of a water retainer around the seedlings to improve the utilization of irrigation water, maintaining the soil vegetable cover, and introduction of other species in a SAF-type system .

PDHC 2, in the experiences visited, developed actions that resulted in the improvement and even the implementation of productive activities in dialogue with an approach of coexistence with the semiarid region and with the situation of vulnerability of the public reached. The program’s operating strategy, involving access to ATER and, in part of the cases, rural promotion, proved to be important. The possibility of starting, resuming or even boosting a productive activity among the most vulnerable families was, as shown above, linked to the financial investments made possible by the project in animals and infrastructure. ATER, likewise, had its fundamental contribution expressed by the interviewees through the possibility of developing and exchanging knowledge. The varied techniques of coexistence with the semiarid region, mobilized by ATER, guarantee the differential of the actions performed.

The security food was highlighted in different dialogues of the field research. Thus:

[...] the project’s goal is to work on food security. Also because we have an audience profile where the objective was that. So, we identified, for example, families in which the rural promotion they received had an effect on this, with the raising of small animals for consumption, production of eggs for family consumption. People who manually grated cassava to supply the flour and sell it somewhere right there, and who managed, with the promotion, to buy a machine that accelerated the production process. From that, he was able to sell and thus buy more food. [...] we had the propagation of gardens for consumption and sale of surplus. (Manager, UGP)

Working with food security is, therefore, an objective linked to the profile of the audience and results in the production and diversification of food for consumption, with the possibility of marketing, and in food increment derived from activities that enable direct impacts on family income. Food security and family income are thus aspects that are articulated in DHCP 2.

According to one of the interviewees:

We provide the incentive that first they need to have food. The quality of life, it starts from the moment in which the farmer begins to have food on their table, diverse food, fruits, vegetables, and processing as well. First he thinks of his food and his family food, and the surplus will be what he sells, for them to have other dreams, make the sale and exchange of products. (Technical Mediator)

Ensuring food safety was the focus of the work adopted. DHCP 2, in the visited experiences, has resulted in increased household food security, expressed in the words of the community members by references to positive impacts on production, passing by its diversification. These results involve productive inclusion:

Inclusion, in general, is essential, but productive inclusion is essential to ensure the sustainability of the family in that territory. Productive inclusion to increase food security and for the marketing, generating surpluses and bringing income to the family. (Manager, UGP)

The sale of products is related to the results achieved: production of surpluses, improvements in productive activities, or even the possibility of carrying them out, diversification of products and improvement of some of them. These results are linked to the "opportunity" to work with DHCP 2, resulting in the possibility of holding the "experience in marketing":

The main thing to be highlighted is that the producer needs an opportunity. When a project like this arrives, this is the opportunity he has been waiting for, as before he had no access. So, many families who had no experience in marketing now are having this experience in marketing. (Technical Mediator)

As instances of commercialization, local markets, community and neighborhood markets and fairs stood out. DHCP 2 actions provided the impetus in both situations, according to field information and what was observed in the experiences visited.

The use of local community markets was mentioned among the interviewees, as already presented, representing the destination of part of the family production of chickens, eggs and vegetables. Advantages of commercialization in this instance were presented in the statements, describing the obtainment of better returns in the local sale of their products. The possibility of producing and marketing surpluses, even on the local level, was one of the results achieved by DHCP 2. DHCP 2 actions promote impacts not only on families' food security, but also contribute to the same aspect on the community level, in the localities, through the expansion and diversification of production, marketing and exchanges.

The marketing in trade is related, in the scope of the evaluation performed, to the performance of DHCP 2 in the integration of community members in these spaces, in the project's contribution to the increase and diversification of products, and in the contribution of ATER to the formation of these spaces on territorial level. As regards the formation of fairs, ATER operations promoted the creation of a territorial fair integrating various municipalities.

Marketing is also an experience shared by the reference units. One of the young people interviewed described the support given by ATER for starting to sell their passion fruit production at the fair: "When

we started the project, we began with [ATER] telling me about the fair and I was a little insecure by my difficulty speaking in public, but it went ahead" (Female community member).

Starting from an initial insecurity, the young female farmer began to sell her production at the fair and to diversify the products:

Initially she took the passion fruit. In the second week, she took fruit juice and at the other fairs she took passion fruit pulp, passion fruit popsicles, mousse. And then, all the fear of the beginning was turned into good results. Therefore, what the farmers most need is the opportunity. (Technical Mediator)

ATER's performance triggered the young farmer's participation in the fair, resulting in the improvement of her production, with the diversification of the products sold. The young farmer created even a label for the identification of her products.

This experience started to be shared in actions facilitated by DHCP 2 and in other instances, such as a school, where the farmer goes: "A little of the experience of going to the fair, as a seller" (Female community member).

Another young woman interviewed came into contact with the project at an event on marketing facilitated by ATER. Encouraged to participate in DHCP 2, in dialogue with the technical advisor, the farmer produced cassava products from her backyard, such as beiju and cake, for sale at the municipal fair. The revenue obtained compensated for the investment made. Because of the project, the young lady was able to diversify and expand her productive activities with poultry, goats and vegetables. Improved food safety and the sale of products at the fair and on the local level became part of the family's sources of income. It should be considered that the young woman in question had already emigrated to urban centers, returned to the community and planned to make another attempt to live in the city. In the composition of her income, there is the sale of daily labor related to agricultural activities and working as a bricklayer's assistant, activities in which she earns a lower salary than that received by men. DHCP 2 actions contributed to the strengthening of productive activities, food security and income generation, and so that the family could continue in the region.

Income generation is considered by the interviewees as a result of DHCP 2. As shown so far, this aspect is related to the families' food security. The surplus and diversified production is sold locally or at fairs and becomes part of the family income. Another form of income generation resulting from DHCP 2 occurs through products and their derivatives, produced with the direct objective of commercialization. Finally, unplanned possibilities for financial returns were identified. The sale of surplus bran to feed the chickens is one of them. Another possibility verified owes to the training of the same farmer in the vaccination of animals. Instrumented with this knowledge, he started to sell daily labor to carry out the vaccination of animals.

The improvement in family income was an expectation and was achieved: "we expected to improve the income and production and were able to achieve this improvement. We were able to buy what we lacked" (Community member). The interviewee in question produced only for her own consumption. With DHCP 2, she could increase, diversify their production and market part of it, integrating the family income. Likewise, other community member comments: "I just thought of trying and if it worked out it is

fine. I wanted to work so that my income could go up, so today I am their partner and I saw the result” (Community member). The commercialization of agricultural products was observed in all the experiences visited. This is an element that gains importance in a context in which DHCP 2 reaches families in situation of social vulnerability, since it provides sources of income arising from their production and thus contributes to family income, who can count with different sources in its composition, as has been seen, involving from the sale of labor to the receipt of social benefits.

**Box 6: Main Results – Dom Helder Câmara 2 Project**

### MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – DOM HELDER CÂMARA 2 PROJECT



**AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
**15,529** families in productive projects (incentives). In total, including ATER: **54,510** families.

- Reach for a public in a situation of social vulnerability and extreme poverty. Strategy-Result.

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**YOUTHS:**  
**11,033** young people responsible for production units.

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**TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES:**  
**2,918** quilombola families and 346 indigenous families.

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**GENDER EQUITY:**  
**46,631** women responsible for production units.

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**PUBLIC POLICIES:**  
 Reach of a public that is invisible or with restricted access to public policies. Issuance of DAPs, access to Bolsa Família.

- Continuous Technical Assistance: Contribution of information/knowledge. Making communities visible and facilitating dialogues with other social and institutional actors. Association of the project’s actions with other activities of the ATER provider, amplification of actions.

### MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED – DOM HELDER CÂMARA 2 PROJECT



**PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES/CHAINS:**

- Poultry, goat, and swine farming: most recurrent activities in the project.

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- Improvements in productive activities, ATER and ATER fostering.
- Poultry: increased production and feasibility of conducting the activity. Dissemination of feed production techniques on the property, based on species from the semiarid region. Contribution to the autonomy of production systems.
- Goat farming: improvements in the handling of livestock and in the structure used. Dissemination of techniques that involve the use of plant species from the semiarid region and others available locally for animal feeding and handling. Increased food security of families and communities, increased production and diversification.

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- Boost to local markets, community members, and fairs, expansion and diversification of production, marketing and exchanges.
- Improvements in marketing through local and community channels and at fairs. Incentive for marketing.
- Impact on family income associated with food security. Increased production of surpluses. Production diversification. Production improvement. Greater participation of productive activities in the composition of family income.







# CONCLUSIONS



The considerations presented below are based on the joint evaluation of IFAD projects in Brazil, starting from the different experiences and the analysis, carried out on each project, conducted in this evaluation.

- It was found that the IFAD projects in Brazil reached a diverse public. Considering the situations of social vulnerability, in the set of projects, initiatives with individuals and groups in greater vulnerability and others that are better structured were observed. This is reflected in such aspects as social organization, access to public policies, ATER, production systems. Considering the internal diversity of the family farming category and its vulnerable segments, IFAD projects in Brazil, as a whole, were observed to produce experiences that developed action strategies capable of being used in other initiatives aimed at this public. This aspect stands out, mainly in its contribution to actions with the families in situation of greater vulnerability, whose inclusion remains a challenge.
- Among the priority publics, the evaluation carried out identified more expressive results in relation to women, through their direct inclusion and ownership in productive projects. The increased visibility of women in actions aimed at the rural environment was achieved, contributing to female empowerment. Moreover, in the set of IFAD initiatives, some projects have moved forward in relation to gender equality, including in their actions activities that address this issue and other issues important to women. Representativeness was a result achieved by the inclusion of women in technical teams. The specific technical advisory teams adopted and maintained by the project, proved to be related to the obtaining of results extending beyond the direct inclusion of women in productive projects.
- Considering traditional populations, some initiatives acted with specific characteristics of these groups, in addition to other activities of the projects, giving support to self-recognition and recognition processes on local, state and federal levels. The scarce provision of technical advisory services to this public and a scenario of restricted inclusion of these populations in public policies for rural areas make the experiences implemented by IFAD projects extremely relevant. The approach to particularities of these collectives, such as recognition processes, add to the importance of these initiatives.
- With regard to youths, their inclusion in the actions of the projects leaves some experiences. One of them is the work of these young people in partnership with the technical teams. The projects have developed different initiatives in this direction, such as the opportunity for paid work with the advisors.
- With regard to formal social organizations, that is, associations and cooperatives, the vast majority of actions involved the former. Situations of fragility of these organizations, and even of individuals not belonging to them, were found in the execution of actions. Considering that the agreements are carried out by associations, it was found that they were used for all the state projects. The weakness described followed experiences that resulted in the restructuring and strengthening of associations, or even in their formation. Different forms of action and strategies were used in these mobilizations. These experiences can be used in other initiatives, providing some interesting elements, such as time of work with social collectives to build these organizations, the need for close action, distrust of communities in relation to external initiatives, as well as the contribution required for these organizations to get stronger. In the evaluation carried out, some experiences leave this legacy.
- The diversity of the public in relation to access to public policies is expressive and represents a rich baggage to be taken advantage of by subsequent initiatives. All of the IFAD projects involved, among others, people and social groups that did not have any previous experience of access to these instruments, even considering social policies like Bolsa Família. Some experiences were able to access and work with this specific audience. Situations of previous access, linked only to initiatives in the social field, were also included among IFAD projects in Brazil. Likewise, the actions in-

cluded people and groups with previous access to Pronaf, in their weaker categories and in others, a little more structured.

- ATER was equally diverse across the projects. The implemented experiences include continuous actions, working on both technical/productive and social aspects. This approach impacts the technical team, from UGP to advisors, intermediate situations, such as designs that reconcile this technical social-productive dialogue through team projects, up to models that were more targeted to the productive activities. This diversity follows that of the public reached, resulting in a set of experiences that can be taken advantage of in other public policies.
- With regard to production systems, actions with more diverse approaches were observed to be better suited to the conditions of the most vulnerable families that mobilize various activities, forms of action, in the search for their replication. In more structured situations, it was possible to identify experiences in which the project strengthens a certain activity, which becomes the main source of family income. Experiences that encouraged and implemented actions aimed at the productive systems were observed, allowing them greater resilience and greater autonomy. Among these actions are the native and adapted fodders, social technologies, the beekeeping/meliponiculture. The projects resulted in improvements to production systems. These actions are added as experiences of interest to the coexistence with the semiarid region.
- The strengthening of productive backyards and poultry farming was observed. Both activities gained in expression and visibility with IFAD projects. These activities are directly related to food security and women's performance. The results observed relate the two activities to improvements in food security and in their contribution to the inclusion and appreciation of women.
- Agroecological logbooks contributed not only to give visibility and value backyard production in self-consumption by the family and the community, but also the activities of women.
- ATER actions resulted in communities' access to productive and non-productive information, with many references to it by the community members. Material investments, in structures, equipment, animals, among others, were equally important. It was possible to observe that an action that reconciles advice and investments configures the best action model, especially in situations of families in greater vulnerability.
- In terms of family income, the impacts were directly observed through the generation of financial resources; through community members making their own investments in productive activities; through the reduction of forms of occupation/income generation of some community members, who began to devote themselves more or exclusively to the production systems themselves; and through the strengthening of production for household consumption. The consumption of family production, increased by the projects, gained greater visibility and importance through the adoption of agroecological logbooks.
- The presence and use of local markets, and on local community level, stood out in the assessment carried out. Community marketing channels gain importance in situations of greater social vulnerability. One of the projects invested in an action dedicated to community marketing, an experience that can be disseminated to other projects. In some projects, the advisory teams were observed to

be involved in the formation of fairs, with the inclusion of community members. Strengthening and diversification of production also impacted sales.

- Results of community strengthening, in productive, social and economic aspects, were observed not only involving people directly participating in the projects. The legacy of the IFAD projects extends up to the strengthening of social collectives through the gains in social capital, the circulation of information/knowledge and the dynamization of local production.

**ANNEXES**

**Table 7: Interviews carried out**

Project	INTERVIEWS (INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP)		
	MANAGERS	ATER	PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES
	Coordinators, Advisors, Specialists, Consultants	Technical Mediators/ Advisors	Community members
<b>Procasa</b>	2 Managers 1 Manager 1 Advisor 1 Consultant 1 URGP Manager 1 URGP Manager 2 Social Mobilizers	1 Technical Mediator	2 Women 3 Quilombola Women 1 Young Quilombola woman 1 Young Quilombola man 1 Man (2 Quilombola Communities)
<b>Total</b>	9	1	8
<b>Viva o Semiárido</b>	2 Managers 1 Manager (SEDUC)	1 Technical Mediator (Coordinator)	1 woman 1 Quilombola Woman 3 Men (1 Quilombola Community )
<b>Total</b>	3	1	5
<b>Paulo Freire</b>	3 Managers	4 Technical Mediators 1 Advisor 4 Technical Mediators	4 Women 1 Quilombola Woman 1 Young woman 3 Men (1 Quilombola Community )
<b>Total</b>	3	9	9
<b>Dom Távora</b>	3 Managers 1 Manager 4 Specialists 1 Accountant	Specialists/UGP	1 Young Man 3 Young Women

<b>Total</b>	9	-	4
<b>Pró-Semiárido</b>	3 Managers 2 Managers 1 Manager (São Francisco Consortium) 1 Advisor	1 Technical Mediator 1 Technical Mediator 1 Technical Mediator (San Francisco Consortium)	1 Female Rural Community Agent 2 Quilombola Women 1 Fundo de Pasto Community Woman 1 Fundo de Pasto Community Young Woman 2 Quilombola Men 1 Fundo de Pasto Community Man (2 Quilombola Communities and 2 Fundo do Pasto Communities)
<b>Total</b>	7	3	8
<b>Dom Helder Câmara Phase 2</b>	1 Manager 1 Manager	2 Technical Mediators	1 Woman 2 Young Women 2 Quilombola Women 1 Quilombola Man 2 Men (1 Quilombola Community )
<b>Total</b>	2	2	8
<b>Grand Total:</b>	23: 16 Women	16: 9 Women	42: 27 women

Source: Author's preparation

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