

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 24 - HOW ARE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNED?

FROM COMPLIANCE TO COLLABORATION: RETHINKING SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN BIOSECURITY GOVERNANCE

Melanie Bryant (Melanie.Bryant@utas.edu.au)

Vaughan Higgins (vaughan.higgins@utas.edu.au)

Global food systems face growing agricultural biosecurity risks, prompting Australia to adopt a shared responsibility approach involving government, industry, communities, and citizens. This paper highlights a key tension within this model: biosecurity is implemented either through formal compliance and regulation or informal negotiated practices. Formal mechanisms often ignore local knowledge, while informal practices lack legitimacy and scalability, limiting effectiveness. This dualism stems from institutional logics and scale challenges, creating norms that constrain local initiatives and foster reliance on government, as well as scale challenges, such as jurisdictional conflicts between federal and state laws. Consequently, actors resort to relational strategies and workarounds to manage biosecurity locally. We argue for further research into adaptive governance and polycentric approaches that decentralize decision-making and integrate local knowledge, to enable flexibility and responsiveness. Further research is also needed to operationalize these models within existing

institutional frameworks to overcome entrenched logics and scale-related barriers.

Palavras-chave: shared responsibility; adaptive governance; polycentric approaches; agricultural biosecurity; institutional logics.