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TRANSITIONS IN RURAL TERRITORIES

**RURAL PUBLIC POLICIES: STATE, AGRICULTURE, AND SUSTAINABILITY
INDICATORS**

Luis Eduardo Rangel (luiseduardorangel76@gmail.com)

Marília Steinberger (rtlia@solar.com.br)

Ricardo Carmona (rcarmona@agro.gov.br)

The structural tensions guiding public policies for the Brazilian rural environment are highlighted in the clash between two state rationalities: the productivity view, institutionalized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), and the logic of territorial occupation, associated with the Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA). This duality produces simultaneous yet poorly articulated policies that operate upon territories without integrating them as a central analytical category. The modernization of agriculture, the expansion of agricultural frontiers, and international pressures for sustainability widen this cleavage, revealing the insufficiency of conventional indicators. Our approach is based on the integration of social, environmental, and economic indicators and assesses the performance of rural territories under different state rationalities. In

the case of the MDA, the emphasis falls on territorial development, productive inclusion, agricultural diversity, social vulnerability, and local capabilities. In the case of MAPA, metrics of total factor productivity, emission intensity, technological efficiency, and market access prevail. In both cases, variables such as deforestation must be integrated into the set of indicators, which should demonstrate that the public policies of the two actors will produce not only distinct diagnoses but also different conceptions of sustainability and intervention priorities. The construction of an integrated matrix of indicators—combining emissions, environmental risk, climate resilience, income, infrastructure, food security, and institutional capacity—constitutes an essential tool for understanding regional heterogeneities and revealing hidden patterns in sectoral policies. Thus, we can classify territories according to multiple dimensions of sustainability, offering contributions to the development of the Green Domestic Product - GDP and for more coherent public decisions aligned with the socio-environmental complexity of the Brazilian rural environment. The adoption of integrated indicators may represent a necessary advancement to overcome the historical fragmentation between agricultural productivity and land use, and to guide fairer, more effective, and environmentally responsible rural development strategies.

Palavras-chave: sustainability; integrated indicators; rural territories; public policies; green gdp.