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EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEM IN BRAZIL IN THE ERA OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

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As the digital transition gets underway in agriculture and food systems, questions arise about its opportunities and risks. In this context, agricultural innovation systems have a renewed role to play in supporting this transition, while reducing risks. Using the concept of innovation systems and innovation ecosystems, we seek to identify recent trends occurring in the agricultural innovation system of Brazil, a global agricultural powerhouse characterized by dual agriculture and commitments to global environmental issues. Based on literature and document research as well as interview of actors or innovations ecosystems, we show that the Brazilian agricultural innovation system has undergone rapid transformations integrating the challenges of the digital transition, based on the protagonism of public actors, representatives of proactive agribusiness, and favorable public policies in a context where Brazilian agriculture is attractive to international financial flows. The evolution of the

Brazilian agricultural innovation system is characterized by the rise of specific innovation ecosystems promoting Ag-Tech starts-up, mobilizing open-innovation concept. However, while the Brazilian agricultural innovation system has been successful in integrating and developing digital innovations for agriculture, and is beginning to integrate social and environmental issues, challenges appear regarding increasing digital divide and invisibility of ecosystems of innovations geared towards agroecology. These results call into question the role of the state, the balance of power between public and private actors, and the promotion of a plurality of agricultural models that allow for a balance between the sometimes-contradictory objectives of Brazilian agriculture and their related policies.

Palavras-chave: innovation system; agriculture; agricultural model; digital transformation; policies.