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**A NEW FRONTIER IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CRISIS: HOW PRODUCTION,
COMMERCIALIZATION AND FOOD PRACTICES ARE MANIFESTED IN
RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN MATO GROSSO DO SUL, BRAZIL**

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The climate crisis has put food systems at risk, posing challenges to family farming and food security. Discussing how these impacts affect family farmers (FF), through interdisciplinary approaches, has frequently appeared on research agendas along with proposals for new public policies to adapt local food systems. The aim of this study is to discuss how the new frontier imposed by the climate crisis affects production, commercialization, and food practices in Mato Grosso do Sul. The research was carried out in four settlements: Nova Era, Eldorado I, Santa Lúcia, and Guaicurus, the sample included 61 interviewees who produce and commercialize. Data were collected “in situ”, including both closed and open questions, which allowed the farmers to detail their survival strategies and perceptions. Seven categories emerged: drought, irregular water supply, high temperatures, pests, production losses, wildfires, and changes in the production cycle. Prolonged dry spells were mentioned most frequently,

compromising production. Family farmers reported high temperatures during winter, as well as unexpected events such as severe frosts, described as recurring a typical phenomena. The prevalence of these conditions, combined with pest incidence, resulted in recurring production losses, including complete losses of crops such as cassava, beans, and vegetables, obliging the FF to reinvent their food practices. Wildfires and the application of pesticides on neighbor properties negatively affected production and led to losses in food diversity. Family farmers reported insecurity regarding planning, stating that they “no longer know when it will rain,” highlighting changes in productive cycles. The results revealed that the climate crisis is emerging as a determining factor, impacting income, food security and the regular food supply. This new climate frontier signals an emergency that calls for adaptations to mitigate risks in production, market access, and for the development of more resilient and better adjusted food policies for democratic food systems.

Palavras-chave: food practices; family farming; food policies; climate crisis; food systems.