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SUSTAINABLE RURAL FUTURE

**AT THE BORDERS OF CITIZENSHIP: THE ROLE OF AGRO-EXTRACTIVE
COOPERATIVES IN THE AMAZON UPON FACING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES**

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Historically, the population of Amazonas has faced conditions of inequality and social vulnerability. This scenario tends to be even more severe in rural and riverside communities located in the interior of the Amazon rainforest. In response, community leaders and residents organize themselves into cooperatives to obtain resources and develop socio-environmental projects, thus generating sources of income for community members. In this communication, we present a case study that addresses cooperatives beyond the productive order, shedding light on their role in guaranteeing citizenship rights in the Amazonian rural region. The research was conducted with the communities of the Unini River and with the Mixed Agro-extractive Cooperative of

the Unini River (COOMARU). Field study was conducted in the Uninicomunities and the municipality of Novo Airão (AM) in 2024. Through semi-structured interviews and observations with leaders (presidents and secretaries) and members of COOMARU, we found that a cooperative has not only been active in generating income and opportunities for residents through environmental sustainability projects, but has also performed other functions related to transportation and health due to the absence or precariousness of basic health services. Thus, we argue that COOMARU has been one of the organizations responsible for promoting citizenship practices in the Rio Unini Extractive Reserve area. However, it is noteworthy that cooperatives represent resistance in the face of the marginalization of communities and the inability of public authorities to guarantee basic health rights. During the pandemic, this role became even more explicit, as leaders and resident members of COOMARU acted on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19.

Palavras-chave: amazonian population; vulnerability; citizenship; social sustainability.