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INNOVATION AND AUTONOMY FOR A NEW AGENDA

**THE TRADE OF HANDICRAFTS INTEGRATED WITH AGRICULTURAL
PRACTICES, A PROMISING PATH FOR FAMILY FARMING AND THE
AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION.**

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For many rural communities, handicraft production has increasingly become an important source of income and a new avenue for employment, especially for women. Rural spaces and the farmers who inhabit them undergo constant transformation. New ruralities emerge as changes unfold, and the incorporation of new social functions—beyond agricultural production, such as handicrafts and tourism—has proven essential for ensuring the economic viability, permanence, and continuity of family farming.

This study seeks to examine the potential of handicrafts as a factor that supports the permanence and improves the quality of life of farmers in rural communities

in Prados, Minas Gerais. It aims to analyze the extent to which handicraft production can offer a viable pathway—particularly for women—to remain in rural areas, complement traditional agricultural activities, and avoid urban wage labor and associated changes in lifestyle. The commercialization of handicrafts by farming families through tourism and agroecology share common challenges related to rural development. Both fields converge in their efforts to value and sustain traditional knowledge and practices, promote ways of life aligned with agricultural activities that are harmonious with nature, and foster household income diversification. In this context, handicrafts emerge as a complementary income source alongside agricultural production, which remains primary.

The first stage of the research consists of a theoretical and historical reflection on the intrinsic relationship between rural communities and the production of handmade artifacts. The second stage aims to understand the perspectives of farmers in Prados regarding the potential of handicrafts to promote their permanence in rural areas and enhance their quality of life. To do so, semistructured interviews will be employed as a methodological approach that allows gathering farmers' perceptions for an in-depth understanding of the potential of handicrafts to sustain their livelihoods in Prados.

Palavras-chave: family farming; handicrafts; tourism; new ruralities; agroecological transition.