

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 23 - RURAL YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: IDENTITIES, TERRITORIAL RESISTANCE, AND THE DILEMMA OF WORK OR MIGRATION

YOUNG FAMILY FARMERS: WORK, GENERATIONAL SUCCESSION, AND PUBLIC POLICIES IN BRAZIL

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This study analyzes the situation of rural youth in family farming based on the structural conditions of Brazilian social formation and on empirical data collected in the Recôncavo region of Bahia. It demonstrates that land concentration and the subordination of agriculture to dependent capitalism constrain the social reproduction of family farming units and directly affect generational succession. Young family farmers, who are strongly socialized through the agricultural labor process and whose identities are closely linked to inherited know-how, face low levels of material autonomy, limited access to land, scarce income, and fragile market integration. Although they value agricultural work and the family-based way of life, 64% do not wish to remain in agriculture, indicating that material precariousness outweighs the subjective dispositions constructed in everyday rural life. The succession crisis thus reflects the structural contradictions that hinder youth autonomy. The findings support proposals for strategic public policy guidelines aimed at young family farmers, focusing on access to land, rural

education, productive inclusion, socio-technical innovation, rural quality of life, and political participation, with the goal of promoting a transition from dependence to emancipation. The study concludes that young people are strategic agents for a new agriculture, but they require structural conditions in order to remain and innovate in rural areas.

Palavras-chave: agrarian question; young family farmer; generational succession; material autonomy; public policies.