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**THE TERRITORIES OF FAMILY FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMING IN
URUGUAY**

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Family fruit and vegetable farming is a key actor in Uruguay's current agri-food sector. Family farming has been increasingly recognized for its sustainable practices, its resilience in times of crisis, and its socially equitable model. Anchored in rural territories, family farming is linked to the settlement and permanence of rural populations, the job creation and employee settlement, the provision of services, identity, culture, and vernacular traditions, and, ultimately, to the possibility of endogenous local development. At the same time, it represents a social actor that, although invisible in national accounts, contributes to local, regional, and national economies, while also ensuring food sovereignty.

This proposal analyzes the territories of family fruit and vegetable farming in Uruguay, seeking to highlight the synergies between socio-demographic,

territorial, and productive dynamics. By generating a spatially explicit database that locates all plots of fruit and vegetable production, as well as those specifically associated with family fruit and vegetable farming, and by linking data from different sources, we aim to answer the question: what distinguishes the territories of family fruit and vegetable farming?

Moving beyond the well-known differences regarding the typical size of plots in these productive sectors, we seek to address territorial synergies and their implications in terms of rural settlement and employment generation. The methodological design is mixed. The database is constructed by linking information from two registries (the national fruit and vegetable production registry and the family farmers' registry) with census data (Population Census 2023). The analysis is complemented by an exploration of farmers' perceptions, based on 19 interviews and two focus groups conducted in 2025, which investigated the contributions of family fruit and vegetable farming to rural territories.

Palavras-chave: family farming; territories; rural population; rural/agrarian work.