

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 17 - SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT FOR
FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

**EMERGING PRACTICES OF VALUES-BASED PUBLIC FOOD
PROCUREMENT FOR INTEGRATED URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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In recent years public food procurement has emerged as an important development tool for urban and rural economies when procurement goals include values such as support for small farmers and food businesses, protecting biodiversity, and building the resilience of the food supply. Many nations are scaling up school feeding and other nutrition safety net programs while also grappling with long-term climate, food security, and rural development challenges. Although these policies are often set at the national level, implementation typically occurs within territorial and local governments—cities, counties, and regions—where the practical work of shaping markets, engaging suppliers, and influencing diets takes place. At the same time, many cities around the world are already leveraging VBP (values-based procurement) to

meet diverse goals, from supporting new or more stable markets for smallholder farmers and producers to advancing climate action. Increasingly, these cities are looking for support in advancing the impacts of this work.

A global overview will be presented from evidence of the diverse range of values applied to procurement systems in working sessions in 2025 with 14 cities from all continental regions. Three particular cases will be explored in detail from different geographies.

First is the case of Brazilian cities working with Comida do Amanhã, either on LUPPA, a laboratory of public food policies, or on the agroecological school meals initiative (PNAE agroecológico).

Second is the work of Dr. Ann Trevenen Jones in the governance of public food procurement and traditional markets in South Asia and Africa.

Third is the City Food Policy Project, an agent-based modeling and action research project for two cities in the United States exploring the tradeoffs and co-benefits of applying multiple values to food procurement to serve local governments.

All three cases are founded upon principles of inclusive participation by farmers and food enterprises.

Palavras-chave: public food procurement; values-based procurement; sustainable development; local policies; rural-urban linkages.