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**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURES: A COMPARATIVE
ANALYSIS OF CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC FARMING IN THE ARROIO
DO PADRE COMMUNITY, SOUTHERN BRAZIL**

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This paper analyzes the impacts of climate change on family farming in the Arroio do Padre community, located in the Três Forquilhas River Valley, in the municipality of Itati, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. The study aims to understand how local farmers perceive climate change and which adaptation strategies have been adopted to mitigate the effects of extreme climatic events on agricultural production, comparing conventional and organic management systems. The research is qualitative and based on semi-structured interviews conducted with 20 family farmers, including organic, conventional, uncertified organic, and mixed-management producers. Data were collected using a snowball sampling technique and organized into four thematic axes: sociodemographic

characteristics, family farming practices, perceptions of climate change and adaptation strategies, and expectations regarding the future of agriculture. The results indicate that most farmers recognize climate change and report increased frequency of extreme events such as floods, cyclones, and changes in rainfall patterns. However, significant differences were not observed between conventional and organic producers regarding their perception of climate impacts. Adaptation strategies remain limited, with only a few farmers reporting changes such as adjustments in planting calendars. Agroforestry systems were highlighted as an important practice for soil protection and increased resilience to climatic extremes. Most interviewees perceive climate adaptation as a responsibility primarily of public authorities rather than individual farmers. The main demands identified include greater public investment in rural infrastructure, access to machinery, improvements in roads and bridges, and the expansion of commercialization spaces. The findings highlight the importance of integrating local knowledge and agroecological practices into public policies aimed at strengthening climate resilience and promoting sustainable food futures in rural communities.

Palavras-chave: family farming; climate change; extreme events; agroecology; climate adaptation.