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DISPUTES IN CONTEMPORARY AGRI-FOOD ASSEMBLAGES

**MAPPING SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS IN GLOBAL AGRI-FOOD
SYSTEMS: SOCIO-TECHNICAL NETWORKS AND NARRATIVES**

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Agri-food systems occupy a central position in contemporary climate, environmental, and health crises, which has fostered the proliferation of proposals for sustainable transitions in the international debate. This work aims to map the socio-technical networks associated with the different proposed pathways and to analyze how they stabilize as narratives that articulate human and non-human actors, scientific knowledge, technologies, regulatory instruments, and financial mechanisms.

Methodologically, the study combines an analytical review of international reports produced by multilateral organizations, expert panels, think tanks, philanthropic foundations, and civil society organizations operating across different innovation fronts in agri-food systems, such as sustainable production intensification, alternative proteins, new uses of biodiversity, and food–health interfaces. The analysis is guided by Actor–Network Theory, which is mobilized to trace the associations performed in normative documents and to examine

processes of translation and narrative stabilization. The mapping considered three central arenas of socio-technical network stabilization: epistemic communities responsible for knowledge production and validation, social and political coalitions engaged in advocacy and institutional influence, and transition-oriented funding schemes and financial programs.

The results identify four core narratives shaping agri-food transitions: (i) an internationalist narrative grounded in sustainable production intensification and multilateral coordination; (ii) an eco-socialist narrative anchored in agroecology and structural critiques of the agri-food regime; (iii) a technological narrative centered on the expansion of alternative protein markets; and (iv) a systemic narrative emphasizing integrated approaches linking climate, biodiversity, health, and diets. The paper concludes that these narratives reflect not only cognitive divergences but also power asymmetries related to the technical, institutional, and financial capacities of the networks that sustain them, illustrating the complexity of the socio-technical landscape surrounding the reconfiguration dynamics of global food systems.

Palavras-chave: agri-food systems; sustainability transitions; socio-technical networks; narratives.