

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 07 - THE GOVERNANCE OF LOCAL PRODUCTIVE
SYSTEMS AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT: ANALYSIS AND CASE
STUDIES

**COLLECTIVE CAPACITIES OF RURAL WOMEN TO INFLUENCE LOCAL
PUBLIC DECISIONS ON FOOD ISSUES: THE CASE OF THE ASOSEMILLAS
ASSOCIATION IN JERUSALÉN (CUNDINAMARCA – COLOMBIA)**

Yesid Aranda Camacho (yvarandac@unal.edu.co)

Laura Carolina Lasso Castelblanco (lclassoc@unal.edu.co)

Women play a crucial role in decisions about food issues at the family and community levels. We analyzed the organizational practices and capacities of rural women from the ASOSEMILLAS to position their agenda in municipal public decision-making, contributing to the construction of pathways toward the governance of local production systems and territorial development. The research adopts a qualitative approach through a case study supported by participatory action research and a gender approach, using participant observation, timelines, and group and semi-structured interviews with public officials to assess the collective capacities of the organization, to guide the analysis and understanding of public affairs, public policies, family farming, and political advocacy, studying the dimensions (relational, political, leadership, and

communication) of the organizational process. The results find uneven development of ASOSEMILLAS collective capacities, despite the organizational and relational capacities sustained by networks of care, cooperation, and sustainable production practices, the political capacities to directly influence public decisions remain limited, particularly due to internal weaknesses associated with the absence of a strategic agenda and stable mechanisms for advocacy and deliberation, as well as institutional and cultural barriers that depoliticize food and devalue women's collective action. Leadership and communication capacities are at an intermediate stage, with leadership based on care, but with limitations in circulation of information, training and leadership transition. Even so, the organization plays an important role in local food supply, in building their own economies, and in promoting food sovereignty practices, although these contributions are not fully recognized as political action by local authorities. It is concluded that strengthening participation of women organization in issues food at the local level depends both on the recognition of them organizations as legitimate actors in the governance of local food systems and on scenarios that tend to reproduce forms of symbolic inclusion without real decision-making power.

Palavras-chave: rural women; gender perspective; family farming; collective capacities; food sovereignty.