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AGROECOLOGY AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE IN RURAL AND METROPOLITAN CONTEXTS: EVIDENCE FROM TWO TERRITORIES IN SÃO PAULO STATE, BRAZIL

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This paper examines how agroecology contributes to the configuration of territorial governance arrangements in contrasting rural and metropolitan contexts. The study is grounded in a qualitative case study by contrast, focusing on two territories in São Paulo State, Brazil: one predominantly rural and one metropolitan. The empirical analysis is situated within the context of the territorial implementation of the State Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production (PEAPO-SP), which provides the policy framework for the cases examined (FAPESP grant numbers 2023/10150-1 and 2024/07001-7). Methodologically, the research adopts a qualitative approach, combining analysis of key policy documents related to PEAPO-SP with participatory territorial workshops conducted with socio-territorial actors. These workshops included moments of

collective discussion and group work, enabling the identification of decision-making arenas, governance arrangements, and forms of coordination mobilized in each territory. Rather than assessing policy outcomes, the analysis focuses on governance processes and interactions among multiple actors and institutional spaces. The findings suggest that agroecology operates less as a sectoral policy domain and more as a multidimensional articulating field, connecting arenas related to food production, land use, environmental governance, public health, social organization, and public policies. In both territories, governance emerges through the activation and rearticulation of pre-existing decision-making arenas by socio-territorial actors, revealing polycentric arrangements of territorial governance. Despite marked territorial differences, common patterns are observed, particularly the strategic reuse of existing institutional spaces and the central role of local actors in shaping governance processes. These findings contribute to broader debates on agroecology and territorial governance by highlighting how agroecological practices and discourses can foster coordination across multiple decision-making centers in diverse territorial contexts.

Palavras-chave: agroecology; territorial governance; polycentric governance; public policies; territory.