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**ORGANIC AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS IN DENMARK AND BRAZIL: A
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES
FACING THE SECTOR**

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In response to global climate change, investments in sustainable production systems have increased significantly. However, organic production models and outcomes vary considerably across nations. This study compares Denmark's organic production system, a global leader, with Brazil's system, which demonstrates substantial potential but encounters significant structural challenges. Through a comprehensive analysis of Brazil's organic agriculture, this research addresses a fundamental question: What barriers restrict the growth of organic production in Brazil? The hypothesis posits that Brazil is caught in a vicious circle of public-private sector interactions that blocks the

expansion of national organic production. The research methodology includes a literature review examining the evolution of Brazilian organic agriculture, spanning pre-recognition periods through post-institutionalization phases. Due to limited statistical data on Brazilian organic production, a qualitative SWOT Analysis was employed to evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Additionally, a factorial space tool using quadrant analysis was developed to test the Virtuous Circle versus Vicious Circle hypothesis across 11 critical success factors. Findings reveal contrasting trajectories: Denmark achieved global prominence through a Virtuous Circle of collaborative public-private interactions, while Brazil's Vicious Circle creates persistent obstacles hindering organic production growth. Denmark's success demonstrates how effective stakeholder coordination can drive sustainable agriculture leadership, whereas Brazil's challenges highlight the consequences of fragmented institutional frameworks. Importantly, identifying these critical limiting factors presents opportunities for transformation. The research provides actionable recommendations for policies and interventions to overcome barriers facing Brazil's organic sector. These insights extend beyond the two countries studied, offering valuable lessons for Latin American and African nations pursuing sustainable agriculture development. This comparative analysis contributes to global efforts advancing sustainable food production systems. By understanding both successful models and existing obstacles, policymakers and stakeholders can implement evidence-based strategies that strengthen organic agriculture frameworks, ultimately supporting international climate change mitigation objectives and promoting environmentally responsible agricultural practices worldwide.

Palavras-chave: organic farming; swot analysis; factorial space; virtuous circle; vicious circle.