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AND WATER WOMEN: CHALLENGES, EXPERIENCES, AND GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVES

**WOMEN IN THE AGRIBUSINESS DEBATE: FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN
THE BRAZILIAN FEDERAL SENATE'S COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

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This article aims to analyze gender representation in the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Committee of the Brazilian Federal Senate by examining the presence, position, and state of origin of senators to investigate regional patterns and gender disparities in a country of continental dimensions. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach based on documentary analysis of official records from the Brazilian Federal Senate. The empirical data refer to the Committee's official composition as of December 18, 2025, and were systematized by distinguishing full and alternate members, identifying their gender, state of origin, and vacant positions. The analysis focuses on regional and gender distribution across different levels of participation and their relation

to decision-making power within the Committee. The results reveal pronounced underrepresentation of women in strategic positions. Of the 17 full membership positions, only one is held by a woman, representing the Northeast Region, while two positions remain vacant. Full membership is overwhelmingly male and concentrated in the North and Center-West regions. Among the 17 alternate members, five are women, distributed across the Center-West and Northeast regions, including the former Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply, Tereza Cristina; three alternate positions are also vacant. Female participation is therefore largely limited to alternate roles, which carry less influence in decision-making processes. These findings indicate that the Committee's gender configuration reproduces structural barriers to women's inclusion in agricultural policymaking. The unequal allocation of institutional positions constrains women's access to core decision-making roles, while male dominance among full members reinforces gender hierarchies in rural legislative processes. The study highlights persistent institutional and cultural obstacles to women's participation in strategic agribusiness arenas, providing empirical evidence for discussions on gender equity in public agricultural governance and informing strategies to enhance female leadership in federal agricultural policymaking.

Palavras-chave: female representation; agricultural policy; women in politics; brazil.