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CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

TOWARDS A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON AGROECOLOGY IN BRAZIL AND CHINA

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This paper is a preliminary comparative examination of the development trajectories of agroecology in China and Brazil against the varied agrarian transformation contexts in both countries. The comparison aims to highlight the dynamics underlying the transitions, or at the very least, the alternative pathways, of food systems, and identify the challenges facing the two countries in the scaling up of agroecology. The contrasting natures of agroecological practices in pre- and post-market reform China requires the paper to adopt a historical lens in China's case and underscore the similar dynamics driving peasants to conduct agroecology in the collective era of China and present Brazil, despite that the involved actors in the state and society in the promotion of agroecology are very different. The paper attempts to show that China and Brazil can share lessons and experiences in the scaling up of agroecology, especially, arguably, because of the distinctive political economic and sociocultural environments. In the fast advances to capitalist industrial

agriculture, China needs to problematize its associated social, economic, and environmental consequences and to reclaim historical legacies in land reform, collective agriculture and agroecological practices. Brazil, on the other hand, faces a more delicate and complicated agrarian question of land, but its long-lasting struggles for food sovereignty embodied in the revolutionary version of agroecology, should be an inspiration for the transformation of food system in China.

Palavras-chave: agroecology; china; brazil; comparative studies; scaling up.