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INNOVATION AND AUTONOMY FOR A NEW AGENDA

YOUTH AND AGROECOLOGY: A FORMATIVE SPACE FOR CONFRONTING PESTICIDES

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The Seminar Youth and Agroecology: in Struggle Against Pesticides aimed to promote a teaching–learning space with and for the youth, focusing on the impacts of pesticides and on agroecology as a tool to confront chemical contamination and climate crisis. The activity took place on August 24, 2023, at the Family Agricultural School, in the municipality of Canguçu, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil bringing together more than 100 participants, including high school, technical, undergraduate, and master students, as well as youth active in spaces of political representation. The seminar was organized by the Youth Working Group of the Brazilian Association of Agroecology, in partnership with the

International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), and was structured through educational moments that included an opening session, group work dynamics, a plenary session, and workshops. The diversity of participants created a multidisciplinary space for dialogue, allowing debates on confronting pesticides to gain concreteness through the contexts and lived experiences of youth. The urgency of incorporating issues such as Law N. 14,785/2023, known as the “Poison Package,” which relaxes regulations and expands the use of pesticides, into the youth’s agenda was highlighted. In this context, the seminar fostered a space in which agroecology, as experienced by youth in their territories, was emphasized as capable of indicating pathways to overcome the challenges imposed by the current agricultural paradigm.

Palavras-chave: pesticide impacts; critical education; youth participation; environmental justice; climate crisis.