

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 23 - RURAL YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: IDENTITIES, TERRITORIAL RESISTANCE, AND THE DILEMMA OF WORK OR MIGRATION

RURAL SUCCESSION EXPERIENCES IN FAMILY FARMING ESTABLISHMENTS IN VALE DO TAQUARI (RS), BRAZIL: CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS AND REASONS TO REMAIN.

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The ageing of the rural population raises concerns about the future of family farming. The aim of this study was to identify and examine experiences of rural succession in Vale do Taquari, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, in order to understand the challenges encountered, solutions sought and motivations of persons who decide to remain in the countryside. The territory studied had 59.5% of the population over 55 years of age, according to data from the Agricultural Census (2017). The research is qualitative and used semi-structured interviews with 21 family farmers, with an emphasis on rural youth and women.

The main challenges identified by the interviewees were climate change; knowledge gaps, lack of defined working hours; low income from the activity and indebtedness; generational conflicts and resistance to innovation; advancing

urbanization; documentary requirements for the legalization of activities; inadequate and/or obsolete equipment; marketing difficulties; difficulty in maintaining a regular supply of production, insecurity and the occurrence of accidents and illnesses in the family. It was also noted that women face additional difficulties, including balancing productive activities with domestic activities, caring for children, the elderly and/or sick or disabled family members, and prejudice against women as property managers (sexism).

The solutions found by family farmers were continuous learning, innovations adapted to the local reality, support networks, digital connections, sustainability, climate adaptation and resilience, the search for alternative sources of income and diversification of activities, and coordination with support institutions, including technical assistance and rural extension services.

The reasons reported for remaining in the countryside were the better quality of life in the countryside; greater interaction with the family; enjoying the work; dialogue and support from family during the succession process; flexible hours; less income volatility compared to salaries; the chance to be an entrepreneur; and preserving the family legacy

Palavras-chave: sucessão rural; mulheres rurais; jovens rurais; permanência no campo; agricultura familiar.