

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 24 - HOW ARE GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS GOVERNED?

**MULTISECTORAL FOOD SYSTEM GOVERNANCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:
AN ANALYSIS OF POLICY INSTRUMENTS PROMOTING SHORT FOOD
SUPPLY CHAINS IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL**

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Short food supply chains (SFSCs) are central to current food system debates as they promote sustainability across different dimensions. The operationalization of SFSCs requires coordination across different policy domains and the collaboration among multiple organizations involved in the implementation of policy instruments focused on food supply. Particularly in urban contexts, where provisioning challenges are amplified, this calls for a multisectoral approach to food system governance, as it defines how conflicting interests and power asymmetries are addressed. Although effective food system governance requires multi-level coordination, municipalities are uniquely positioned to translate global frameworks into context-sensitive interventions. However, literature still lacks systematic analyses of instruments supporting SFSCs.

This research aims to investigate how policy domains and organizations interact to implement multisectoral instruments aimed at the promotion of SFSCs. A case study of the municipality of São Paulo, Brazil, was conducted, employing social network analysis on data collected through semi-structured interviews with 18 strategic actors.

The study reveals that agriculture, environment, and education are core policy domains that connect with multiple areas of expertise, generating a relatively sparse network, whose density of 29% suggests significant room for strengthening cross-domain ties. In addition, the research underscores the relevance of interdepartmental coordination, with multiple partnerships within the local government focusing on SFSCs. The most connected organizations are those specialized in agriculture and school feeding, while the environmental unit is weakly connected, mainly due to the transversality of environmental expertise. The low density of the intersecretarial network (1.3%) indicates that organizational ties are less frequent than domain-level linkages, reflecting the autonomy of administrative structures to manage complex instruments internally, on the one hand, and limited human resources, frequent changes in leadership, and conflicting interests, on the other.

Despite these challenges, instruments supporting SFSCs have been in progress, highlighting the importance of multisector governance in their implementation.

Palavras-chave: alternative food networks; collaboration; food policy; urban agriculture; intersectorality.