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TRANSITIONS IN RURAL TERRITORIES

**CLIMATE CHANGE, FOOD PRACTICES, AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL
TRANSITIONS IN PEASANT RURAL TERRITORIES: EVIDENCE FROM
AGUAZUL, CASANARE (COLOMBIA)**

Nicol Manuela García Gonzalez (nicolmanuelagarciagonzalez@gmail.com)

Cátia Grisa (catiagrisaufrgs@gmail.com)

This paper analyzes how residents of Guáimaro and Guineo (Aguazul, Casanare, Colombia) perceive and respond to climate change through shifts in agricultural production and food practices. From a sociological–anthropological perspective, climate change is treated as a social-ecological crisis that reshapes rural livelihoods and amplifies inequalities. The study draws on fieldwork (2024–2025) and a qualitative design that combines semi-structured and group interviews, participant observation, and thematic coding in NVivo. Thirty-one interview transcripts were analyzed to identify shared narratives, sector-specific impacts and locally grounded adaptation strategies. Findings show a generalized recognition of climatic transformations—irregular rainfall, longer and hotter dry seasons, and more frequent extreme events—usually described through lived experience rather than technical terminology. These changes

disrupt planting calendars and reduce the availability of foods from home plots (e.g., cassava, plantain and fruit trees), while increasing pests, diseases and water stress. In livestock systems, producers report pasture scarcity, heat stress and higher parasite loads; responses include rotational grazing, shade, supplemental feeding and improved water points. Food practices reveal a “forced” dietary transition: reduced self-consumption and growing dependence on purchased foods from the urban market, with an increased presence of processed products and concerns about price, quality and health. Despite these pressures, households sustain resilience through diversified production, home gardens, exchange networks and artisanal processing (e.g., dairy products). Overall, the case illustrates an ongoing socio-ecological transition in which local knowledge and experimentation coexist with structural constraints such as limited assistance, infrastructure and reliable local forecasts. Policies that integrate local knowledge with technical support and address unequal capacities to adapt are crucial for just and effective climate action in rural territories.

Palavras-chave: climate change; rural territories; food practices; agricultural adaptation; colombia.