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**ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE AND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL VULNERABILITIES IN
PERI-URBAN TERRITORIES: THE CASE OF THE SANTA FE
HORTICULTURAL BELT (ARGENTINA)**

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This paper presents the results of a study conducted during 2024 in the Santa Fe Horticultural Belt, a peri-urban area characterized by the predominance of family farming, located in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina. The study is situated within debates on global crises and socio-ecological transitions in peri-urban contexts, approaching these processes through a conception of ecological justice that articulates the guarantee of environmental rights, socio-ecological conditions, disputes over land use, and institutional responses to these challenges.

The research was carried out within the framework of the university extension project *Acampe por una justicia ecológica* (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina), which integrates teaching, research, and extension activities. In this context, 789 surveys were conducted in the town of Monte Vera, Santa Fe, Argentina, aimed at capturing perceptions, experiences, and demands related to socio-ecological problems and the exercise of environmental rights. Among the problems identified are water contamination, the presence of informal dumping sites, pesticide spraying, and changes in land use, particularly urbanization processes driven by the subdivision of land previously devoted to horticultural production and the consequent reduction of the Horticultural Belt as a strategic space for family farming.

These findings reveal a gap between the recognition of environmental rights and the state capacities available to guarantee them in the territory. This gap is explained by the convergence of socio-ecological vulnerabilities and institutional limitations that constrain both state action and the possibilities for claim-making and rights enforcement by local populations. Thus, access to ecological justice is understood in a broad sense, as a process that goes beyond formal complaint mechanisms and involves capacities for public intervention, social participation, and institutional response in contexts of crisis and socio-ecological transition.

Palabras-chave: ecological justice; socio-ecological vulnerabilities; peri-urban territories; family farming; environmental rights.