

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 39 - TERRITORIAL MARKETS AS SPACES OF VALUE

**AGROECOLOGICAL ETHOS AND THE RURAL–URBAN INTERFACE IN
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND RURAL SUCCESSION: EVIDENCE FROM
RECIFE, BRAZIL**

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This paper examines how the agroecological ethos constructed in urban farmers' markets in Recife, Brazil, may influence rural youth engagement and contribute to rural succession, emphasizing the role of the rural–urban interface in these processes. Grounded in Figurational Sociology and gift theory, the study conceptualizes agroecological markets as relational arenas situated at the intersection of rural territories and urban life. The analysis is based on qualitative empirical material collected in 2019 for a doctoral research, combined with a reflexive and theoretically informed reanalysis conducted in 2024–2025. This reanalysis applies perspectives from spatiality and environmental psychology to reinterpret interviews, questionnaires, documentary sources, and social cartographies from three agroecological markets located in different urban areas of Recife. The findings indicate that these markets function as interface zones that mediate relations between rural production and urban consumption, offering visibility, recognition, and social legitimacy to agroecological practices. For rural

youth, engagement in this rural–urban interface fosters identity formation, protagonism, and renewed meanings of rural life, contributing to the symbolic and spatial conditions of succession. However, the study also reveals persistent constraints, including economic instability, limited youth-focused public policies, and the attraction of urban education and employment opportunities. The paper concludes that rural succession should be understood as a socio-spatial process shaped by the rural–urban interface, in which continuity in agriculture depends not only on productive transmission but also on the capacity of agroecological markets to reconfigure youth-territory-city relations.

Palavras-chave: agroecology; farmers' markets; rural–urban interface; rural youth; rural succession.