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AGRIFOOD JUSTICE IN TERRITORIAL FOOD SYSTEMS

**THE ROLE OF POLITICS AND POWER IN SHAPING SUSTAINABLE
TRANSITIONS IN FOOD SYSTEMS**

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Our research explores the challenges of achieving sustainable transitions in food systems, emphasizing the role of politics and power. Despite decades of research and activism, structural change in food systems has remained limited due to entrenched power dynamics that favor a small group of transnational agribusiness corporations, which in Latin America often act in alliance with large landowners. The study highlights the use of the Multi-Level Perspective (MLP) as an analytical framework for understanding sustainability transitions, but criticizes its limitations in addressing political and power relations. By incorporating neo-Gramscian concepts, the article examines how incumbent

regimes resist change and co-opt niche innovations. Based on an emblematic case, the Agricultural Parliamentary Front (Frente Parlamentar da Agropecuária – FPA), a powerful multiparty bloc in the Brazilian National Congress, the research mobilizes neo-Gramscian concepts to interpret the strategies used by incumbent actors to block, constrain, and co-opt the scaling up of niche-level innovations that could threaten their hegemony. It argues that understanding the strategies of dominant actors is essential for fostering more equitable and sustainable food systems. The article concludes by calling for the integration of these political dimensions into research and practice in order to support transformative structural change in agri-food systems.

Palavras-chave: power; gramsci; hegemony agroecology; politics.