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**MAPPING SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS IN BRAZIL'S NATIONAL
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM: AN ANALYSIS OF SPATIAL EXTENSION IN
LOCAL PROCUREMENT (2013-2022)**

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The Brazil's National School Feeding Program (PNAE) is an innovative public policy that prioritizes local purchases from formal groups of family farmers (cooperatives and associations), established by law in 2009. However, there is currently no evidence available regarding its effectiveness in fostering local purchasing. This study analyzes the effectiveness of PNAE in promoting local purchases from family farmers over a decade (2013-2022), investigating whether the legal prioritization of formal groups paradoxically encourages spatially extended supply chains (long distance) as opposed to proximate supply

chains (local). Based on the theoretical framework of Short Food Supply Chains (SFSCs), Proximate SFSCs (within the municipality) were empirically differentiated from Spatially Extended SFSCs (interstate). The quantitative analysis used administrative data from all Brazilian municipalities, focusing on purchases from formal groups (representing ~80% of the procurement value). Purchases were classified as “extended” if the food originated in a federative state other than that of the analyzed municipality. Data limitations made it impossible to identify the origin of individual suppliers, which may underestimate local purchases. A strong and increasing trend of Spatially Extended SFSCs was identified, with marked regional heterogeneity. The Southern Region showed the most significant growth, increasing from 13% (2013) to 38% (2022) of interstate purchases. The Southeast, Midwest, and Northeast showed moderate or stable levels, while the Northern region remained below 2%, due to complex logistics. The results confirm that the current design of the PNAE, by prioritizing formal groups, has mainly promoted extended chains in regions with developed organizational and logistical capacity, often for non-perishable processed products. The study highlights the need for future research to assess whether the policy can be improved to better balance extended chains with the strengthening of local and territorially rooted food networks.

Palavras-chave: public food procurement; school feeding; food systems; family farming; short food supply chains.