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QUALITY ASSURANCE AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES BEYOND
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**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL YOUTH IN THE
TRANSITION TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY IN THE
COLOMBIAN AMAZON**

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The transition toward a sustainable bioeconomy has become a strategic axis for Amazonian territories such as Guaviare, where biodiversity, culture, and local economies converge in productive practices that seek a balance between conservation and well-being. However, an analytical gap persists regarding the role that rural youth play in this transition and the challenges they face in integrating, leading, or transforming local bioeconomic models.

This study, currently in its implementation phase, aims to understand how rural youth in the Colombian Amazon experience, interpret, and construct

bioeconomy in their everyday lives, identifying the challenges, barriers, and opportunities they encounter in the sustainable use of biological resources and their integration with local territorial dynamics. The research proposes to analyze the articulation between traditional knowledge, intergenerational learning, youth-driven innovation, and regulatory frameworks.

The methodology combines a documentary review, an analysis of bioeconomy approaches in Latin America, and a qualitative component based on semi-structured interviews and life histories of significant experiences. These productive practices reveal tensions related to limited economic capital, administrative procedures to comply with sanitary, environmental, and marketing regulations, restricted access to markets, and, at the same time, insufficient capacities for value addition, forest conservation, and community leadership. The study also plans to incorporate the perspectives of youth organizations to broaden the territorial and collective understanding of the transition process.

This research, still in its implementation phase, contributes to understanding bioeconomy as a social process beyond a purely productive approach, highlighting how rural youth emerge as strategic actors capable of addressing challenges, fostering innovation, and promoting sustainability in transforming Amazonian territories.

Palavras-chave: youth; bioeconomy; territoriality; amazon; sustainability.