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**SMALL-SCALE FAMILY FARMING BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY: A COMPARATIVE
PERSPECTIVE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE**

Heris Coutinho Vieira (vieira.heris@gmail.com)

Small-scale family farming occupies a central position in contemporary debates on food security, environmental sustainability, and adaptation to climate change. However, this segment exhibits a high degree of diversity in organizational forms, productive strategies, and social relations, shaped by distinct institutional, territorial, and sociocultural contexts. Such heterogeneity gives family farming strong analytical relevance for comparative approaches within rural sociology. This study examines, from a comparative perspective, the compatibility between environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, strategies of integration into alternative and localized food systems, and the economic viability of family farming, with a focus on the Brazilian case in dialogue with empirical evidence from Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. It seeks to understand the extent to which these strategies contribute to the socioeconomic resilience of family farming units and to their capacity to adapt to climate change. Methodologically, the study is based on an integrative systematic review of the international

literature, bringing together empirical quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies that simultaneously address economic, environmental, and sociological dimensions of family farming. The analysis considers indicators of income, productive diversification, and access to public policies, as well as sustainable management practices, climate adaptation strategies, and participation in alternative food networks, including local markets, short food supply chains, and agroecological systems. The results reveal substantial heterogeneity across regions and production systems. In several contexts, sustainable practices associated with diversification and integration into localized food systems are compatible with economic viability and enhance the resilience of farming families. Nonetheless, significant challenges remain in contexts marked by climate vulnerability, institutional constraints, and market asymmetries. It is concluded that the compatibility between environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation, and the economic viability of family farming is strongly context-dependent, highlighting the importance of territorially sensitive public policies and comparative approaches to sustainable rural development

Palavras-chave: family farming; environmental sustainability; climate change; alternative food systems; comparative analysis.