

Food Policy in Brazil: Successful Strategies in Combating Hunger

Cecilia Rocha, PhD

Centre for Studies in Food Security

School of Nutrition, Ryerson University, Canada

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Why Brazil?

- Brazil is on track to achieve the MDG
- Bold and innovative policies – investing in social programmes as a development strategy
- New forms of governance for food security – diverse channels for collaboration between government and civil society organizations

Key issues for reflection

- How governments (parliaments/congresses/city councils) can address the comprehensive, systemic nature of hunger and food insecurity
- The design of basic safety-net policies which, at the same time, include structural change components
- The development and institutionalization of participatory models of governance

The Zero Hunger Strategy

I - Food access

- Bolsa Familia (BF)
- National School Meals Programme (PNAE)
- Food for Specific Groups
- Rainwater Cisterns
- Popular Restaurants and Community Kitchens
- Food Banks
- Urban Agriculture
- Food and Nutrition Surveillance System
- Distribution of Vitamin A
- Distribution of Iron
- Food and Nutrition for Indigenous People
- FN Education for Consumption
- Promotion of Healthy Habits/Healthy Diets
- Workers Food Programme (PAT)
- Basic Food Basket Tax Reduction

II - Strengthening family agriculture

- National Programme for Family Agriculture (PRONAF)
- Harvest Insurance
- Family Farming Agriculture Insurance
- Food Procurement Programme (PAA)

III - Income generation

- Social and Professional Training
- Solidarity Economy and Productive Inclusion
- Food Security and Local Development Consortium
- Food and Nutrition Security Organisation
- Cooperatives of Recyclable Material Collectors
- Guided Productive Micro-credit

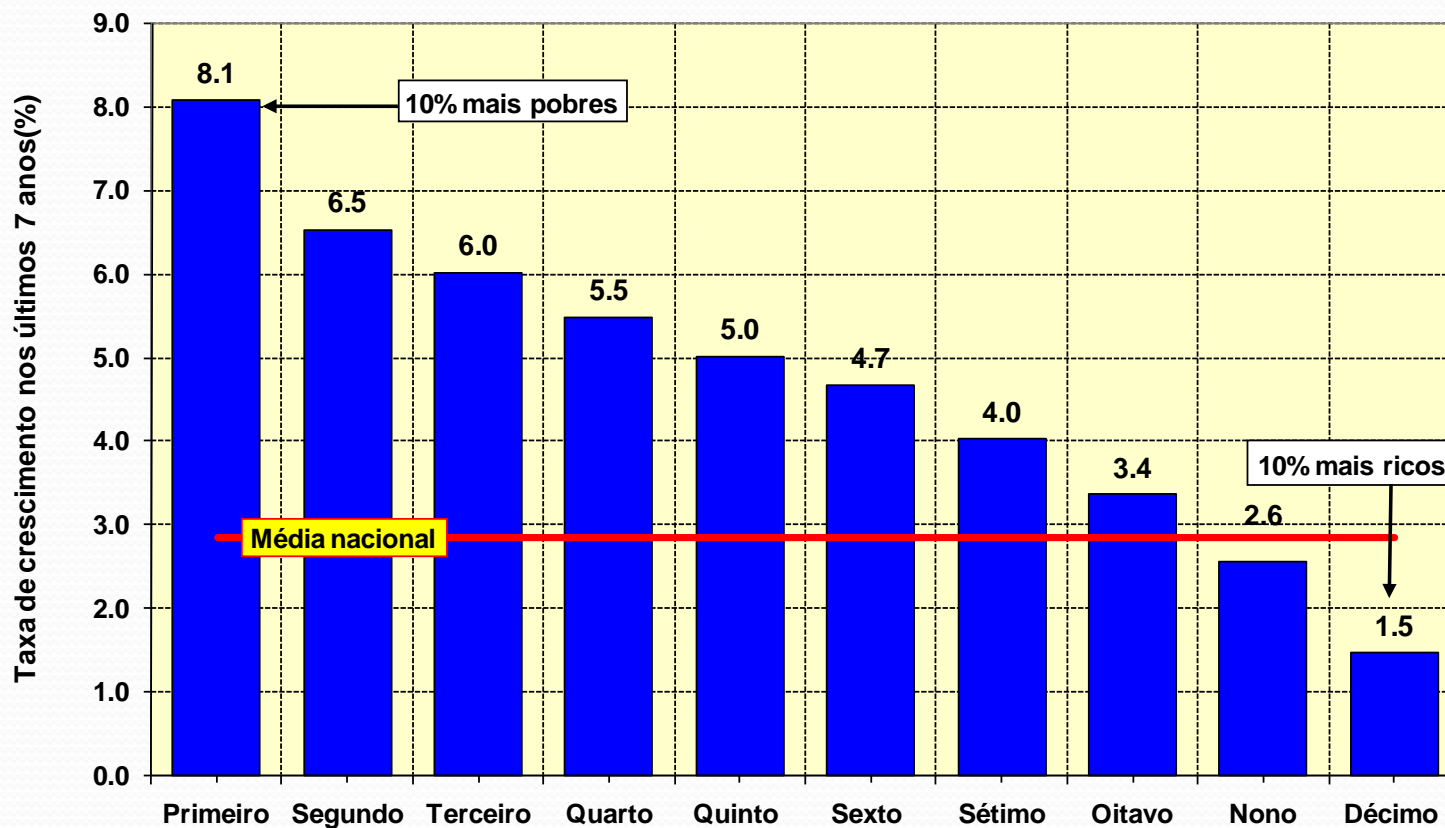
IV - Partnership and civil society mobilisation

- Social Assistance Reference Centre
- Social Mobilisation and Citizenship Education
- Social and Public Agents Capacity Building
- Volunteer Work and Donations
- Partnership with Private Sector and NGOs
- Social Development Councils

Bolsa Familia (Family Grant)

- Conditional cash-transfer programme
- Conditions related to children's education and health
- Highly targeted (families in situation of poverty or extreme poverty)
- Reaches 12 million families (48 million people – a quarter of the country's population)
- Responsible for a 19% reduction in poverty severity; 21% fall in the Gini (inequality) index
- 75% of transfers are spent on food

Taxa anual de crescimento da renda domiciliar per capita por decimos da distribuição: Brasil, 2001 a 2008



School Meals Programme

- Federal funds for school meals to children in the public school system
- Covered 47 million children in 2009
- Main objectives:
 - Cover 15% of children's daily nutritional needs
 - Foster healthy food habits
 - Improve children's learning capacity
 - Promotion and preservation of local food habits
 - Support for local food production

Support for family agriculture

- PRONAF: agricultural credit, crop insurance, technical assistance
 - 1.8 million family farms benefiting from this programme
- Food Procurement Programme (PAA): promotes direct crop and milk purchases by the government
 - 118,000 farmers benefiting from this programme

National Council for Food and Nutrition Security -- CONSEA

- Established as a tool for communication between government (and congress) and civil society
- Advisory body to the President
- Two-thirds of representatives from civil society and private sector; one-third from government
- Most significant accomplishment: the National Law on Food and Nutrition Security (LOSAN)

LOSAN

- Passed by the Brazilian Congress in 2006
- Article 1 “establishes definitions, principles, guidelines, objectives and composition of the National System for Food and Nutrition Security – SISAN – through which the State, with the participation of organised civil society, will formulate and implement policies, plans, programmes and actions towards ensuring the human right to adequate food”.
- Congress members are now discussing adding the Right to Food in the constitution

Challenges

- Supply-side impediments
- Lack of information and knowledge among small-scale farmers
- Lack of appropriate training and education among potential representatives from civil society and the public sector
- Continuing inequalities in access to resources and public goods and services

Factors in Sustainability

- Institutionalisation of food and nutrition security as the responsibility of the state
- Development of a participatory model of governance – institutionalisation of collaboration between the public sector (members of government and congress) and civil society
- Consolidation of a systemic view of the hunger and food insecurity issue



Municipal policy: Belo Horizonte

- The beginning
- Main Programs
- Partnerships
- Challenges
- Values, Trust, Legitimacy

Brazil



Basic Stats

- Belo Horizonte:
 - Capital of the state of Minas Gerais
 - Population: 2.5 million (over 5 million in the greater metropolitan area)
 - 59.2% drop in Infant Mortality Rate:
35.3 in 1993; 14.4 in 2005
 - High HDI (over 0.8) in 2007
 - High inequality: Gini index = 0.61 (2005)

Belo Horizonte



The Beginning

- 1993: New coalition government led by the Workers Party (PT) – Mayor Patrus Ananias
- Creation of the Municipal Secretariat for Food Policy and Supply (SMAAB)
 - Centralize/coordinate food programs

Lines of Work

1. Subsidized Food Sales (Popular Restaurants; Popular Food Basket)
2. Food and Nutrition Assistance (School Meals; Preventing and Fighting Malnutrition; Food Bank)
3. Supply and Regulation of Markets (Abastecer; Worker's Convoy; Straight from the Country; Basic Basket Research; Farmers Markets)
4. Support to Urban Agriculture
5. Education for Food Consumption
6. Job and Income Generation

Popular Restaurants

- 4 Popular Restaurants (1994, 2004, 2008, 2009)
- Prices:
 - Lunch: R\$1.00 (US\$0.45)
 - Breakfast: R\$0.25 (US\$0.11)
 - Soup: R\$0.50 (US\$0.22)
- Serve over 20,000 meals per day
- Patrons range from families to students to homeless people to retired bank clerks

Popular Restaurants



Typical Lunch Meal





School Meals Program

- Served 40 million meals to 155 thousand students in 218 public schools (2007).
- Federal funding per child/day = R\$0.22 (for food)
- Municipal government covers all other costs (infrastructure and personnel)

School Meals Program



Food Bank

- Founded in 2004
- Partnership with Municipal Secretariat for Urban Sanitation
- Selects, cleans and vacuum freezes perishable foods for distribution
- Can only distribute to charitable organizations and social service agencies (not individuals) for preparation of communal meals

Food Bank



Abastecer/Worker's Convoy

- Commercial outlets licensed with the city
- 20-25 items have the price (one price/kg for all items) set by the city (20-50% below market)
- SMAAB also monitors quality/safety
- Worker's Convoy are mobile (trucks or vans) required to serve low-income areas on weekends

Abastecer



Straight from the Country and The Country Store

- Main goal: help rural families to establish themselves in the countryside, halting rural-urban migration
- 2008: 34 producers from 8 surrounding rural municipalities

Straight from the Country



Partnership with Federal Government

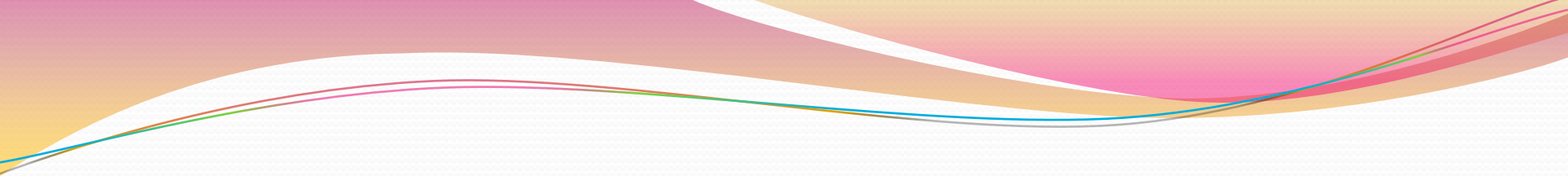
- Zero Hunger (*Fome Zero*) strategy
- Family Grant (*Bolsa Familia*) Program
- School Meals
- Food Procurement Program

Challenges

- Extreme inequality
- Overweight and obesity
- Partnerships: Food policies and programs still viewed as complementary and “expendable”
- SMAAB’s programs have never accounted for more than 2% of municipal budget

Values, Trust, Legitimacy

- Right to Food as basis for policy
- Food insecurity as market failures
- Food security as public good
- Alternative food system created and maintained by government action
- System free of corruption, and offering high quality products and good service
- Social justice as central motivation

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- *“Our secret is the ethics in our work, respect for the people we serve, a philosophy of work dedicated to the neediest population of the city, those who never had access or rights to anything... We wanted to show something new, something which would be ahead of its time from a social and democratic perspective. And this was something innovative, not only for the city, but for all of Brazil. We wanted to show the country that it was possible to do something of this nature, a good public enterprise”. (Carlos Henrique, Manager of the Popular Restaurant Program)*

Questions/ More information

Cecilia Rocha (crocha@ryerson.ca)

Centre for Studies in Food Security
(www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity)