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Scientific Dissemination and Public Policies: Communication Strategies for Providing Evidence in the Formulation of Brazil's National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production

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Strategies of scientific dissemination can play a crucial role in bridging the gap between research and policymaking by facilitating the transfer of knowledge to decision-makers. In Brazil, however, the dialogue between policymakers and scientists remains limited, constraining the systematic use of high-quality scientific evidence in the formulation of public policies. However, some models stand out as positive examples, such as the Brazilian National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production (PNAPO), first established in 2012 and updated in 2023, which emerged from long-term collaboration between social movements, academia, and government. The use of scientific evidence in policy formulation is crucial not only for effective implementation but also for the sustainability, monitoring, and continuous improvement of such policies. The more robust the knowledge base underlying a policy, the greater its potential for successful implementation and impact. In the case of PNAPO, the governance model employed in its development -which combined social participation, intersectoral coordination, the articulation of social movements, and decades of accumulated knowledge - was a fundamental factor in the policy's success. In this context, this research aims to analyze the scientific dissemination strategies employed to provide scientific evidence for the formulation of the National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Production (PNAPO). To this end, government documents and institutional records documenting the policy's development were analyzed. The main findings indicate that the policy's success was grounded in a dialogical approach, which facilitated the incorporation of evidence produced by diverse research institutions, including the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), and federal and state universities, as well as reports from international organizations such as the FAO, inputs from national councils, the National Articulation of Agroecology (ANA), agroecology networks, and traditional knowledge contributed by civil society movements.

Biography

Cristiane Hengler Corrêa Bernardo is Associate Professor at the School of Sciences and Engineering, São Paulo State University (Unesp), with a PhD in Education; master's degree in Communication, and a bachelor's in Journalism. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Science Communication at Dartmouth College, USA, and has extensive experience in research, teaching, and public engagement with science. Research interests: rural development; scientific dissemination; rural communication; public policies.

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