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### **Article**

Contemporary public policies to strengthen family farming in the international perspective: A bibliometric study

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Review

# Contemporary Public Policies to Strengthen Family Farming in the International Perspective: A Bibliometric Study

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Abstract: Family farming produces most of the fresh food consumed in large urban centers. However, its success depends on a variety of public policies, which range from strengthening the means of production to supporting marketing channels. In this article, we conduct a careful bibliometric analysis of studies in the international literature that address "family farming, public policies, and socioeconomic development". The aim of the study is to identify and classify the public policies aimed at supporting family farming and socioeconomic development. We carried out a systematic literature review considering five international scientific journal databases using pairs of the keywords "public policies", "family farming" and "socioeconomic development". The resulting sample was a total of 625 articles, covering the period between 1984 and 2020. A bibliometric analysis of the first 50 articles selected by the Methodi Ordinatio tool was performed. For the final portfolio, 10 variables were analyzed to better assess and understand the current literature. Our analysis shows an increase in publications in the last five years, with articles from South America being more prevalent than those from other continents. Brazil being one of the key countries that has developed public policies aimed at family farming and rural socioeconomic development.

**Keywords:** family agriculture; public policies; socioeconomic development; Methodi Ordinatio; bliometry



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# 1. Introduction

Based on analyses on the emergence and evolution of family farming, the importance of this segment of rural producers began to be recognized in the 1970s and gained strength from the 1990s onwards [1–3] Contrary to the reductionist idea that family farming is associated only with subsistence production, recent data from the United Nations (UN) indicate that family farming is responsible for 80% of the production of food consumed in large urban centers worldwide, encompassing about 500 million rural producers and corresponding to approximately 90% of the world's agricultural properties [4].

This scenario underscores the importance of family agriculture, especially in terms of feeding the world's population and of sustainability development. According to [5], family farming is now seen as having several functions beyond the social, economic, environmental, and income generating potential in rural and local economies, playing an important role in the preservation of traditional foods and agrobiodiversity. Furthermore, recently family farming has also begun to be recognized for its role in food security [6,7]. However, for family-run agriculture to persist in today's extremely competitive and globalized world, it must adapt to market requirements and organize regionally through the formation of associations and cooperatives, so that together, farmers can strengthen their position and

achieve common goals. Through cooperation, farmers can gain access to credit lines with lower interest rates, market their products more profitably, and formalize their agricultural ventures [8–10].

The year 2014 was considered the International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations (UN). It is important to do the reflection about the family farming situation, focusing on food security, sustainability, and economic development. Family farming has great diversity among the countries in global terms. They have also different agricultural systems and political profiles; all these differences are a challenge to creating public policies, aimed at global food and nutrition security [11–13].

In Brazil, the creation of public policies aimed at the socioeconomic development of family farming began with the declaration of the Constitution in 1988, creating a milestone that brought about important changes and enabled the effective implementation of public policies from the 1990s onwards [14]. At that time, family-run rural properties in Brazil needed help to survive. It was with this in mind that in 1995 Resolution No. 2191 of the National Monetary Council of Brazil (CMN) established the National Program to Strengthen Family Agriculture (Programa Nacional de Fortalecimento da Agricultura Familiar; PRONAF), instituted the following year through Decree No. 1946 of 1996. To date, PRONAF is a key reference for family agriculture policies around the world [15].

The implementation of public policies must be seen as a tool to support economic development. For family farmers, public policies help to improve their quality of life and establish connections with other economic actors, improving productive cycles, inputs, raw materials, and final products [16,17].

Brazil currently has several programs and public policies that encourage and strengthen family agriculture. However, it was only at the end of the 20th century that family farming underwent major changes, where several programs were developed and modeled after PRONAF, including: Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER); Food Acquisition Program (PAA); National School Food Program (PNAE); National Land Credit Program (PNCF); Growth Acceleration Program (PAC2); Unified Animal Health Care System (SUASA); Terra Forte; along with a range of national programs directed at property legalization, land registration and land tenure regularization, the production and use of biodiesel, and crop insurance [14].

In this context, public policies are vitally important for family farmers as they offer the support necessary to consolidate groups of producers, maintain their activities in rural areas, and diversify production [14]. Since these public policies have a social focus and aim to reduce social inequalities and poverty, they help generate new jobs and increase rural income levels, as much of the rural population has limited professional qualifications.

Public Policies can come to contribute to family farming, they are a way to promote rural development and global socioeconomic development. The objective of present study is to identify and classify the public policies aimed at supporting family farming and socioeconomic development. We provide information that to serve as support for associations or government agencies to verify and establish effective strategies to foster the development of family agriculture at the municipal and regional levels. For academia and society, this study not only consolidates a large amount of information and demonstrates the growing importance of the theme, but it also offers relevant, in-depth scientific information in an accessible way.

### 2. Materials and Methods

This study consists of a systematic review of articles listed in selected databases, applying a bibliometric approach to obtain statistical data on the topic. This descriptive and exploratory research had the following objectives: contribute to the enrichment of the theoretical framework; analyze the scientific production that correlates with family farming, public policies, and socioeconomic development; use quantitative Scientometric methods to define a portfolio; and qualitatively analyze the articles identified in the bibliographic search [18–20].

To identify the portfolio of scientific articles, the Methodi Ordinatio was used. This bibliometric analysis methodology is used to help researchers obtain bibliometric data related to the topics of interest [21–23]. According to [24], through the InOrdination Formula (1), the Methodi Ordinatio employs three parameters to filter articles for relevance: year of publication; number of citations; and impact factor. With these parameters applied in the equation, it is possible to determine the scientific relevance of the articles.

InOrdination = (IF/1000) + 
$$\alpha \times [10 - (ResearchYear - PublishYear)] + (Ci)$$
 (1)

where IF refers to the impact factor [25], divided by 1000 to normalize the value;  $\alpha$  is the assigned weight, from 1 to 10, for the year of publication, with a greater weight/importance given to newer articles; and Ci is the number of times the article has been cited.

A search was performed considering titles, keywords, and abstracts of scientific articles listed in five databases (Scopus (Elsevier), ScienceDirect (Elsevier), Web of Science, OASIS.BR, and SciELO). Three keywords were used in pairs to identify the sample: "public policies", "family farming", and "socioeconomic development". After identifying all relevant articles in the databases, they were imported to the Zotero (https://www.zotero.org, accessed on 10 May 2020) reference manager, which was used to exclude duplicates. JabRef (https://www.jabref.org, accessed on 10 May 2020) was used to convert the data from HTML format to a spreadsheet and export to Microsoft Excel. Figure 1 shows the steps of this research, based on the Methodi Ordinatio.

The InOrdination method, represented in Figure 1, is divided into nine stages. The first steps are the general definition of the study, selection of keywords and search in databases (1, 2, 3, 4). Step 5 consists of applying the filters to the initial portfolio. (Deleting duplicate articles, deleting books, exclusion of articles not compatible with the scope of work, deleting articles with restricted access.) Steps 6, 7, and 8, consists of collecting the necessary data from the articles (year of publication, impact factor, and number of citations), for later application in InOrdination, after delimiting the quantity and order of the articles, they are found to perform the last step 9, which is the final reading and systematic analysis of the articles.

To calculate the InOrdination, (step 7) information on the year of publication, impact factor of the journal, and number of citations were recorded. The impact factor was obtained from the Journal Citation Report [25], which offers a means of evaluating the quality of scientific production around a theme [26]. The number of citations for each article was identified using Google Scholar (https://scholar.google.com.br/, accessed on 15 July 2020) and the year of publication by importing data from JabRef. According to [27], citations are what formally connect one publication to another in terms of content.

Data processing was performed using the UCINET (https://sites.google.com/site/ucinetsoftware/home, accessed on 18 May 2021) software [28,29]. For this, three indicators were obtained in the UCINET program: Betweenness, Degree, and Indegree. According to [30], the degree of intermediation of the network (Betweenness) measures how much a given author connects with other authors in the network. In other words, it is the flow that passes through one author to interconnect with other authors in the network via the shortest path, attributing importance as a function of the flow. A greater value for centrality of intermediation given to an author, directly or indirectly established in the network, is related to the publications that are connected to the author. The Degree refers to the connections established by an author with other authors in the network, representing the actor's power in the network. Indegree is the connections established by the various members of a certain group with an author, representing the author's prestige [31].

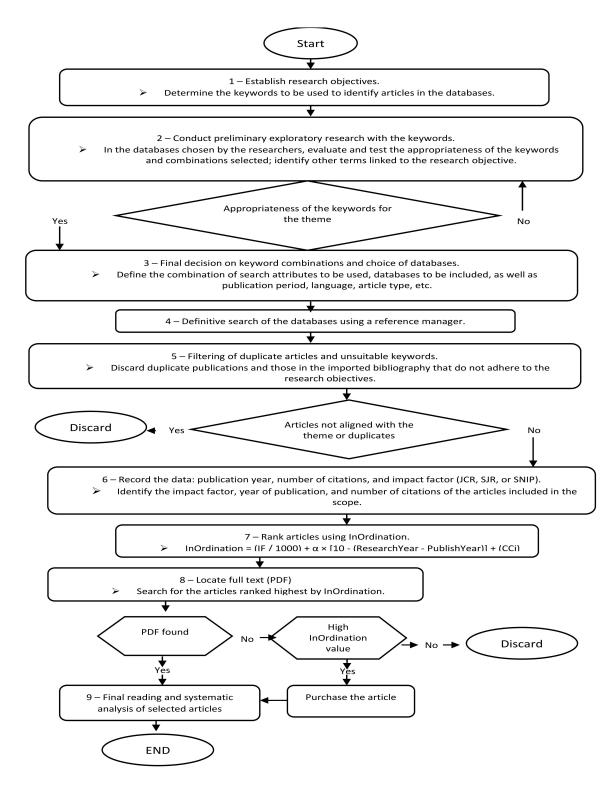


Figure 1. Workflow of the Methodi Ordinatio. Source: adapted from Pagani, Resende, and Kovaleski (2015).

The systematic analysis of the articles in the portfolio was performed considering the following variables:

- 1. Year of publication;
- 2. Number of publications per journal;
- 3. Citations per article;
- 4. Nationality of authors and co-authors;
- 5. Countries of origin of the articles (considering the nationality of the first author);

- 6. Author and co-author connection network;
- 7. Author and co-author citation network;
- 8. Analysis of the keywords;
- 9. Article format;
- 10. Analysis of the article focus.

To create profiles for the authors who publish on the topic, each author received a researcher code that was used in the following analyses (Appendix A).

# 3. Analysis

The search on the five databases provided a total of 625 articles, published between the years 1984 and 2020 (Table 1). Articles from Scopus and SciELO accounted for more than 80% of the total number of articles identified at this initial stage. We applied some filters (Table 1) for the selection of the portfolio papers in which the systematic reading and analysis was carried out. The first filter was applied to exclude duplicate articles, leaving 443 articles. A second filter discarded books, book chapters, and event summaries, leaving 434 articles. In the third filter, articles that were outside the scope of this study were excluded, after which 130 articles remained. In the fourth filter, articles with restricted access were discarded, for a total of 110 articles with free open access. The InOrdination index was calculated for these 110 articles, to identify the 50 most scientifically relevant articles related to family farming, public policies, and socioeconomic development (Appendix B), making up the portfolio analyzed in this study.

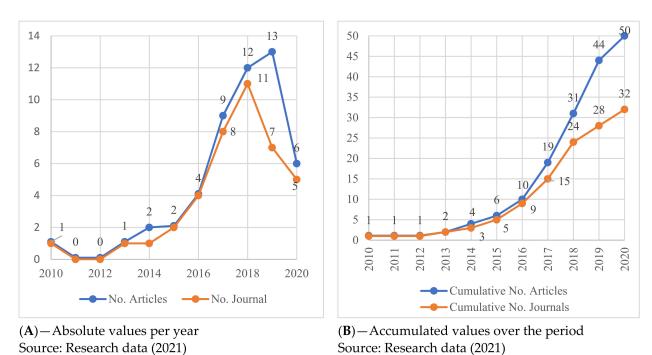
**Table 1.** Steps followed to achieve the final portfolio.

	Database							
Combination of Search Words	Scopus (Elsevier)	ScienceDirect (Elsevier)	Web of Science	OASIS.BR	SciELO			
"public policies" AND "family farming"	137	23	55	9	133			
"socioeconomic development" AND "family farming"	12	0	1	0	15			
"public policies" AND "socioeconomic development"	50	9	12	3	166			
TOTAL PER DATABASE	199	32	68	12	314			
TOTAL			625					
Total articles after filter 1			443					
Total articles after filter 2			434					
Total articles after filter 3			130					
Total articles after filter 4			110					
Methodi Ordinatio			50					
FINAL PORTIFOLIO *			50					

Source: research data (2021). Notes: Filter 1: Exclusion of duplicate articles; Filter 2: exclusion of books; Filter 3: exclusion of articles beyond the scope; Filter 4: exclusion of articles with restricted access; \* articles selected using the Methodi Ordinatio.

In Figure 2, the number of journals and articles identified as the most relevant by the Methodi Ordinatio are represented in chronological order, covering the period from 2010 to 2020. These 50 articles were published in a total of 32 different journals, with 88% (44) published in 27 journals over the last five years. Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural had the most published articles (11 in total), followed by Mundo Agrário and Sustainability with three articles each, and Land Use Policy, Interações, Espacios, and Latin American Research Review with two articles each. The other 25 journals had only

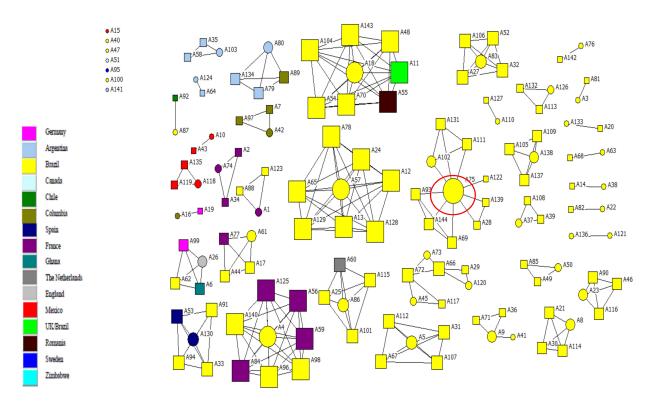
one publication on the subject. The growth in the number of studies in different journals demonstrates the increasing importance of the theme of public policies for the development of family farming.



**Figure 2.** Chronological profile of publications identified as most relevant by the Methodi Ordinatio, represented in absolute (**A**) and cumulative (**B**) values. Note: 2B the journals are counted only the first time it appears.

The 50 publications in the portfolio are authored by a total of 144 researchers, from 16 different countries spanning four continents, with authors from only 10 countries publishing as first author (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Sweden, France, Canada, Spain, Colombia, and England), and the other six countries represented through co-authors (Zimbabwe, Ghana, Romania, UK, Netherlands, and Germany). In Figure 3, the nationality and the collaboration networks established between these 144 authors is shown. Authors from developing countries in South America appear to have produced the most relevant scientific studies related to the themes of family farming, public policy, and socioeconomic development (over 80% of publications), while authors from Europe represent approximately 12%, North America approximately 6%, and the African continent just over 1%.

Figure 3 represents the network of connections for publications established between these 144 authors, showing a total of 449 interactions. From this, we can see that seven studies (14%) are publications by individual authors and the other 43 are collaborations between two or more authors. These publishing partnerships were considered as research centers. Using this criterion, 36 research centers were identified, where 12 studies (24%) are publications in pairs and 31 (62%) had the participation of three or more authors. Three articles were written by eight authors. Among these 36 identified research centers, Brazil stands out as the country with the most in relation to the number of authors, publications, and international connections for scientific production. Brazilian researchers account for approximately 70% of the total number of authors, and they are present in almost 78% of the identified research centers. More than half (55%) of these research centers are composed exclusively of Brazilian researchers. The other 22% of research centers that include Brazilian researchers developed their work in collaboration with researchers from nine other countries (Holland, France, Spain, England, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Romania, United Kingdom, and Chile).



**Figure 3.** Connection map of publications between authors. Circles indicate first author and squares indicate other authors.

Among the 50 studies in the portfolio, 38 (76%) have at least one Brazilian author. The article with the greatest diversity of authors includes authors from England, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Brazil, who together published a single study. Furthermore, 56% of the other countries that published on the subject established partnerships with researchers from Brazil.

Regarding the other 12 studies (24%), they originate from seven countries that published their research without collaboration with Brazilian researchers. Of these, eight (22%) represent research centers and four are from individual authors (Figure 3). These studies were carried out exclusively by researchers from Sweden, Canada, France, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Germany. Among these countries, interactions between authors from Colombia, Argentina, and Germany were identified, while authors from Mexico published studies only among researchers within their own country. Canada and Sweden only published single author studies (A51 and A95).

In Figure 3, we highlight four research centers, represented as larger than the others, in which the main author is Brazilian. Of these centers, two are composed exclusively of Brazilian researchers, the largest including 10 authors and the other eight authors. A third group is composed mostly of Brazilian researchers (75%) together with researchers from Romania and the UK. The fourth research nucleus consists of eight researchers, half of which are Brazilian and the other half French. For one of these highlighted collaborative research centers, a red circle was drawn around the author that UCINET attributed the highest score for the indicator Degree. This author, Cátia Grisa (A75), was given a value of 9 for Degree, with a network intermediation (Betweenness) score of 29. This researcher is the first author in three of the four publications listed in the portfolio, all of which were conducted in partnership with other Brazilian authors.

From the analysis of the citation network presented in Figure 4, we found 883 interconnections between the 144 authors and co-authors of the 50 articles in the final portfolio. The two most cited articles had 268 and 61 citations, respectively, and were classified in order of importance as first and second by the Methodi Ordinatio. Both articles were published in the Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural by Brazilian researchers (Grisa and Schneider,

2014; Souza-Esquerdo and Bergamasco, 2014). The third most cited article was published in World Development by an author from the UK, with 59 citations (Cabral et al., 2016). At the other end of the scale, there are 13 articles in the portfolio (26%) that have not yet been cited, published between 2018 and 2020. Thirteen studies (26%) distributed between the years 2017 and 2019 were cited less than five times, while another 11 (22%), published between 2017 and 2019, were cited between five and ten times.

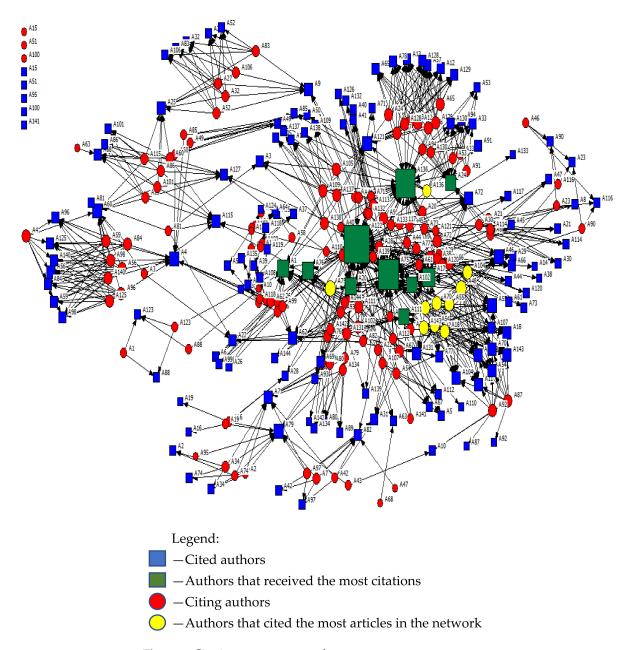


Figure 4. Citation map among authors.

From the analysis of citations of each article by the other studies in the portfolio, we found that only three authors (A15, A51, and A100) cited no one, nor were cited by any of the other authors. Two authors (A95 and A141) were not cited by any of the other 143 authors, but they did cite some of the studies in the portfolio. This profile of authors and citations resulted in a network density of 0.042, indicating that only 4.20% of possible interactions occurred between portfolio authors. Even though there was a recent increase in studies on this topic, the network has a low density due to publications being restricted to groups of independent researchers [29–32].

Figure 4 also shows the Degree Centrality, of an author in the network, where the most cited authors in the entire network are highlighted (green squares). The author Sergio Schneider (A122) received an Indegree score of 63 and Cátia Grisa (A75) received an Indegree score of 48. These two researchers wrote the article, "Three generations of public policies for family farming and forms of interaction between society and the state in Brazil", the most cited article in the portfolio and ranked the most important by InOrdination.

The article with the greatest diversity of authors nationality, with the first author's affiliation in England, and others from Brazil, Zimbabwe, and Ghana, discussed the difficult interaction of public policies in one context (Brazil) and their possible implementation in other countries, in this case in Ghana, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The public policy in question was Brazil's More Food Program, which was created in 2008 with the objective of "promoting food production and increasing the productivity of family farming" (Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento, 2021). Their discussion suggests that public policies developed in a given reality may face barriers to implementation in regions with different realities.

When analyzing the authors of the portfolio articles, the relevance of some authors who address this combination of themes becomes evident. For the three main authors in the portfolio, Cátia Grisa, Vanilde Ferreira Souza Esquerdo, and Lídia Cabral, the main themes discussed in their publications are, respectively: family farming, public policies, rural development; family farming, agroecology, and food systems; and development financing, rising powers, Brazil, Mozambique, and agricultural policy. The research themes of the three most influential authors are directly linked to their line of research, and it is important to highlight again that Grisa and Souza-Esquerdo are Brazilian, and Cabral is English.

When correlating authors who do not belong to any research center shown in Figure 3, we observed that almost all are the same as those shown in Figure 4. The exceptions are authors A40 and A47, Brazilian researchers who carried out their work individually, who cited other authors in the portfolio and were also cited. Authors A15, A51, and A100, respectively, from Mexico, Canada, and Brazil, carried out their work individually. They were not cited and did not cite any of the studies in the portfolio. In relation to authors A95 and A141, their research was carried out individually and they cited authors in the network; however, they were not cited by any article in the portfolio. The only country that did not receive any citations by correlating authors in this portfolio was Sweden (A95), which is likely due to the article being published in the first half of 2020.

By analyzing the keywords included in the articles, a total of 217 keywords were identified in three languages (Portuguese, Spanish, and English). When considering the meaning of these keywords regardless of language, we found that the 217 keywords represented 127 different terms, among which, nine referred to the locations where the studies were conducted. These non-technical terms were excluded, for a total of 118 technical terms representing all keywords of the portfolio. Figure 5 presents a word cloud consisting of the 118 technical terms that represent the 208 identified keywords. In the figure, a larger font represents the frequency of a term's use, with the most common being family farming (58%), public policies (54%), and socioeconomic development (20%).

Our analysis also showed that 68% of the articles were applied studies, while 32% were theoretical work related to the topic. These were grouped into eight categories according to their main themes (Figure 6). The focal themes for the present study, "public policy, family farming, and socioeconomic development" were the basis for 94% of the articles ranked in the InOrdination classification, with the most common thematic focus was: "Public policy in family farming: analysis, strengthening, contribution, evolution, and evaluation". This analysis reinforces the importance of the present study, as it highlights the main themes considered in the identified articles. Further, it indicates that, despite the low density of the network, as only 4.20% of possible interactions occurred between authors (Figure 4), these themes are always directly or indirectly connected with the research topic.



Figure 5. Word cloud of keywords. Source: research data (2021).

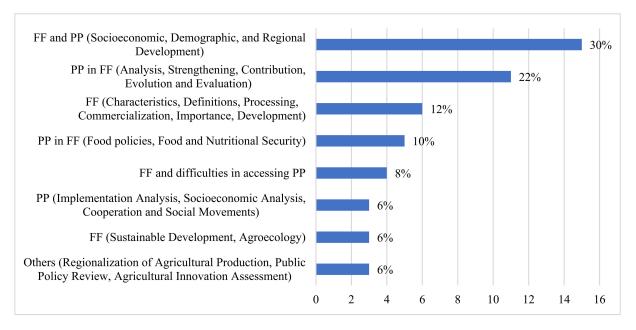


Figure 6. Focal themes of the articles. PP = public policy; FF = family farming. Source: research data (2021).

#### 4. Discussion

All articles in the studied portfolio have a common point of interest in strengthening public policies related to family farming, thus helping to support family farming and socioe-conomic development. Family agriculture supported by well-developed public policies is a key factor in increasing income for rural families, supporting food and nutritional security, reducing rural exodus, conserving biodiversity, strengthening the domestic market and the exportation of agricultural goods generated by family farming, and creating wealth not only for the local economy, but for the country as a whole [33–35].

Few articles address the themes of public policies, family farming, and socioeconomic development, even in recent years there has been a slight trend towards an increase in the number of publications. Therefore, an important point of this work was a broad review on the themes of economic development, environmental sustainability, and well-being of family farmers. The initial search in the databases was from 1984 to 2020, and the final

review, upon request by Methodi Ordinatio, was organized from 2010 to 2020, finding subjects in 16 different developing countries.

It can be seen that developing countries are most cited in the works. They are the countries with greatest social inequalities; thus, they specifically need public policies to maintain their family farming.

According to Dos Santos, et al. [7], Petersen and Silveira [17], Berchin, et al. [36], public policies for family agriculture is important for maintaining rural jobs, generating benefits for society, for sustainable development, income distribution, and for the country's food security. In other words, this can contribute to poverty reduction. It can be said that family farming is a branch of significant economic and social importance, strengthening sustainable development and economic growth.

Through an analysis of the main themes of this study (family farming and public policies in socioeconomic, demographic, and territorial development; public policy in family farming aiming at analysis, strengthening, contribution, evolution, and evaluation), we can begin to understand the outcomes of public policies in family farming and their impact on socioeconomic development worldwide.

For the maintenance of family farming in the countryside, several possibilities can be established, one could be Open Innovation. Currently, several innovation trends are passing from company business to smaller ones; thus, family farming maintained in the countryside can professionalize to better manage open innovation [37–39].

In 2003, the term Open Innovation was presented by Chesbrough, for the purpose of demonstrating how organizations can look for ideas external to their companies, in order to its development, according this author, "Innovating is more than just investing in scientific research. It's also about thinking about new business models, maintain cooperation with customers and consumers and attracting the participation of external sources of knowledge" [40]. With the intention of stimulating internal innovation processes, establishing different external paths to increase your results, open innovation helps in the flow of developments input and output of ideas [38–41]. Today an increasing number of small businesses and family farming are focused on open innovation, looking for information related to the market, and how to meet customer demands or follow up competitors [42,43].

As such, rural development is seen by several authors as a process that expands beyond economic growth (measured only by product or per capita income), to a range of sociocultural, environmental, and political–institutional aspects of rural life. Thus, it offers the capacity to generate well-being, eradicate poverty, and protect regional biodiversity [44–48].

Public policies are strategies that help strengthen family farming. Additionally, open innovation can make use of this result, having seen the example of new arrangements. There is the example of a small restaurant in the United States, Chez Panisse, which was voted one of the 50 best restaurants in the world between 2002 and 2008, by *Restaurant* magazine. This restaurant is focused on fresh local products, also transforming family farming in the region, encouraging its production and consumption [49].

This demonstrates that open innovation related to the natural food trade and family farming are linked to, and dependent on, transformations, and of the innovation systems, aiming to ensure access to external information and human capital until they are directly related in the creation of knowledge and skills extra organizations [50]. Thus, the maintenance of family farming in the field through correct public policies is important to maintain rural life.

Additionally, to achieve sustainable agriculture, specific public policies for the recovery of degraded areas are needed, whereby the goal is to adjust agricultural practices in order to promote socioeconomic development and the well-being of the population, promoting sustainability and linking society and government, thereby strengthening family farming [7]. The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice [51].

Therefore, for family farming, the development can be achieved through open innovation, transforming knowledge in social and economic benefits, developing new products and new marketing methods, and building the development in production systems and new operationalization methods [52]. The open innovations of agriculture are technology transfers carried out for the agricultural sector, used by farmers in order to increase productivity and socioeconomic development [53].

On the other hand, the significant presence of public policies for strengthening and developing family farming in Latin American countries is partly related to the fact that these countries are still developing, and family farming that complements large-scale farming is one of the main actors of socioeconomic development, creating more jobs in rural areas and increasing family income farming [54–56]. In Brazil, the rural environment assumes great economic and social relevance, note that an average of 16% of the Brazilian population lives in rural areas. Rural areas are important both economically and socially, as well in other countries of South America. In contrast, USA and Europe have less than 5% of the population living in rural areas [57].

In this context, Brazil stands out on the international stage when it comes to public policy programs aimed at supporting family farming. There were sixteen programs and public policies cited in the portfolio articles (PRONAF, SEAF, PGPAF, ATER, and agrarian reform settlements, PRONAF Infrastructure, Garantia-Safra, PNHR, Bolsa Família, PAA, PNAE, PGPMEis, PNPE, agribusiness, and certifications). PRONAF stands out as the key program for strengthening Brazilian family farming, as it was discussed in almost 50% of the articles in the portfolio.

Based on the results presented in the present study, the correlation established between authors from different countries on public policy is evident when it comes to the strengthening and structuring of family farming as a pillar of food security at the international level. This is consistent with the importance given to family farming by the [4]. The results found by [21] also highlighted family farming as a determinant factor in the promotion of food and nutritional security.

Our results also demonstrate that Latin America plays a prominent role in public policy research. The Colombian authors in the portfolio published a total of two studies on public policies related to food and nutritional security, agricultural production, and innovation. Initially the focus of this work was on modernizing the sector and improving agricultural productivity, and later moving to rural development. Meanwhile, authors from Chile mainly describe two types of programs: those for public sector purchasing of products from family farmers, and those aimed at school meals. Both programs are equivalent to the programs developed in Brazil, the Food Acquisition Program (PAA), and the National School Food Program (PNAE).

The authors from Mexico present data from the Procampo program, which seeks to increase producer income through direct subsidies, while adding value for products from rural producers, supporting increased income, and the maintenance of farmers in the countryside. In the four studies published by authors from Argentina, the articles address several programs, including those to support small-scale producers in northeast and northwest Argentina (PNOA and PNEA), those aimed at the inclusion of rural women (with funding from the UN), rural development for northeast Argentina (PRODERNEA), Social Agricultural Program (PSA), and Rural Development Initiatives (PROINDER).

### 5. Conclusions

The correlation established between authors from different countries on public policy is evident when it comes to the strengthening and structuring of family farming as a pillar of the food system in a region or country. Between 2010 and 2020, there was a constant growth in the number of publications on the topic, with an increase of 733% in the volume of work in the second half of the decade (2016 to 2020) compared to the first half (2010 to 2015). This increase was also identified in relation to the number of authors, which rose from 17 to 144 in the same period, an increase of almost 850%. Based on our sample,

authors from South America produced most of the scientific information on the subject, accounting for 80% of the total number of articles in the analyzed portfolio, with Brazil being one of the key countries that developed public policies aimed at family farming and rural socioeconomic development.

Additionally, we can infer that the topics related to public policies, family farming, and socioeconomic development is of wide interest, as the 50 articles in the portfolio were published across 32 different journals by a group of 144 authors and co-authors from 16 countries on four continents. This demonstrates the interest around and breadth of the researched themes. Further, it indicates that collaboration, through the exchange of ideas, information, and knowledge between authors, facilitates research development, since 86% of the articles were written with two or more authors.

This study offers important information about the interaction of public policies, family farming, and socioeconomic development. Through Scientometrics, we examined the evolution and trends from an international perspective, identifying the countries with more scientific production in the area (based on the nationality of the first author), as well as the most relevant studies and main journals publishing on the topic. We also highlight the network of connections and network of citations, and analyze keywords, type of research, and main themes of the articles. As such, the present study can contribute significantly to future research related to the topic, offering a resource for comparison and growth, and assist policy makers in the formulation and application of public policies, considering that information related to the variables discussed herein are necessary for their development.

**Author Contributions:** This article is the result of a literature review about the family farming, public policies, and socioeconomic development. Currently used for the development of the doctoral research in progress. E.V.Z. developed the original idea, contributed to the research design, was responsible for data collection and analysis of the data. L.M.M. and L.B.T. contributed to the argument structuring and comments on results and analysis of the data. J.V.M.B. and A.G.V.Z. provided guidance and advice. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### Appendix A

**Table A1.** Authors and corresponding codes.

Authors	Country	Code	Authors	Country	Code
ABRAMOVAY, Ricardo	France	A1	FREITAS, Alair Ferreira de.	Brazil	A73
ALLAIRE, G.	France	A2	GISCLARD, M.	France	A74
ALMEIDA, A.F.	Brazil	A3	GRISA, Cátia	Brazil	A75
ALMEIDA, C.	Brazil	A4	GUANZIROLI, Carlos Enrique	Brazil	A76
ALMEIDA, L. M. D. M. C.	Brazil	A5	GUILHOTO, Joaquim Jose Martins	France	A77
AMANOR, Kojo	Ghana	A6	HENRIQUES, P.	Brazil	A78
ARANDA, Camacho, Y.	Columbia	A7	HERRERA, Andrea Gómez.	Argentina	A79
ARAUJO, A.L.	Brazil	A8	JARA, Cristian Emanuel	Argentina	A80
ASSIS, Thiago Rodrigo de Paula	Brazil	A9	JARDIM, M.A.G.	Brazil	A81
BACA DEL MORAL, Júlio	Mexico	A10	KHAN, Saeed Khan.	Brazil	A82
GUERRA, S. O. DE A.	UK/Brazil	A11	KRÜGER, C.	Brazil	A83

Table A1. Cont.

Authors	Country	Code	Authors	Country	Code
BARBOSA, Isis Ribeiro de Oliveira	Brazil	A12	LACQUES, AE.	France	A84
BARBOSA, Roseane Moreira Sampaio	Brazil	A13	LEITÃO, F.O.	Brazil	A85
BARBOSA, Zulene	Brazil	A14	LINDOSO, D.P.	Brazil	A86
BARRAZA GONZALEZ, Carlos Eduardo.	Mexico	A15	MAFFRA, Lourrene	Brazil	A87
BARRIENTOS-FUENTES, Juan Carlos	Columbia	A16	MAGALHAES, Reginaldo	Brazil	A88
BELIK, Walter	Brazil	A17	MANRIQUE, Luís Felipe Rincón	Columbia	A89
BERCHIN, I. I.	Brazil	A18	MARCONATO, M.	Brazil	A90
BERG, Ernst.	Germany	A19	MARTINELLI, S. S.	Brazil	A91
BERGAMASCO, Sonia Maria Pessoa Pereira	Brazil	A20	MARTINEZ, Sofia Boza.	Chile	A92
BITTENCOURT, J.V.M.	Brazil	A21	MARTINS Kato, K.Y.	Brazil	A93
BITTENCOURT, P. A. T.	Brazil	A22	MELGAREJO, L.	Brazil	A94
BRAMBILLA, M.A.	Brazil	A23	MILJAND, Matilda	Suécia	A95
BURLANDY, L.	Brazil	A24	MONTEIRO, A.	Brazil	A96
BURSZTYN, M.	Brazil	A25	MOSQUERA, Vásquez, T.	Columbia	A97
CABRAL, Lídia	England	A26	MOURÃO, M.	Brazil	A98
Caldana, A. C. F.	Brazil	A27	MUKWEREZA, Langton	Zimbabwe	A99
CALDERON, Giraldo	Brazil	A28	NASCIMENTO, Cezar KG.	Brazil	A100
CAMPOS, Ana Paula Teixeira de.	Brazil	A29	NASUTI, S.	Brazil	A101
CANTERI, M.H.G.	Brazil	A30	NIEDERLE, Paulo	Brazil	A102
CARDOZO, D. R.	Brazil	A31	NIEMBRO, Andrés	Argentina	A103
CASTRO, J.	Brazil	A32	NUNES, N. A.	Brazil	A104
CAVALLI, S. B.	Brazil	A33	OLIVEIRA, Sibele Vasconcelos de	Brazil	A105
CITTADINI, R.	France	A34	PASSADOR, C. S.	Brazil	A106
CIVITARESI, H. Martín	Argentina	A35	PAULILLO, L. F. D. O.	Brazil	A107
COELHO, Amanda de Melo	Brazil	A36	PEGORARE, Alexander Bruno	Brazil	A108
CONSTANTINO, Michel	Brazil	A37	PEREIRA, Josiane Castro.	Brazil	A109
CORREA, Bianca	Brazil	A38	PERTESEN, P.F.	Brazil	A110
COSTA, Reginaldo Brito da.	Brazil	A39	PICOLOTTO, Everton Lazaretti	Brazil	A111
CRUZ, Fabiana Thomé da.	Brazil	A40	PUGLIESI, L.	Brazil	A112
CRUZ, Suely Ferreira da	Brazil	A41	ROCKETT, Fernanda Camboim	Brazil	A113
CUÉLLAR, Gálvez, D.	Columbia	A42	RODRIGUES, B.A.	Brazil	A114
CUEVAS REYES, Venâncio. Andaimes	Mexico	A43	RODRIGUES, Filho, S.	Brazil	A115
CUNHA, Marcelo Pereira da	Brazil	A44	RODRIGUES, K.C.T.T.	Brazil	A116
CUNHA, W.A.	Brazil	A45	SALGADO, R.J.S.F.	Brazil	A117
DA CAMARA, M.R.G.	Brazil	A46	SANCHES, Jarquín N.H.	Mexico	A118
DA SILVA, C.L.	Brazil	A47	SANGERMAN, Jarquín, D.M.	Mexico	A119
DA SILVA, F. R.	Brazil	A48	SANTOS, Luana Ferreira dos	Brazil	A120
DA SILVA, M.A.	Brazil	A49	SCHABARUM, Joseane Carla	Brazil	A121
DA SILVA, W.H.	Brazil	A50	SCHNEIDER, Sergio	Brazil	A122
DANTAS, M.	Canada	A51	SCHRODER, Mônica	Brazil	A123
DANTAS, M. K.	Brazil	A52	SEIBANE, Cecilia	Argentina	A124
DAVÓ-BLANES, M. C.	Spain	A53	SEYLER, F.	France	A125
DE AMORIM, W. S.	Brazil	A54	SILVA, Taís Martins da	Brazil	A126
DE ANDRADE, J. B. S.	Romênia	A55	SILVEIRA, L.M.	Brazil	A127
	1.011101110	1 100	OTT A TITLE TO TOTAL	DIUZII	4114/

Table A1. Cont.

Authors	Country	Code	Authors	Country	Code
DIAS, Patrícia Camacho	Brazil	A57	SOARES, K. C. B.	Brazil	A129
DONDO, Mariana	Argentina	A58	SOARES, P.	Spain	A130
DURIEUX	France	A59	SOLDERA, Denis.	Brazil	A131
EIRO, F.	Holanda	A60	SOUZA, Gabriela Coelho de.	Brazil	A132
ELIAS, Lilian de Pellegrini	Brazil	A61	SOUZA-ESQUERDO, Vanilde Ferreira	Brazil	A133
FAVARETO, Arilson	Brazil	A62	SPERAT, Ramiro Rodríguez	Argentina	A134
FERNANDEZ, Annelise Caetano Fraga	Brazil	A63	SUAREZ, Castellanos, J.A.	Mexico	A135
FERRARIS, Guillermina	Argentina	A64	TRICHES, Rozane Márcia	EUA	A136
FERREIRA, Daniele Mendonça.	Brazil	A65	TROIAN, Alessandra	Brazil	A137
FERREIRA, Marco Aurélio Marques	Brazil	A66	TROIAN, Alexandre	Brazil	A138
FERRENTE, V. L. S. B.	Brazil	A67	VALENCIA, Perafán, Mireya Eugenia	Brazil	A139
FILHO, Almir Cezar Baptista.	Brazil	A68	VENTURIERI, A.	Brazil	A140
FLEXOR, G.G.	Brazil	A69	VILLARREAL, Federico.	Argentina	A141
FORNASARI, V. H.	Brazil	A70	VINCHON, Karina	Brazil	A142
FRANÇA, André Guerra de Melo	Brazil	A71	ZIMMER, G. A. A.	Brazil	A143
FREITAS, A.F.	Brazil	A72	ZIMMERMANN, S.A.	Brazil	A144

Source: author data (2021).

# Appendix B

 Table A2. Portfolio ranking with the application of the InOrdinatio equation.

Authors	Title	Journal	JCR	Year	Citation	InOrdinatio *	Ranking
GRISA, Cátia and SCHNEIDER, Sergio	Três gerações de políticas públicas para a agricultura familiar e formas de interação entre sociedade e estado no Brasil	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2014	268	288.0001	1
CABRAL, Lídia; FAVARETO, Arilson; MUKWEREZA, Langton; AMANOR, Kojo	Brazil's Agricultural Politics in Africa: More Food International and the Disputed Meanings of "Family Farming"	World Development	5.431	2016	59	89.0054	2
SOUZA-ESQUERDO, Vanilde Ferreira; BERGAMASCO, Sonia Maria Pessoa Pereira	Análise sobre o acesso aos programas de políticas públicas da agricultura familiar nos municípios do circuito das frutas (SP)	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2014	61	81.0001	3
BERCHIN, I.I.; NUNES, N.A.; AMORIM, W.; ALVES Zimmer, G.A.; DA SILVA, F.R.; FORNASARI, V.H.; SIMA, M. ANDRADE Guerra, J.B.S.O.	The contributions of public policies for strengthening family farming and increasing food security: The case of Brazil	Land Use Policy	3.573	2019	12	57.0036	4
ELIAS, Lilian de Pellegrini; BELIK, Walter; CUNHA, Marcelo Pereira da and GUILHOTO, Joaquim Jose Martins.	Socioeconomic impacts of the National School Feeding Program on family farming in Santa Catarina	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	8	53.0001	5
CUNHA, W.A.; FREITAS, A.F.; SALGADO, R.J.S.F.	Efeitos dos programas governamentais de aquisição de alimentos para a agricultura familiar em Espera Feliz, MG	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2017	17	52.0001	6

Table A2. Cont.

Authors	Title	Journal	JCR	Year	Citation	InOrdinatio *	Ranking
DA SILVA, C.L.	Proposal of a dynamic model to evaluate public policies for the circular economy: Scenarios applied to the municipality of Curitiba	Waste Management	5.431	2018	11	51.0054	7
MILJAND Matilda	Using systematic review methods to evaluate environmental public policy: methodological challenges and potential usefulness	Environmental Science & Policy	4.816	2020	1	51.0048	8
DIAS, Patrícia Camacho; BARBOSA, Isis Ribeiro de Oliveira; BARBOSA, Roseane Moreira Sampaio; FERREIRA, Daniele Mendonça.	Purchases from family agriculture for school feeding in Brazilian capitals	Revista de saúde publica	1.968	2020	0	50.0020	9
ABRAMOVAY, Ricardo; MAGALHAES, Reginaldo; SCHRODER, Mônica	Representatividade e inovação na governança dos processos participativos: o caso das organizações Brasileiras de agricultores familiares	Sociologias	0.1553	2010	50	50.0002	10
TROIAN, Alexandre; TROIAN, Alessandra; OLIVEIRA, Sibele Vasconcelos de and PEREIRA, Josiane Castro.	The performance of municipalities of Rio Grande do Sul in the implementation of the resources of the PNAE with family agriculture	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2020	0	50.0001	11
CRUZ, Fabiana Thomé da.	Family farming, food processing and advances and setbacks in the regulation of traditional and artisanal foods	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2020	0	50.0001	12
MAFFRA, Lourrene; MARTINEZ, Sofia Boza.	Influencia de Brasil en la Política Alimentaria Latinoamericana: el programa de compras públicas a la agricultura familiar de Chile	Estúdios internacionales (Santiago)	0	2020	0	50.0000	13
DANTAS, M.	The Role of Institutions in Promoting Resilience in the Development of Sustainable Food Systems: The Farmer's Perspective in the Northeast of Brazil	World Sustainability Series	0	2020	0	50.0000	14
LINDOSO, D.P.; EIRO, F.; BURSZTYN, M.; RODRIGUES, Filho, S.; NASUTI, S.	Harvesting water for living with drought: Insights from the Brazilian Human Coexistence with Semi-Aridity approach towards achieving the sustainable development goals	Sustainability	2.592	2018	9	49.0026	15
SCHABARUM, Joseane Carla; TRICHES, Rozane Márcia	Aquisição de Produtos da Agricultura Familiar em Municípios Paranaenses: Análise dos produtos comercializados e dos preços praticados	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	4	49.0001	16
SOARES, Panmela et al.	Potencialidades e dificuldades para o abastecimento da alimentação escolar mediante a aquisição de alimentos da agricultura familiar em um município brasileiro	Ciência & Saúde Coletiva	0	2015	24	49.0000	17
GISCLARD, M.; ALLAIRE, G.; CITTADINI, R.	Proceso de institucionalización de la agricultura familiar y nuevo referencial para el desarrollo rural en la Argentina	Mundo agrário	1.108	2015	23	48.0011	18

Table A2. Cont.

Authors	Title	Journal	JCR	Year	Citation	InOrdinatio *	Ranking
VILLARREAL, Federico.	La inclusión de la Agricultura Familiar. Discusión de su uso en programas de desarrollo rural en Argentina	Mundo agrário	1.108	2018	8	48.0011	19
NIEDERLE, Paulo; GRISA, Cátia; PICOLOTTO, Everton Lazaretti; SOLDERA, Denis.	Narrative disputes over family-farming public policies in Brazil: Conservative attacks and restricted countermovements	Latin American Research Review	0.676	2019	3	48.0007	20
ASSIS, Thiago Rodrigo de Paula; FRANCA, André Guerra de Melo and COELHO, Amanda de Melo.	Agricultura familiar e alimentação escolar: desafios para o acesso aos mercados institucionais em três municípios mineiros	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	2	47.0001	21
DA SILVA, W.H.; LEITÃO, F.O.; DA SILVA, M.A.	Logistical costs associated at the institutional trade food in family farming: The case of the national school feeding program (PNAE)	Custos e Agronegócio	0.39	2018	6	46.0004	22
JARA, Cristian Emanuel; SPERAT, Ramiro Rodríguez; MANRIQUE, Luis Felipe Rincón and HERRERA, Andrea Gómez.	Rural development and family farming in Argentina: An approach to the conjuncture from the state policies	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	1	46.0001	23
SANTOS, Luana Ferreira dos; FERREIRA, Marco Aurélio Marques; CAMPOS, Ana Paula Teixeira de.	Performance barriers and public policies: analysis of family farming cooperatives	Caderno de Gestão Pública e Cidadania	0	2019	1	46.0000	24
CUÉLLAR, Gálvez, D.; ARANDA, Camacho, Y.; MOSQUERA, Vásquez, T.	A model to promote sustainable social change based on the scaling up of a high-impact technical innovation	Sustainability	2.592	2018	5	45.0026	25
SANCHES, Jarquín N.H.; SUAREZ, Castellanos, J.A.; SANGERMAN, Jarquín, D.M.	Pluriactividad y agricultura familiar: retos del desarrollo rural en México	Revista mexicana de ciências agrícolas	0.884	2017	10	45.0009	26
NASCIMENTO, Cezar KG.	Territory and Public Policy in Brazil	Latin American Perspectives	0.718	2019	0	45.0007	27
BITTENCOURT, P. A. T.; KHAN, Saeed Khan.	O impacto do Pronaf sobre a sustentabilidade agrícola de agricultores familiares na microrregião do vale do médio curu, no estado do Ceara	Economia Aplicada	0.3	2019	0	45.0003	28
FREITAS, Alan Ferreira de; FERREIRA, Marco Aurélio Marques; FREITAS, Alair Ferreira de.	A trajetória das organizações de agricultores familiares e a implementação de políticas públicas: Um estudo de dois casos	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	0	45.0001	29
GUANZIROLI, Carlos Enrique; VINCHON, Karina	Agricultura familiar nas regiões serrana, norte e noroeste fluminense: determinantes do processo de geração de renda	Revista de Economia e Sociologia Rural	0.1491	2019	0	45.0001	30
ALMEIDA, A.F.; JRDIM, M.A.G.	Changes socioeconomic and environmental result of public policies socioeconomic development in the northeast coast of Pará, Brazil	Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente	0	2018	5	45.0000	31

 Table A2. Cont.

Authors	Title	Journal	JCR	Year	Citation	InOrdinatio *	Ranking
GRISA, Cátia; VALENCIA, Perafán, Mireya Eugenia; CALDERON, Giraldo, ELENA, Patrícia	Transfer and translation of public policies from Brazil to Colombia: the case of public purchase from family farming	Lume, repositório digital UFRGS	0	2018	5	45.0000	32
FERNANDEZ, Annelise Caetano Fraga; FILHO, Almir Cezar Baptista.	Agricultura familiar urbana: limites da política pública e das representações sociais	CIDADES, Comunidades e Territórios	0	2019	0	45.0000	33
CRUZ, Suely Ferreira da; ASSIS, Thiago Rodrigo de Paula.	Contribuições de três organizações para a comercialização da agricultura familiar no PNAE, no território sul litorâneo do Espírito Santo	Interações (Campo Grande)	0	2019	0	45.0000	34
PERTESEN, P.F.; SILVEIRA, L.M.	Agroecology, public policies and labor-driven intensification: Alternative development trajectories in the brazilian semi-arid region	Sustainability	2.592	2017	9	44.0026	35
NIEMBRO, Andrés; DONDO, Mariana; CIVITARESI, H. Martín	La manifestación territorial de las desigualdades socioeconómicas en Argentina: del diagnóstico a las políticas públicas	Población y sociedad	0	2016	14	44.0000	36
ALMEIDA, Luiz Manoel de Moraes Camargo et al.	Índice "UFSCar" de Efetividades do Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos para a segurança alimentar e nutricional de agricultores familiares do interior paulista	Gestão & Produção	0.209	2018	2	42.0002	37
ALMEIDA, C.; MOURÃO, M.; DESSAY, N.; LACQUES, AE.; MONTEIRO, A.; DURIEUX; VENTURIERI, A.; SEYLER, F.	Typologies and spatialization of agricultural production systems in Rondônia, Brazil: Linking land use, socioeconomics and territorial configuration	Land	3.573	2016	11	41.0036	38
TRICHES, Márcia, R.	Efficiency and efficacy of public food procurement from family farmers for school feeding in Brazil	Brazilian Journal of International Law	0.200	2018	1	41.0002	39
CONSTANTINO, Michel; PEGORARE, Alexander Bruno; COSTA, Reginaldo Brito da.	Desempenho regional do IDH e do PIB per capita dos municípios de Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil, entre 2000 e 2010	Interações (Campo Grande)	0	2016	11	41.0000	40
GRISA, C.; MARTINS Kato, K.Y.; FLEXOR, G.G.; ZIMMERMANN, S.A.	State capacities for rural development in Brazil: analysis of public policies for family farming	Sociedade e Cultura	0	2017	6	41.0000	41
CORREA, Bianca; BARBOSA, Zulene	O Programa de Aquisição de Alimentos—PAA: implicações socioeconômicas junto aos agricultores familiares da comunidade de Matinha—zona rural de São Luís	GOT, Revista de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território	0	2018	1	41.0000	42
SEIBANE, Cecilia; FERRARIS, Guillermina	Procesos organizativos y políticas públicas destinadas a productores familiares del sur del Área Metropolitana (provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina), 2002-2015	Mundo agrário	1.108	2017	5	40.0011	43

Table A2. Cont.

Authors	Title	Journal	JCR	Year	Citation	InOrdinatio *	Ranking
BACA DEL MORAL, Julio e CUEVAS REYES, Venancio. Andaimes	Debuture of public policies in the Mexican field	Andamios	0.2	2018	0	40.0002	44
SILVA, Taís Martins da; ROCKETT, Fernanda Camboim; SOUZA, Gabriela Coelho de.	Territorial development and national school feeding program in rural territories of litoral and Campos de Cima Da Serra rural territories, in RIO Grande do SUL	Revista Brasileira de Gestão e Desenvolvimento Regional	0	2018	0	40.0000	45
BARRAZA GONZALEZ, Carlos Eduardo.	Cooperación, políticas ciudadanas y públicas (bancos de tiempo y moneda social)	Estúdios políticos (México)	0.37	2017	4	39.0004	46
BARRIENTOS- FUENTES, Juan Carlos; BERG, Ernst.	Impact assessment of agricultural innovations: A review	Agronomia Colombiana	0.184	2013	23	38.0002	47
BRAMBILLA, M.A.; MARCONATO, M.; RODRIGUES, K.C.T.T.; DA CAMAR, M.R.G.	Municipal development and programa bolsa família in Brazil: Spatial analysis	Espacios	0.158	2017	3	38.0002	48
KRÜGER, C., DANTAS, M. K., CASTRO, J., PASSADOR, C. S., & Caldana, A. C. F.	ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLICIES FOR DEVELOPING THE BRAZILIAN BORDER STRIP	Ambiente & Sociedade	0.254	2017	2	17.0003	49
ARAUJO, A.L.; CANTERI, M.H.G.; BITTENCOURT, J.V.M.; RODRIGUES, B.A.	Contribution of the Brazilian government purchasing programs—PAA and PNAE—to strengthening family agriculture	Espacios	0.158	2017	1	16.0002	50

Source: author data (2021). \* The assigned weight of 5 for the year of publication. The higher this weight, the more importance will be given to new articles.

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