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THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING A RESETTLEMENT IN THE NORTHWEST REGION OF THE STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL

O PAPEL DO JOVEM NO DESENVOLVIMENTO DE UM REASSENTAMENTO NA REGIÃO NOROESTE DO ESTADO DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL

EL PAPEL DEL JOVEN EN EL DESARROLLO DE UN REASENTAMIENTO EN LA REGIÓN NOROESTE DEL ESTADO DE RIO GRANDE DO SUL

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Abstract: Annually thousands of people left the agricultural properties and moved to other places due to the construction of large infrastructures for regional development, as well as the demarcation of Indigenous Lands. Thus, this work aimed to evaluate the role of young people in the development of a resettlement in the Northwest Region of the state of Rio Grande do Sul. The methodology used consisted of conducting interviews, with open and closed questions, in six rural properties, covering seven young residents in resettlement. As a result, it was observed that the young people interviewed are between 14 and 29 years old, with schooling ranging from incomplete elementary education to complete higher education, and with a predominance of males. The properties have areas with values between 13 and 120 hectares, most of which can be considered family farming. The activities carried out on the properties are diversified

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and economically profitable, in addition to having the participation of young people in decision making, which has led to the satisfaction of family members. Therefore, the young people interviewed are satisfied with the activities developed and the economic results obtained by the properties, in addition to acting directly in decision-making, being an indication of their permanence in the resettlement and consequently promoting rural succession.

Keywords: Rural succession, Decision making, Rural administration.

Resumo: Anualmente milhares de pessoas deixaram as propriedades agrícolas e se deslocaram para outros locais devido a construção de grandes infraestruturas para o desenvolvimento regional, bem como pela demarcação de Terras Indígenas. Desta forma este trabalho teve como objetivo avaliar o papel do jovem no desenvolvimento de um reassentamento na Região Noroeste do estado do Rio Grande do Sul. A metodologia utilizada consistiu na realização de entrevistas, com questões abertas e fechadas, em seis propriedades rurais, contemplando sete jovens residentes no reassentamento. Como resultados observou-se que os Jovens entrevistados apresentam idades entre 14 e 29 anos, com escolaridade variando de Ensino fundamental incompleto a Superior completo, e com predominância do gênero masculino. As propriedades apresentam áreas com valores entre 13 e 120 hectares, podendo, em sua maioria serem consideradas de agricultura familiar. As atividades desenvolvidas nas propriedades são diversificadas e rentáveis economicamente, além de contarem com a participação dos jovens na tomada de decisão, o que tem levado a satisfação dos membros das famílias. Portanto, os jovens entrevistados estão satisfeitos com as atividades desenvolvidas e os resultados econômicos obtidos pelas propriedades, além de atuarem diretamente nas tomadas de decisão, sendo um indicativo da permanência dos mesmos no reassentamento e por consequência promovendo a sucessão rural.

Palavras-chave: Sucessão rural, Tomada de decisão, Administração rural.

Resumen: Anualmente, miles de personas abandonan sus propiedades agrícolas y se desplazan a otros lugares debido a la construcción de grandes infraestructuras para el desarrollo regional, así como a la demarcación de Tierras Indígenas. De esta forma, este trabajo tuvo como objetivo evaluar el papel del joven en el desarrollo de un reasentamiento en la Región Noroeste del estado de Rio Grande do Sul. La metodología utilizada consistió en la realización de entrevistas, con preguntas abiertas y cerradas, en seis propiedades rurales, contemplando a siete jóvenes

residentes en el reasentamiento. Como resultados, se observó que los jóvenes entrevistados presentan edades entre 14 y 29 años, con escolaridad variando desde Enseñanza fundamental incompleta hasta Superior completa, y con predominancia del género masculino. Las propiedades presentan áreas con valores entre 13 y 120 hectáreas, pudiendo, en su mayoría, ser consideradas de agricultura familiar. Las actividades desarrolladas en las propiedades son diversificadas y rentables económicamente, además de contar con la participación de los jóvenes en la toma de decisiones, lo que ha llevado a la satisfacción de los miembros de las familias. Por lo tanto, los jóvenes entrevistados están satisfechos con las actividades desarrolladas y los resultados económicos obtenidos por las propiedades, además de actuar directamente en la toma de decisiones, siendo un indicativo de la permanencia de los mismos en el reasentamiento y, por consecuencia, promoviendo la sucesión rural.

Palabras clave: Sucesión rural, Toma de decisiones, Administración rural.

INTRODUCTION

Industrialization of agriculture, the need for alternative energy sources, and land demarcation have contributed to the expansion of rural exodus (GIRARDI, 2008). According to information from the World Bank (2016) (World Bank Group), in the year 2015, approximately 40 million people worldwide left agricultural properties and moved to other locations. The main reasons for this displacement are associated with the construction of large infrastructures for regional development, as well as the demarcation of Indigenous Lands.

In Brazil, for many decades, rural producers used indigenous areas for food production. However, currently, these uses are being reviewed, and land ownership is returning to indigenous people. The process of identification and demarcation of Indigenous Lands is regulated by Decree No. 1775, of January 8, 1996. To avoid land ownership conflicts in areas recognized as indigenous, Incra, with the supervision of the Program for the Promotion of Gender, Race, and Ethnic Equality, implemented the National Program for the Resettlement of Non-Indigenous Occupants in Indigenous Lands. This Program is part of the set of policies provided for in the II National Agrarian Reform Plan (II PNRA), created by Joint Ordinance No. 9, of October 27, 2004, with the objective of settling rural workers who are in indigenous lands declared by an act of the Minister of Justice and meet the selection criteria of the Agrarian Reform implemented by the Federal Government.

The National Institute for Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) is an agency created by Decree No. 1,110, of July 9, 1970, responsible for the formulation and execution of the national land policy. It acts in actions such as rural settlement, which is a set of agricultural units independent of each other, which are installed where originally there was a rural property that belonged to a single owner (INCRA, 2020), characterizing itself as an effort to reposition families of farmers who were landless (RODRIGUES, 2015).

The division occurs in such a way that the lands accommodate all the families that were chosen to produce on them. The location of the plots is regulated by the topography of the land and the productive conditions of the place, which has its operation basically driven by the labor of the settled or resettled, who commit to work and exploit the land for their livelihood, with financial support from special credit lines, which, combined with technical assistance and other benefits, promote the development of settlements or resettlements (INCRA, 2020).

According to INCRA data (2020), currently in Rio Grande do Sul there are 311 rural settlements, where 12,500 families reside, with the state being responsible for 140 settlements, in addition to sharing management with INCRA of another 29. Due to the large number of settlements and resettlements in the state, this study aimed to evaluate the role of youth in the development of a resettlement in the Northwest Region of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

METHODOLOGY

The municipality of Coronel Bicaco is located in the northwestern region of Rio Grande do Sul, in the microregion called Celeiro, and has the following geographical coordinates: 27°43'40.03"S and 53°42'23.41"W. The population, according to the IBGE (2016), is 7,801 inhabitants divided into 492.124 km². The municipality's economy comes from retail sectors, a few small industries, but mainly from the primary sector, with the municipality's agricultural profile basically divided into large producers and family farming.

In the municipality, there is a resettlement, called São Sebastião II, which was created on September 10, 2002, with a total of 37 families allocated in approximately 613 hectares, divided into 13-hectare plots for each family, lands located 3 km from the district of Campo Santo, in the municipality of Coronel Bicaco-RS (INCRA, 2020). The settled families came from the Serrinha Indigenous Reserve, which comprises an area of 11,700 hectares between the municipalities of Ronda Alta, Engenho Velho, Três Palmeiras, and Constantina, after the National Indian Foundation-FUNAI declared the area as Indigenous Land in the late 1990s (INCRA, 2020).

The research sample space took place in the São Sebastião II resettlement, through interviews, with open and closed questions, in six rural properties, covering seven young residents in the resettlement. The selection of participating families was based on the presence of young people (up to 30 years old) working directly in agricultural activities, and it can be highlighted that it reached all families with young people, or one hundred percent of the young people in the settlement.

The questions involved quantitative and qualitative information, to seek to understand the daily life and operation of agricultural activity in the resettlement, such as property area, technological level, existing agricultural crops, and the family succession process.

Also, the themes of the questions involved simple analyses of how young people act in decision-making and participation in activities and the workload allocated to these, as well as aimed to determine the degree of specialization of these young people in activities related to agriculture.

Personal data such as education, gender, and age were also obtained. The personal information and photographic record of the interviewees were of the protagonists' free choice, and they could also choose not to disclose personal data.

The interviewees signed an authorization term for the interview and disclosure of the information obtained through the questionnaires answered by the study actors. The numerical data obtained were tabulated and transformed into Tables and Figures. The descriptive answers were digitized into Word documents for later drafting of this article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Of the 37 families that make up the São Sebastião II resettlement in the municipality of Coronel Bicaco - RS, seven have young people in their composition, who agreed to participate in this study. Some characteristics of the interviewees can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of young interviewees in the São Sebastião II resettlement in the municipality of Coronel Bicaco - RS.

Interviewee	Age	Education	Gender
1	29 years old	High School	Masculine

2	26 years old	Superior incomplete	Masculine
3	23 years old	Superior incomplete	Feminine
4	22 years old	High School	Masculine
5	21 years old	High School	Masculine
6	18 years old	High School	Masculine
7	14 years old	Incomplete Elementary	Masculine

Source: Authors (2019).

In the present study, the age of the interviewees ranged from 14 to 29 years old (Table 1), which can be considered a young demographic when compared to other residents in the resettlement (data not shown). The results obtained in this study are in agreement with those obtained by Stroehrer et al. (2017), who, when characterizing milk producers in the municipality of São Martinho/RS, also located in the Celeiro Region of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, identified that about 25% of the interviewees were between 20 and 30 years old.

When questioned about their permanence on the properties, the interviewees stated that they were willing to stay and manage the activities in the coming decades, indicating rural succession. This result differs from those obtained by Anjos and Caldas (2015), who state that the number of young people willing to remain in agriculture is decreasing. Furthermore, they do not corroborate the information from Costa and Ralisch (2013), who, when exploring the young person's perspective regarding their future, identified that some have a certain dilemma regarding "staying on the property" or "leaving the property." According to the authors, three categories of responses were identified: the first, composed of 22.2% of young people, who intend to leave the property because they do not identify with the life of a farmer, aiming to work in other professions, intending to enter colleges or take technical courses. The second group (44.4%) consists of young people who would like to stay on the property, but due to particular issues, such as family financial difficulties and distance from large centers, they will have to leave the properties, although these young people like to work with rural activities and

live in the community. Finally, the third group (33.4%), where young people intend to stay on the property, due to economic profitability and quality of life in rural areas.

The indication of possible rural succession observed in this study, in all the evaluated properties, differs from what is presented by Winck et al. (2013), who describe that rural succession is one of the main problems faced by family farming today, reinforcing that the low remuneration of agriculture is a reason for the emptying of the countryside by young people. For Facioni and Pereira (2015), the future of agricultural production is related to succession, since the generational transition in management directly affects food production, both for the rural and urban populations.

In the present study, the education level of the interviewees is varied (Table 1). Four interviewees have completed high school (57%); one has a completed higher education (14%) and another is attending higher education (14%); in addition to a young person who is attending elementary school (14%).

The predominance of young farmers with completed high school (57%) is consistent with the results obtained by Drebes and Spanevello (2017), who, when interviewing young people from eight agricultural cooperatives affiliated with the Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives of Rio Grande do Sul (FECOAGRO) located in the Alto Jacuí region, identified that 62.6% of them had completed high school. However, the results of the present study (Table 1) differ from those found by Silva et al. (2020), who, when evaluating the management profile of agroecological-based production units in the municipality of Laranjeiras do Sul in the state of Paraná, identified that only 13.93% have completed high school. Furthermore, according to the author, reduced education can hinder the management and profit of the properties.

In this work, of the seven interviewees, only one is female (9%), and for her, "the fact that she stays in the countryside is not a reason for prejudice, and she believes that the activity can generate a satisfactory income." Furthermore, according to reports from the participants, a few years ago, 11 girls resided in the resettlement, however, of these, ten left the properties and went to urban centers in search of professional qualification or employment. According to Dalcin and Troian (2009), the main reasons that lead girls to migrate from the countryside to the city are related to female devaluation reflected in the 'young woman's' self-esteem, in addition to the fact that the succession (stratification) of the property usually goes to the male child. For Barth et al. (2017), the reason for the migration of young people from family farming is the search for new job opportunities in larger and industrialized cities.

The data obtained with the characterization of the properties can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Characterization of the properties of the young interviewees in the São Sebastião II resettlement in the municipality of Coronel Bicaco - RS.

Interviewee	N° of Brothers	Area / ha
1	2	42
2	3	80
3	0	13
4	1	38
5	1	120
6	1	38
7	1	120

Source: Authors (2019).

The information obtained regarding the number of siblings indicates a low number (Table 2), which is in accordance with what is observed worldwide, as the birth rate can be considered reduced when compared to recent decades (IBGE, 2020).

Regarding the area of the properties, it was possible to observe a large difference with values ranging from 13 to 120 hectares. These values are quite significant, since when the families were resettled, each received 13 hectares from the government. However, as some owners did not adapt to the location, they sold their properties to other residents of the resettlement. This is one of the factors that favored the expansion of the agricultural areas observed in this study for some of the interviewed families (Table 2).

Based on the area of the properties (Table 2), four (57.14%) can be classified as family farming, that is, those with up to 64 hectares, as according to Law No. 11.326/06, family farmers and rural family entrepreneurs are those who practice activities in rural areas, simultaneously meeting the following requirements: do not hold, any title or area greater than 4 fiscal modules (according to the classification for the municipality of Coronel Bicaco 01 fiscal module, is equivalent to 16 hectares); predominantly use family labor in the economic activities of the establishment or enterprise; have a minimum percentage of family income originating from economic activities of the establishment or enterprise, as defined by the Executive Branch; and manage the establishment or enterprise with the family. Furthermore, according to Almeida and Kudlavicz (2011), these are characterized as synonymous with life and work, as family farmers work hard to achieve a dignified life in rural areas. In this context, the multifunctionality of the property is a common issue in rural areas, as it awakens awareness and recognizes the values

of various property opportunities, such as environmental amenities, rural tourism opportunities, food quality, landscape management, biodiversity preservation, as well as food and fiber production (BARBIERI and VALDIVIA, 2010).

The main activities developed in the production systems are: dairy cattle farming (4 properties), beef cattle farming (3 properties), and grain production, such as corn, oats, wheat, and soybeans (6 properties) (Table 3). Furthermore, the production of subsistence foods was observed in most properties, as well as the presence of machinery and agricultural implements

Table 3. Activities Developed on the Properties of Young Interviewees in the São Sebastião II Resettlement in the Municipality of Coronel Bicaco - RS.

Proprieties	Milk Cattle	Beef Cattle	Grains
1			X
2	X	X	X
3			X
4	X	X	X
5	X		
6			X
7	X	X	X

Source: Authors (2019).

Therefore, in most of the properties, diversification of activities was observed. This information is in accordance with what is described by Gomes et al. (2015), who emphasize that in addition to being a fundamental practice for ecological balance, diversification of production is so important to agricultural systems, as it can be considered a strategy for the continuous generation of income by family farmers throughout the year, considering the seasonality of production of each cultivated species. For Maia (2017), the practices developed within the properties directly affect rural development, taking into account financial and territorial limitations. For Belik (2003), the diversification of food production can guarantee food security for rural families.

In the present study, the young people were asked about their participation in the activities carried out on the properties. In response, it was obtained that all (100%) participate in the activities. The interviewees also highlighted that they feel motivated to be able to contribute to the development of the properties, and this may be an indication of their permanence in the countryside, as well as, in the future, working in the management of the

properties. According to Redin (2015), several factors are considered for the choice of successor in agriculture, such as the liking for work, absence of conflicts, and dedicated participation. According to Schuch (2010), rural succession is the process of legal transfer of assets aiming at the continuation of productive activities and, at the same time, allowing the younger generations to take command of the family business. However, for Stropasolas (2011), the family asset transfer with replacement is not always harmonious, from the older generations to the new ones. According to the author, it is necessary to situate the constant modifications required by market complexities that make delicate not only the decisions of change in the economic management of the properties, as well as, the future generations must be part of the decision-making as early as possible, so that when they have to make their own decisions, they are in line with market demands and the production system.

However, in many properties, young people do not help in decision-making, serving only as labor, which in the future may hinder the succession process. This statement is based on the reality experienced in property 1, which has 120 hectares for grain production, where young people aged 21 and 14 are only understood as labor, and not as protagonists in decision-making.

According to Costa and Ralisch (2013), young people have proposals for improvements on the property and demonstrate that they can contribute to the development of activities. To know these proposals, they were asked what they would do if they were the owners of the plots. Most of the young people (77.8%) replied that they would only work with dairy cattle farming, improving productivity through pasture management and improvement of herd genetics. They emphasized that this activity makes the properties viable due to the regular monthly income from milk sales. However, 22.2% of the interviewees replied that they did not have a formed opinion on the subject.

Regarding technical qualification, of the seven young interviewees, six have courses in the agricultural area, such as: dairy and beef cattle farming, artificial insemination, grain production, and tractor maintenance. These results are in accordance with what is proposed by Cassin and Nalli (2015), who state that settlements and resettlements constitute a space for the exchange of knowledge accumulated by the practical experiences of generations with working the land, but also as a space for the realization of systematized knowledge through knowledge networks generated by institutions in the areas.

When asked about the number of daily working hours in agricultural activities, the interviewees reported that it varies from six (2 responses) to seven (5 responses) daily hours. Even with high workloads, in often arduous activities, the interviewees reported being happy

and optimistic, and this result may be associated with the good economic performance of the activities developed on the properties. Furthermore, according to the interviewees, the economic profitability of the properties is related to the technical assistance received, through cooperatives or companies selling agricultural and livestock inputs. This result corroborates with Dias (2007), who emphasizes the importance of the technicians' commitment to supporting settlement groups, promoting training activities, and not only preparing but also technically monitoring projects financed by banks.

Regarding future perspectives, all highlighted being satisfied, but emphasized that they will seek new technologies, genetics in animals, and acquisition of new areas, to further leverage the economic return on the properties. They also highlighted that the activity of producing animals for slaughter is one of the activities to be implemented or increased in all properties.

Therefore, young people play a fundamental role in carrying out activities and making decisions in the São Sebastião II resettlement, which can positively influence their permanence on the properties, thus ensuring rural succession.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results obtained in the study, it was observed that young people, predominantly male, have education at the secondary and higher levels, in addition to, for the most part, having taken training courses in the agricultural area. This degree of education is positively influencing the integration between all family members in decision-making, and especially young people, who are contributing to carrying out activities, as well as participating in decisions in the agricultural sphere, which has helped in the development of the properties. Thus, the importance of the process of awareness and sensitization of family members about the participation of young people in decision-making is highlighted, with a view to encouraging new generations to continue on rural properties.

Currently, the activities developed on the properties are diversified and economically profitable, which has led to the satisfaction of family members. These serve as an incentive for young people to remain in the resettlement and, consequently, can promote rural succession. To this end, encouraging the improvement of the management of production systems, reducing costs and diversification can contribute to improving the quality of life of producers and continue productive activities over the years.

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