



# Inclusive Rural Production and Food Systems: Consolidating Innovation Niches

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The transition to sustainable food systems can provide opportunities for the productive inclusion of populations in situations of exclusion, especially in rural areas, and contribute to reducing the effects of the climate crisis. This study aims to understand productive and sustainable inclusion cases in rural areas and verify the role of public policies. The experiences studied in two regions of the Brazilian Northeast are characterised as innovation niches, highlighting the generation of new technical and social solutions that lead to a transition to sustainable and inclusive food systems. Using a qualitative and quantitative methodology, we analysed the sociotechnical configurations of the cases within the scope of transition studies and social network analysis. We studied the cases through the notions of rural productive inclusion (inclusive economic activities in rural areas) and inclusive innovation (social and technical novelties created for/by vulnerable social groups). Furthermore, we utilised the geography of sustainability transitions approach to explore the relationship between sociotechnical transitions and place-based factors and conditions. The results show the importance of family farmers' cognitive and organisational capacities for promoting (inclusive) innovations and, consequently, socioeconomic development. Thus, a significant alignment of these producers' niches can indicate initial sociotechnical conditions for a sustainable and inclusive agri-food regime. These experiences have received support from informal institutions (trust, cooperation, etc.) and, to a lesser extent, from formal institutions (laws, regulations, etc.). Likewise, we stressed the threats to these niches from conventional regimes (in agri-food) and new regimes linked to sustainability (such as from renewable energies).



## Related Sessions

Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM WEST

**Inclusive Growth, Housing and Well-Being**

**(/Sessions/Details/2712408)**

Room: 141

## Related Speakers



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