

**IMPLICATIONS OF INNOVATIONS ON THE BRAZILIAN FOOD SYSTEM: A
PATH TOWARDS AN INNOVATIVE FOOD SYSTEM**

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Introdução

Poor diet quality, inequitable food system, food security, and sustainability of the environment are some challenges present in food systems. Innovation emerges in this scenario as a solution to overcome the obstacles with transformative potential. Through innovations, food systems can benefit from new technologies, business models, logistics processes, and sustainable practices, resulting in gains in efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. However, there is a gap in the understanding of the implications for key actors in the food system, such as family farmers and livestock producers.

Problema de Pesquisa e Objetivo

To fill the gap in the literature and advance the discussion on the implications that innovations can have on the Brazilian food system, this paper aims to answer the question "What implications can the innovations already implemented have for the different stages of the Brazilian food system?". The objective is to analyze the innovations implemented in the Brazilian food system and their implications for the different stages of this context.

Fundamentação Teórica

Schumpeter (1939, p.84) defined innovation as "doing things differently in the realm of economic life." The food system can be understood as an economic structure composed of multiple interconnected activities, extending from production to food consumption, operating at both local and global scales to ensure food supply (Auerbach, 2018). Contemporary innovations in food systems have emerged in response to social, environmental, and ethical pressures that challenge conventional agro-industrial models.

Metodologia

The research employs a qualitative approach, conducted using secondary data obtained through documentary analysis. The documents analyzed focused on innovations in the Brazilian food system, with an emphasis on technical reports and institutional publications from governmental agencies. The temporal scope covered the period starting in 2020. Across the documents, 76 distinct innovations were identified and analyzed. An analytical spreadsheet was used to systematize data by the type of innovation, involved actors, affected stages of the food system, and reported impacts.

Análise dos Resultados

The results reveal a concentration in organizational and incremental innovations, with greater incidence in the stages of production, consumption, and distribution; they also highlight gaps in stages such as commercialization, which remains scarcely affected by these initiatives, and show frequent overlaps among innovation categories, reflecting the multidimensional nature of the transformations underway. The actions prioritize the strengthening of labor relations, environmental preservation, and support for small producers.

Conclusão

Although the discourse of innovation is increasingly present on public and private agendas, the implications of these innovations can depend on their type, degree of openness, and, above all, their alignment with local realities. The innovations reflect the diverse interactions of each type of innovation at different stages of the Brazilian food system. One limitation of this study is the lack of primary empirical data collection. It is recommended that future research explore regional case studies that emphasize how innovations have a specific impact on a given region of the country.

Contribuição / Impacto

The results can guide public policies and business strategies to address the impacts that innovations have on the various stages of the Brazilian food system. In theoretical terms, this study seeks to fill gaps in the literature about the topic in Brazil, which remains underexplored, despite the country's significant advantage as one of the world's largest food producers. In social terms, this research provides a better understanding of how innovations can promote the economic and personal development of actors and ensure the sustainability of the Brazilian food system.

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