

State Capacity, Family Farm & Rural Development in Brazil

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From below the equator: Inequality, State Capacities patterns & a Brazilian outlier

Historically, “la capacidad del Estado es mayor en las ciudades que en las **zonas rurales**, en la capital que en las provincias, y en los barrios ricos que en los pobres. Es muy probable que la debilidad más importante del Estado latinoamericano en general sea su incapacidad para proporcionar servicios a aquellas partes de la población que más pueden necesitarlos.” (Centeno, 2009)

Inequality  weak pro-poor state capacities in Latin America

Surprisingly, the Brazilian State has built important - internationally recognized - capacities to promote family farm and rural development.

Why institutional investment in pro-poor policies since the 1990's?

Higher democracy levels and left-leaning governments favored the growth of state strength in Latin America (Grassi & Memoli, 2016) and institutional investment in pro-poor policies

- 1) Democracy has a positive effect on state capacity through the channel of increased political contestation; (Wang & Xu, 2015)
- 2) Democracy has a positive effect on state capacity through the channel of increased political participation; (Wang & Xu, 2015)

Institutional investments in Family Farms Rural Development

Why building State Capacity for Family Farm and Rural Development

Public goods (food security, Rural life/tradition/landscape, environment, Social order)

Political Support (especially important in Countries with large rural district or constituencies)

Restrictions

Others political goals increase de oportunity cost of building state apacities for Family Farm & Rural Development

Path of building Rural Development Capacities in Brazil: the critical juncture of the 1990's

1990's: the PRONAF

- The PRONAF can be seen as a “critical juncture” (Mahoney (2001) that institutionalizes family farming in Brazil - creates a category of beneficiary, resource allocation rules and funds.

Why the PRONAF?

- **Contention and rural violence** (Democracy boost political contestation but in spaces where the monopoly of violence is not in the sole monopoly of State, violence is likely high). The creation of PRONAF was a type of “political exchange” between rural workers' unions and the government, and also a political strategy of attenuating the mobilizations of the MST
- **Cognitive change** (with the active role of several researchers): Reinterpretation of the role of family agriculture in development. Formerly seen as a synonym for subsistence, it has come to be seen as an important actor for rural development and food security.

Consequence of the PRONAF: MDA (MP 1.911-12), PRONAF offspring (PRONAF (“Pronafinho”) for small and less capitalized farmers (1997); agro-industry PRONAF (1998); forestry PRONAF (2002); food PRONAF (2003); agro-ecology PRONAF (2003); tourism PRONAF (2003); PRONAF woman (2003); rural youth PRONAF (2003); semi-arid PRONAF (2003); machinery and equipment PRONAF (2003); eco-PRONAF (2007); more food (2008); and sustainable PRONAF (2009))

Path of building Rural Development Capacities in Brazil: left leaning government of the 2000's

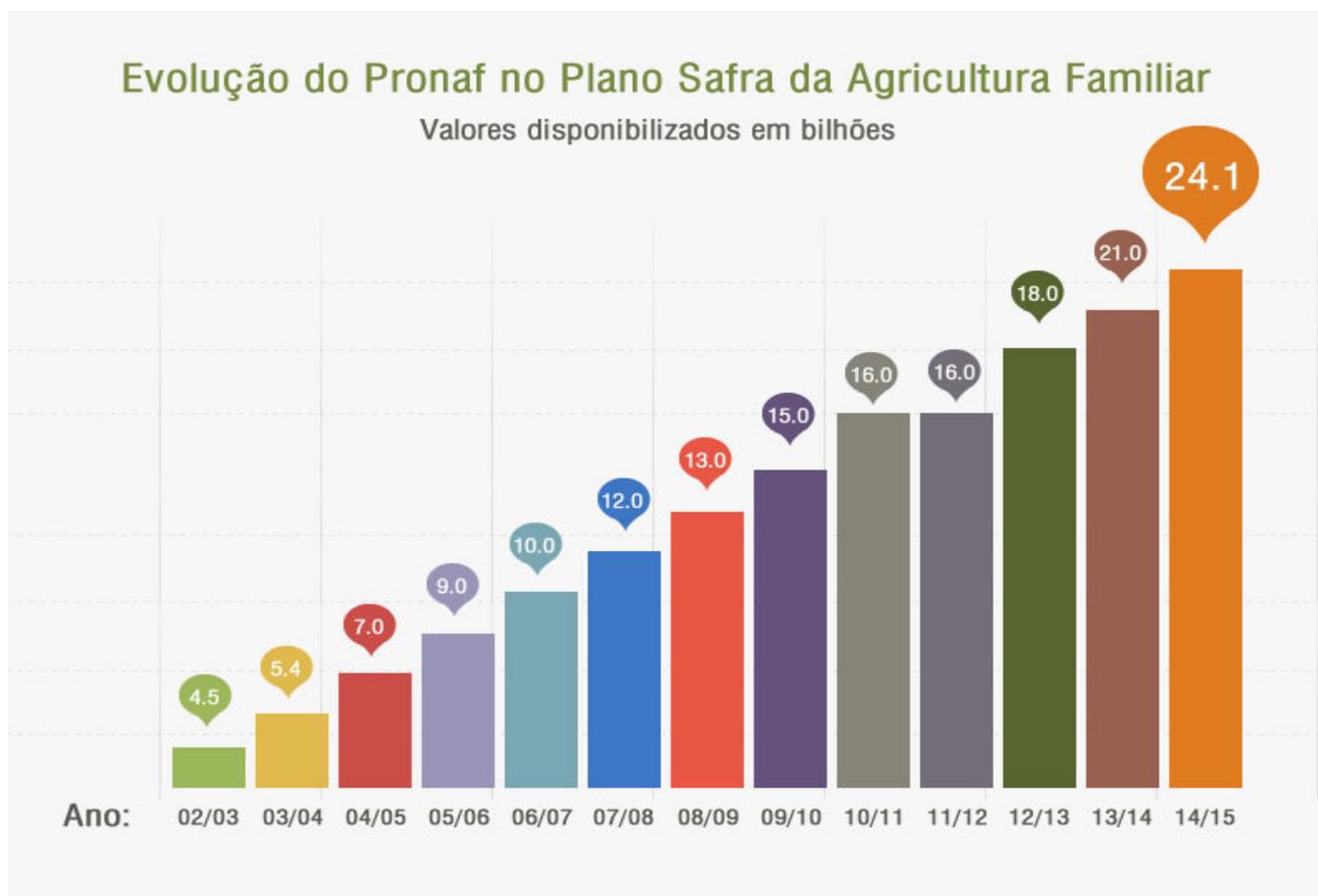
The left leaning government of Lula invested in state capacities to promote rural development and family farm's:

- Family Farming Insurance (Seguro de Agricultura Familiar, SEAF), also called Programa de Garantia da Atividade Agropecuária Mais (PROAGRO Mais)
- The Family Farming Food Acquisition Program (Food Security)
- National School Food Program
- Program for the Support of Sustainable Development in Rural Territories , etc....

NB1: Even energy policies such as the PNPB were implemented with the aim of inducing the productive inclusion of family farmers

NB2: Due to political/institutional increasing returns (Pearson), the PRONAF turns easier the implementation of new programs for family farms

Evolution of financial resources - PRONAF



Conclusions

Brazil build state capabilities to promote rural development and family farm that no other latin country has created.

Questions for furthers research

- Democracy and left leaning government play a huge role. However, it should be noted that no other Latin American country has developed such an important institutional apparatus, despite the presence of democracy and leftist governments. Why?
- The MDA has been extinguished! What are the implications for the Brazilian State? How can the research agenda in state capacities can frame cases where capacities cease?