



Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

“Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities”

Community Restaurants as a Policy Instrument Against Hunger: The Case of Toledo (Brazil)

ELAINE ZANINI¹, MIRIAN BEATRIZ SCHNEIDER¹, ANA CECÍLIA KRETER², DIETRICH DARR²

¹ *Western University of State of the Paraná (UNIOESTE), Center for Applied Social Sci., Brazil*

² *Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Life Sciences, Germany*

Abstract

Community restaurants is a programme in Brazil, which aims to get close the producers' and consumers' sides of the food chain. On one hand, it promotes products produced by family farms, considering the singularities of the region. On the other hand, it subsidizes consumer prices for locally produced nutritious food, especially in poor neighbourhoods. The community restaurants in these areas mainly operate during lunchtime, which is the most important meal in Brazil. A nutritionist helps to improve the nutritional quality of diets through “*mistura*” (mixture) of locally available products such as rice, beans, meat and salad. This article aims to analyse how public policies have contributed to the success of the Community Restaurant Program. It also aims to describe qualitatively and quantitatively all sectors that interacted directly or indirectly with this program, using Toledo (state of Paraná) as a study case. For these purposes, we employed the Delphi methodology and the prospective analysis using the MICMAC software. Results indicate that, family farmers were the most important stakeholder group with a considerable impact on the performance of the community restaurants. As such, despite Paraná's national importance for the poultry, swine and soybean production on a large scale, its very dynamic and diversified family farming sector was a main ingredient of success of this program. This study also identifies the influence of other public policies at the municipal, state and federal levels on the community restaurants in Toledo. It concludes that while public policy support was the key factor for the successful establishment of the program, ensuring the long-term social impact and financial viability of the program will be important for its continued operation.

Keywords: Brazil, community restaurants, family farming, public policies, Toledo