Peasant women facing Neo-Extractivism in Brazil: a food sovereignty potential

The case studies’ secondary and primary surveys indicate that peasant women in two territories affected by a Anglo American’s mining megaproject (Minas-Rio) represent potential responses to the Neo-Extractivist approach by re-creating farming and collective practices that question global proposals to “end hunger” and suggest alternatives to peoples’ food sovereignty through women’s autonomy, beyond technological solutions.

On the other hand, social reproduction of peasant agriculture and women farmers’ autonomy is under threat by extractive megaprojects. Peasant systems are Cyclical Agroecosystems based on short circuits, cooperation and diversity. CA deals more efficiently with work and commons than the agribusiness approach.

Minas-Rio’s mining-port complex

Takes 5.023 m³ of pure water/hour
And 26 million raw iron ore tons/year
In ten years, took more than 30 thousand hectares and impacted around 6.500 peasants.

A diversity of at least 150 different food products is adversely affected by the Minas-Rio project.

GENERAL DATA

“Severe food insecurity is higher in 2017 that it was in 2014 in every region except Northern America and Europe, with notable increases in Africa and Latin America. Most of them are women in rural areas of the Global South” (FAO, 2018).

“Compelling evidence emerges that in several countries around the globe agriculture is feminizing, either because men move out of agriculture or because women engage in different types of agricultural employment.” (WB, 2016, p. 6)