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Peaceful Coexistence between Agribusiness and Family Farming and its Impacts

MARIA IZABEL SANTOS¹, LUCIANA JORDAO², THIAGO HENRIQUE COSTA SILVA³

¹*University Center Alves Faria, Law College, Brazil*

²*State University of Goiás, Law College, Brazil*

³*Federal University of Goiás State, Law College, Brazil*

Abstract

Through a historical analysis, it is possible to verify that the Brazilian land ownership structure is basically composed by large monocultured oriented areas. However, when analysing Brazilian land structure, it is important to consider agroindustry as a third element which impacts directly on the other sectors and the so-called agrarian issue. Brazilian agrarian issue and agrarian capitalism demand considering some paradigms in the economic, social, environmental, but, mainly, legal field that demonstrate both divergence and convergence between agribusiness and family farming. By considering agroindustry as a third factor, the discussion centres itself on complementarity and necessary coexistence between agribusiness and family agriculture for agrarian development within a capitalist context. Also, Brazilian legislation interferes to keep land structure current status quo, that is, power forces are organised to support holders of large areas focused on monoculture while family farming and small industry are, in most sometimes, as backward, unable to generate sufficient profit or promote economic growth. However, family farming and small businesses have a main contribution on keeping workers in the countryside and producing quality food. Thus, the paper analyses the interaction between agribusiness and family agriculture in the Brazilian agricultural development, and whether this development is coherent, complementary or subject to other forms of production. The research is based on historical-dialectical materialism. In a bibliographic, documentary and legislative analysis, it evaluates the causes of Brazilian agrarian development, its changes in society, and which elements could cause deviations and different positions, allowing to identify how the historical constitution of the Brazilian agrarian structure occurred, as well as what it has been occurring with this structure, its maintenance, its conflicts and strengthening through legal incentives. Only by considering this analysis, it is possible discuss the possibility (or not) of a peaceful coexistence between agribusiness, family agriculture and agroindustry, in order to promote the food security of the Brazilian people and, at the same time, the country's sustainable development.

Keywords: Agrarian issue, Brazilian land structure, sustainable rural development