

REGULAR ARTICLE

# Integrating sustainability and food: contributions of the program of food acquisition (PAA) and the national school feeding program (PNAE) in Brazil

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## Abstract

In 2016, the United Nations (UN) created the 2030 Agenda, which seeks sustainable management and efficient use of resources, including reducing food waste and waste generation. This agenda is based on the principles of sustainable development and expands on the objectives of the Millennium Development Agenda, encompassing economic development, the eradication of poverty and hunger, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance. In Brazil, actions aligned with the 2030 Agenda have been implemented, regarding sustainable public procurement, regulated by Decree No. 7,746/2012. These contracts promote sustainable practices, such as preference for recycled and biodegradable products. Programs such as the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) are crucial to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12, which aims for responsible consumption and production practices. The PAA encourages family farming and sustainability, while the PNAE promotes food and nutritional security in schools by integrating local and sustainable production. These initiatives reflect Brazil's commitment to sustainable development, benefiting the rural economy, reducing poverty and promoting socio-environmental sustainability.

## Keywords

2030 Agenda; Sustainable Development Goals; Sustainability; PAA; PNAE.



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## Introduction

The global population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, and the natural resources available are no longer enough to sustain our lifestyle. Therefore, by 2030, the aim is to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, such as halving food waste, which currently stands at 1.3 billion tons per day. It will also be essential to reduce the generation of waste through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse of materials. To meet these challenges, the United Nations has developed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The term sustainable development first appeared in the so-called Brundtland Report, commonly known as “Our Common Future”, presented in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development. The report stated that development must encompass the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; therefore, development must address the needs of today without losing sight of those of tomorrow (World Commission on the Environment and Development, 1991).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emerged decades later, seeking to embrace the premises of this report

and constituting a global action plan that was the result of a participatory process involving governments, civil society, the private sector and research institutions (UN, 2023).

Implemented in January 2016, it followed the Millennium Development Agenda, broadening its scope to encompass economic development, poverty and hunger eradication, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance. In terms of the Brazilian context, various actions have been taken to ensure sustainable development, as well as to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UN, 2023).

Thus, sustainable national development aims to integrate economic growth, political, cultural, institutional, social and environmental progress in a sustainable and long-term manner, with a view to improving quality of life. This principle guides all state actions, highlighting the importance of efficient use of resources, effective logistics and planning actions that benefit both the population and the environment (BRASIL, 2024).

In Brazil, public procurement plays a crucial role in implementing policies aligned with the 2030 Agenda, which aims to promote sustainable public procurement practices.

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These initiatives include specific legislation, government programs, training, economic incentives, monitoring and evaluation. Bidding processes consider environmental impacts, energy efficiency, reverse logistics and preference for national, recycled or biodegradable products (BRASIL, 2024).

According to Sönnichsen and Clement (2019), public procurement has some sustainable characteristics such as creating sustainability criteria for the acquisition of products or services with a lower environmental impact, favouring the circular economy by minimizing waste, ensuring fair working conditions and respect for human rights by promoting social responsibility and reducing costs in the long term. Therefore, initiatives such as the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) contribute directly to meeting the objectives of sustainable development, strengthening the national agricultural sector and promoting sustainability in the various social, economic, environmental and cultural spheres.

This paper aims to list the contributions of the above-mentioned programs to Brazilian sustainable development, in the light of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12, more specifically addressing target 12.7, which establishes the promotion of sustainable public procurement practices, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

## Materials and methods

For this paper, a narrative literature review was carried out by accessing repositories and databases such as Periódicos Capes, Scielo and Scopus. Some of the terms used were “sustainable national development”, “sustainability bidding law”; “PAA”, “PNAE”, “sustainability”, “sustainable development”, “SDG 12 target 12.7 Brazil”. The search was conducted with terms both in Portuguese and English.

The aim of the review was not to exhaust the sources of information, test hypotheses or combine studies, and no explicit or systematic criteria for the search and analysis was developed. As the paper sought information on the contributions of the PAA and PNAE to SDG 12.7 and the use of public procurement, the selection of studies and the interpretation of information are therefore subject to the subjectivity of the authors.

A documentary search was also carried out as well in order to give more credibility to this paper. This search was conducted through the analysis of specific documents such as the 2030 Agenda established by The United Nations, a few Brazilian legislations such as Decree n° 7.746/2012, Law n° 8.666/1993, Law n° 14.133 and the PNAE and PAA guidelines.

## Results and discussion

### The 2020 Agenda

Adopted in September 2015 by 193 UN Member States (UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development resulted from a global participatory process, coordinated by the UN, in which governments, civil society, private initiative and research institutions contributed through the 'My World' Platform (UN, 2023).

The 2030 Agenda began to be implemented in January 2016, following on from the Millennium Development Agenda (2000-2015) and broadening its scope to include economic development, the eradication of poverty, extreme

poverty and hunger, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance at all levels, including peace and security (BRAZIL, 2024).

According to the UN (2023), the 2030 Agenda is a universal, integrated action plan made up of four main parts: **i)** Declaration: Contains the vision, principles and commitments of the 2030 Agenda for a world free of current problems, such as poverty, misery, hunger, disease, violence, inequalities, unemployment, environmental degradation, depletion of natural resources, among others; **ii)** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consisting of 17 objectives and 169 global action targets to be achieved by 2030, mostly covering the environmental, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development, in an integrated and interrelated manner; **iii)** Monitoring and Evaluation of the 2030 Agenda: These are fundamental to its implementation and should be done systematically at the global, regional and national levels; **iv)** Implementation: Goal 17 and some targets of the other goals deal with the means necessary to implement the Agenda, which will require partnerships and solidarity in mobilizing resources, an engagement between governments, the private sector, civil society and the UN System (UN, 2023).

This paper aims to address the implementation, in Brazil, of actions to achieve target 12.7 (Promote sustainable public procurement practices, in accordance with national policies and priorities) of SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) through the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE). To achieve each SDG, indicators are being implemented to monitor the status of each target. For Target 12.7, indicator 12.7.1 was created: Degree of implementation of policies and action plans for sustainable public procurement, whose current status is “under analysis/construction” (Brasil, 2024).

### Sustainable National Development and Public Procurement

Sustainable national development is the result of economic, political, cultural, institutional, social and environmental growth and progress in a sustainable and perennial way, observed in the long-term improvement of the population's quality of life. This objective should guide all state action, which implies making better use of resources, developing efficient logistics and planning actions that add systemic benefits to the population and the environment, interrelating the economic, social, cultural and environmental spheres, regardless of the level of scope or complexity of the action (Brasil, 2024).

Some of the characteristics of development are listed by Carvalho (2023) in her work entitled “Perspectives on Sustainable National Development in Public Procurement”. The author emphasizes that sustainable development goes beyond economic factors, aiming to integrate social, environmental, and other aspects in a balanced and harmonious manner.

Sustainable development also seeks to guarantee a healthy and dignified life for all people, as well as ensuring a healthy and dignified future for future generations. Conscious consumption by encouraging sustainable and responsible consumption practices also encompasses the objectives of sustainable development, as does valuing cultural, social and environmental diversity. In this sense, there is a great need to think about including sustainable criteria in the most diverse

contracting practices in the most diverse public spheres (Carvalho, 2023).

Public procurement, therefore, is an instrument for implementing public policies and must be planned and executed in compliance with the principle of sustainable national development throughout the procurement cycle and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In Brazil, public procurement follows some precepts that align with the objectives of sustainable development through the approval of specific legislation that presents principles such as legality, impersonality, morality, publicity, efficiency, among others, as well as sustainable principles (Carvalho, 2023).

Transparency in public procurement processes is essential to ensure that purchases are fair and legal, allowing for social control and oversight of public spending. Public procurement must seek efficiency in the use of resources, ensuring the economy and the best cost-benefit for the Administration. In addition, promoting competitiveness and equality among participants is fundamental to selecting the most advantageous proposal in a fair and impartial manner (Carvalho, 2023).

Brazil has adopted several initiatives to promote sustainable public procurement practices, in line with its national policies and priorities. The main initiatives are applied in legislation and policies, government programs, training and guidance, economic incentives, monitoring and evaluation and reference examples (TCU, 2024).

Brazil has specific legislation that promotes the inclusion of sustainability criteria in government procurement. The obligation to provide for sustainability criteria and practices in public procurement in order to promote sustainable national development was established by Decree No. 7,746, of June 5, 2012, when regulating Article 3 of Law No. 8,666/93 - this provision is in line with the constitutional dictates of protecting the environment and reducing regional and social inequalities (Brasil, 2023). In 2021, Law No. 8.666/93 was replaced by Law No. 14.133, of April 1, 2021, called the Administrative Bidding and Contracts Law, which contemplates more modern sustainable principles such as planning, transparency, efficiency and public interest (Brasil, 2021).

Within the rules that regulate government procurement processes, principles that encourage sustainable national development are observed. In the bidding process, one of the criteria is the description of possible environmental impacts and respective mitigating measures, including requirements for low consumption of energy and other resources, as well as reverse logistics for the disposal and recycling of goods and scraps, when applicable. A margin of preference may be established for nationally manufactured goods and services that meet Brazilian technical standards; recycled, recyclable or biodegradable goods, in accordance with regulations (Brasil, 2023).

The National Guide to Sustainable Contracting drawn up by the Federal General Consultancy, part of the Federal Attorney General's Office, establishes that in order to guarantee effectiveness and sustainability in public contracting, it is crucial to verify the economic and financial capacity of the contracted company, ensure compliance with current legislation and specific standards, and include sustainability requirements in the calls for tender. Sustainability guidelines must be observed from the moment

the Basic Project or Terms of Reference are drawn up, covering technical aspects and waste management. In addition, it is recommended to implement a reverse logistics system to ensure the environmentally appropriate disposal of waste, consulting suppliers on their practices for the final disposal of products and packaging (Brazil, 2023).

We can see, therefore, that the National Guide to Sustainable Contracting emphasizes the importance of verifying the economic and financial capacity of companies, ensuring compliance with the law and integrating sustainable requirements from the initial stage of the bidding process, as in the criteria for judging proposals in the bidding process, indirect costs related to maintenance, use, replacement, depreciation and environmental impact of the object being bid on, among other factors linked to its life cycle, may be considered to define the lowest expenditure, whenever objectively measurable, as provided for in regulations (Brasil 2024).

As established by Silva (2021), some criteria must be considered when contracting a sustainable product or service, such as the proposed price, which must cover long-term costs; the quality of the products or services; social and economic sustainability criteria that favor low environmental impact; innovation, especially through clean and sustainable technologies; and delivery times.

Finally, for public contracting and purchasing processes, the analysis of the entire logistics chain is recommended (planning, specification of the object and the contractor's obligations, choice of the best proposal, execution, contract management and final disposal of the object or final destination of the waste and residues produced), in order to integrate criteria that optimize the use of public resources and goods and increase the efficiency of contracting, adding, whenever possible, measures that benefit, in a systemic way, the social, economic, environmental, cultural and institutional spheres (Ayres, *et. al.*, 2024).

Analyzing the supply chain in public procurement processes is fundamental to promoting more responsible practices in line with the principles of sustainable development. This approach ensures that public procurement complies with criteria such as the origin of products, production conditions, transportation and disposal, encouraging sustainability throughout the supply chain (Ayres, *et. al.*, 2024).

Another initiative of the Federal Government within the scope of sustainable national development is the implementation of programs and guidelines that encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in public procurement, such as the Sustainable Public Procurement Program (PCCS), which promotes the incorporation of environmental, social and economic criteria in government procurement, according to some of the standards included in the legislation already mentioned in this work, and the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE), two programs discussed in this paper that are directly connected to Brazilian agribusiness and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in items 1 (Eradication of poverty), 2 (Zero hunger and sustainable agriculture), 12 (Responsible consumption and production) (Brasil, 2024).

Sustainable national development in Brazil is an objective that permeates various spheres of government, integrating economic growth, social, cultural and environmental progress. The country has adopted specific legislation and initiatives aimed at including sustainability criteria in public procurement, as established by Decree 7.746/2012 and other regulations. Such measures not only promote efficiency and economy in the use of public resources, but also guarantee the transparency and legality of processes, strengthening social control, and the implementation of programs such as the Sustainable Public Procurement Program (PCCS), the Food Acquisition Program (PAA) and the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) demonstrates the government's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in the areas of poverty eradication, zero hunger and sustainable agriculture, and responsible consumption and production. Analysis of the logistics chain in public procurement processes, from planning to the final disposal of waste, is crucial to ensuring responsible and sustainable practices, promoting systemic benefits for society and the environment (Brasil, 2024).

### **Food Acquisition Program**

The Food Acquisition Program, or PAA, was initially established by Law No. 10,696 of July 2, 2003, as part of the Zero Hunger Program. However, the legislation was amended by Law No. 12,512 of October 14, 2011 and regulated by various decrees, such as Decree No. 7,775 of 2012. Later, in 2023, the previous legislation was repealed to make way for Law No. 14.628, of July 20, 2023, which was then regulated by Decree No. 11.802, of November 28, 2023 (Brasil, 2024).

According to data from the National Secretariat for Rural Social and Productive Inclusion, part of the Ministry of Citizenship, 63% of the farmers on the Single Registry are part of the Food Acquisition Program. For these families, whose income does not exceed one minimum wage, the income from the PAA constitutes more than 50% of their income, generating financial autonomy for the farmers. The Food Acquisition Program covers 2,693 municipalities, making up 48% of the total, and is present in all 26 states and the Federal District (Brazil, 2019).

The PAA also aims for a more equal distribution of federal resources, as it prioritizes municipalities where the degree of food insecurity is high, promoting regional development. In 2018, 76% of the Food Acquisition Program's financial resources were invested in the North and Northeast regions (Brasil, 2019).

The aim of these legal provisions was to establish the main characteristics of the Food Acquisition Program (PAA), created in 2003 as part of the Zero Hunger Program, with the primary objective of encouraging family farming and fighting poverty and hunger. After better structuring the program, and with a view to strengthening it, the National Supply Company (Conab) and the PAA Management Group (GGPAA) were created, responsible for monitoring the program (Perin, *et al.*, 2021).

As of 2009, the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger instituted the term of adhesion, with the aim of establishing partnerships and guidelines for the PAA. During this period, some situations impacted the program, such as Operation Agrofantasma (Agroghost), which investigated

deviations in the execution of the PAA, changes in the modalities and limits for the purchase of family farming products, as well as the adaptation of farmers to the quality standards required by the rules and regulations to sell their products on the institutional market (Perin, *et al.*, 2021).

Currently, the Food Acquisition Program has been strengthened by implementing new procedures and forms of inspection, as well as adjusting the purchasing modalities and criteria for supplier participation in order to improve the efficiency of the process. In this sense, there has also been an improvement in the monitoring and evaluation of the PAA by government bodies such as the Office of the Comptroller General.

In addition to these measures, partnerships and links have been sought with other programs and public policies to expand the reach and impact of the PAA in promoting family farming and food security, as well as discussions and debates on the sustainability and continuity of the program, considering challenges such as the availability of financial resources and the effectiveness of the actions implemented (Perin, *et al.*, 2021).

As mentioned above, the Food Acquisition Program aims to encourage family farming, fight hunger and promote food security. By promoting the direct purchase of products from family farmers without the obligation of bidding procedures, the PAA values this type of agriculture, strengthens the local economy and aims to mitigate income asymmetries (Almeida, *et al.*, 2020).

The Food Acquisition Programme should guarantee public food stocks from family farming, as well as stocks built up by cooperatives and other organizations belonging to family farming. The program's actions also favor the valorization of products from family farming, in this sense, they promote access to quality food in adequate quantity and regularity, respecting the right of every human being to access food (Vinhaes, 2018).

Vinhaes (2018) also mentions that, by encouraging family farming, the PAA promotes the economic and social inclusion of producers, favoring investments in more sustainable forms of production.

Access to new markets is also a feature of the Food Acquisition Programme, as it encourages farmers to participate in public sales, which favours an increase in income and better financial organization for producers, which can result in them staying in the countryside longer (Larson, *et al.*, 2023).

The main sustainable feature of the PAA is the encouragement of family farming, which often preserves and maintains the production of local crops and livestock (LARSON, *et al.*, 2023). Many family producers use agroecological production practices such as sustainable soil management, crop diversification and the reduction of external inputs (Whitman, Blesh, 2017). Such production can contribute to the preservation of local agrobiodiversity (Larson, *et al.*, 2023).

Another sustainable aspect of the Food Acquisition Program is promoting agrobiodiversity through agroecological and sustainable practices. Agrobiodiversity refers to the genetic, species and ecosystem diversity originating in agricultural areas, demonstrating the

peculiarities of each growing area or region. By favoring the preservation of local biodiversity, the PAA also favors the preservation of the environment and the sustainability of agri-food systems (Larson, *et al.*, 2023).

The PAA favors soil fertility because producers who have contracts with the program have significantly higher levels of particulate organic matter and phosphorus in the soil that result from the application of organic fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizers, such a benefit directly linked to the PAA demonstrates the incentive for sustainability present in the program (Whitman, Blesh, 2017).

Encouraging family production strengthens family farming by promoting income generation for families in the rural community and, consequently, promoting the autonomy of family producers and facilitating the continued use of healthy agroecological practices (Whitman, Blesh, 2017). In this sense, by guaranteeing the socio-economic development of the rural community, the PAA also contributes to reducing poverty in rural areas (Larson, *et al.*, 2023).

The economic development made possible by the PAA contributes to the valorization of local family agricultural production, promoting the trade of fresh and healthy food directly to government institutions and programs, strengthening the rural economy (Larson, *et al.*, 2023), providing producers with participation in guaranteed markets with regular prices (Whitman, Blesh, 2017) and reducing intermediaries in the commercial relationship by favoring a direct link between consumers and producers (Maciel, Flech, 2013).

The PAA encourages sustainable production by favoring agroecological practices, establishing guaranteed minimum prices and supporting farmers who want to convert their practices to more sustainable ones. Among the PAA's sustainable practices is the reduction of food waste, since food destined for schools and hospitals is more likely to be used efficiently (Whitman, Blesh, 2017).

The Food Acquisition Program (PAA) represents an exemplary model of effective and sustainable public policy that values local production, promotes food security and contributes to Brazil's sustainable development through its rural communities. By encouraging family farming, the PAA strengthens the rural economy, guarantees stable markets and fair prices for agricultural products and reduces income asymmetries (Maciel, Flech, 2013).

In addition, by adopting agroecological production practices, the program contributes to the preservation of agrobiodiversity and the environment. The efficient distribution of food to schools and hospitals also minimizes waste, ensuring that fresh and nutritious food reaches those who need it most - in short, the PAA not only supports small farmers, but also promotes social and economic inclusion, favouring a more balanced and sustainable rural development (Whitman, Blesh, 2017).

### **National School Feeding Program**

Created in 1955, the National School Feeding Program (PNAE) is an initiative of the Brazilian government designed to provide free, quality school meals for students in public and philanthropic schools. The PNAE's main objective is to contribute to the all-round development of students and to

improve the learning process by providing them with a balanced diet that meets their nutritional needs.

In existence in Brazil for over 60 years, the PNAE is a public policy that is one of the largest food and nutrition programs in the world. As well as fostering food security, the program is an important channel for distributing family farming production and providing local development through the creation and expansion of the institutional market (Pereira; Machado; Troian, 2017).

The National School Feeding Program (PNAE) is one of the oldest welfare policies in Brazil, and its essence is food supplementation. It emerged with the aim of combating the high rates of malnutrition and diseases associated with dietary comorbidities among Brazilian students. The main objective of the program is to provide food in schools to meet the basic dietary needs of students in public educational institutions, thus ensuring Food and Nutrition Security (SAN) (Nero *et al.*, 2023; Formiga; Araújo, 2011; Magalhães; Burlandy; Frozi, 2013; Vasconcelos *et al.*, 2012).

Since 2009, the National School Feeding Programme has been characterized as an essential tool in the development of family farmers, through the implementation of the Food Acquisition Programme (PAA), enabling access to local markets. The history of the PNAE shows the replacement of a model that encouraged the consumption and production of food processed by industry with another model that aims to encourage the production and consumption of food from family farming. This strategy is based on the relevance of this productive segment for the Food and Nutrition Security of the Brazilian population (Pereira, Machado, Troian, 2017; Triches, 2010).

The PNAE aims to contribute to students' growth and biopsychosocial development, learning, school performance and the formation of healthy habits, through food and nutrition education actions and the provision of meals that cover their nutritional needs during the period they are at school. (National School Feeding Booklet, 2014, p.10)

It is essential to highlight the importance of the nutritional aspects included in the program, being a fundamental axis for guaranteeing Food and Nutritional Security in the country, based on the use of healthy and adequate food, including the use of varied, safe food that respects culture, traditions and healthy eating habits; the development of food and nutrition education actions; the right to school meals, with the aim of ensuring food and nutrition security for students, with equal access, respecting the biological differences between ages and health conditions of students who need specific attention and those who are socially vulnerable. (FNDE, 2020)

Family farming is also gaining ground within the PNAE, based on the guideline of using healthy and adequate food and supporting sustainable development, valuing locally produced foodstuffs. Article 14 of Law No. 11,947/2009 establishes that at least 30% of the value of the federal resources of the National School Feeding Program - PNAE passed on by the FNDE must be invested in the direct purchase of products from family farming, a measure that stimulates the economic and sustainable development of communities. The same provision also establishes that priority should be given to agrarian reform settlements, traditional indigenous communities, quilombola communities and formal and informal women's groups. The novelty, brought in by Law No.

14.660, on August 24, 2023, is that the purchase of foodstuffs, when bought from an individual rural family, must be made in the woman's name, for at least 50% (fifty percent) of the amount purchased (FNDE, 2020).

According to Zerbini, Aguinol and Simões Ferreira; Alves & Mello (2019), the PNAE is a Brazilian public policy that can contribute to achieving the SDGs. The PNAE is one of the most important public policies in the country and in Latin America in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, as well as developing health promotion in schools by creating healthy eating habits, thus reducing the chances of chronic non-communicable diseases such as heart problems, diabetes and various types of cancer, in addition to contributing to reducing nutritional deficiencies and the risk of obesity, diseases that are increasingly present in young people and are attributed to poor diet, it shows that the program was overlooked for many years, being treated as a populist policy, but it has become a world reference in school feeding, also managing to improve educational performance, promote health and stimulate social and local economic development, through family farming.

Law No. 11.947 of 2009, known as the School Meals Law, promotes sustainability by encouraging the purchase of food directly from family farms, with an emphasis on organic products. According to Zerbini, Agnoll and Simões (2020), this model reinforces the role of organic farming, proposing a sustainable strategy that contributes to rural, environmental and educational development.

The PNAE is monitored and supervised directly by society, through the School Feeding Councils (CAE), and by the FNDE, the Federal Court of Auditors (TCU), the Federal Comptroller General (CGU) and the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The School Feeding Council is responsible for the social control of the PNAE, i.e. monitoring the acquisition of products, the quality of the food offered to students, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in which the food is stored, prepared and served, distribution and consumption, financial execution and the task of evaluating the EEX's accountability and issuing a Conclusive Opinion. The Federal Court of Auditors is the federal government's external control body that assists the National Congress in its mission to monitor the country's budgetary and financial execution and contribute to improving public administration for the benefit of society. The TCU is also responsible for investigating complaints made by any citizen, political party, association or union about irregularities or illegalities in the use of federal funds.

The Office of the Comptroller General oversees and evaluates the execution of government programs, including actions decentralized to public and private entities with funds from the federal budget; investigates complaints and representations; and carries out activities to support external control. The Public Prosecutor's Office performs a function essential to justice in terms of the defense of unavailable social and individual rights, the defense of the legal order and the defense of the democratic regime. Specifically, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office is responsible for acting in federal cases, regulated by the Constitution and federal laws, whenever the issue involves public interest. The MPF also acts preventively, extrajudicially, when it makes recommendations, holds public hearings and promotes

agreements through Conduct Adjustment Terms (TAC). (FNDE, 2022)

The PNAE has an important trajectory within the country, being one of the largest food programs in the world and with 69 years of existence, the program aims to offer healthy food to students across the country as well as supporting family farming.

## Conclusions

Sustainable development in Brazil therefore encompasses economic growth, social, cultural and environmental progress. The country has adopted legislation and initiatives, such as Decree 7.746/2012, to include sustainability criteria in public procurement, promoting efficiency, economy, transparency and social control. Programs such as PCCS, PAA and PNAE reflect the commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, focusing on poverty eradication, food security and responsible consumption practices. Analysis of the logistics chain in public procurement, from planning to the final disposal of waste, is fundamental to ensuring sustainable practices and systemic benefits for society and the environment.

The Food Acquisition Program (PAA) is a notable example of a public policy aimed at encouraging family farming and promoting food security in Brazil. Initially established by Law No. 10,696 of 2003, the PAA has evolved through various pieces of legislation, culminating in Law No. 14,628 of 2023, demonstrating a continuous effort to adapt and strengthen the program. As well as valuing family farming, the PAA has been crucial to the economic and social sustainability of rural communities. The creation of bodies such as the National Supply Company (Conab) and the PAA Steering Group (GGPAA) demonstrates the structuring of the program to ensure its effectiveness and proper monitoring. Since 2009, when the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger established the adhesion agreement, the program has sought more solid partnerships and guidelines, faced challenges and adjusted purchasing modalities and quality standards.

The PAA not only facilitates the direct sale of family farming products, without obligatory tendering procedures, but also promotes the economic and social inclusion of producers. By encouraging agroecological and sustainable production practices, the PAA contributes to the preservation of agrobiodiversity and the environment.

The use of organic manure instead of chemical fertilizers, for example, improves soil fertility, demonstrating the programme's commitment to sustainability. By guaranteeing stable markets and fair prices for family farming products, the PAA strengthens the rural economy and reduces poverty in the countryside, promoting the socio-economic development of rural communities and reducing food waste by efficiently allocating it to schools and hospitals.

The National School Feeding Program (PNAE) is another fundamental milestone in Brazilian public policy, with a legacy of almost seven decades of promoting food and nutritional security in public and philanthropic schools. The PNAE not only contributes to the integral development of students and the improvement of the learning process, but also plays a crucial role in promoting healthy eating habits, which are essential for preventing chronic diseases and improving the quality of life of young people. The evolution of the program,



especially with the integration of family farming and the recent update of Law No. 11,947/2009, reflects a progressive vision of sustainability and support for local economic development. This approach strengthens rural communities and fosters an institutional market that favors local, organic and sustainable production, reinforcing Brazil's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable development in Brazil encompasses economic growth, social, cultural and environmental progress, driven by legislation such as Decree No. 7,746/2012. These efforts include sustainability criteria in public procurement, promoting efficiency, economy, transparency and social control. Programs such as PCCS, PAA and PNAE reflect the country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, focusing on poverty eradication, food security and responsible consumption practices.

Analysis of the supply chain in public procurement is essential to ensure sustainable practices and systemic benefits. The PAA encourages family farming and food security, strengthening the rural economy and reducing poverty. The PNAE, with its history of promoting food security in schools, is evolving by integrating family farming, supporting local and sustainable economic development. These programs exemplify Brazil's commitment to a sustainable future, benefiting rural and urban communities in a comprehensive and lasting way.

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