

25 Years of Food Security Policy in Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Cecilia Rocha, PhD

Centre for Studies in Food Security and School of Nutrition
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

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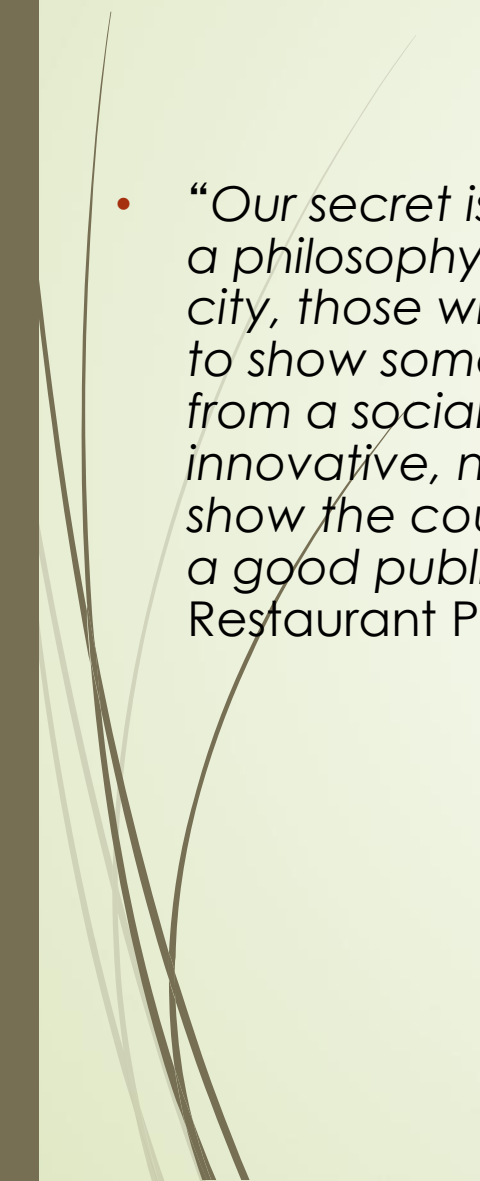


Description

- Developed in 1993 to address food and nutrition security in the city through the creation of the Municipal Secretariat for Food and Nutrition Security
- Lines of work (in 2019):
 1. Food Assistance (School Meals; Popular Restaurants; Food Bank; Social Assistance)
 2. Food Supply and Market Access(Abastecer; Straight from the Country; Farmers Markets)
 3. Agroecology, Urban Agriculture, and Family Agriculture (Institutional Gardens; Community Gardens)
 4. Food and Nutrition Education
 5. Gastronomy and Professional Qualification



Vision

- *“Our secret is the ethics in our work, respect for the people we serve, a philosophy of work dedicated to the neediest population of the city, those who never had access or rights to anything... We wanted to show something new, something which would be ahead of its time from a social and democratic perspective. And this was something innovative, not only for the city, but for all of Brazil. We wanted to show the country that it was possible to do something of this nature, a good public enterprise”. (Carlos Henrique, Manager of the Popular Restaurant Program, 1994-2012)*
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Principles guiding all programs

- Right to Food (in Brazil's constitution since 2010)
- Social Justice (favouring low-income groups)
- Universality (fighting stigma)
- Focus on food quality and safety



Main motivation

- The policy was created in the early 1990s under the newly elected mayor (Patrus Ananias) to reduce hunger and food insecurity in the city and surrounding areas.
- A group of highly committed and technically capable people was hired to compose the team at the Secretariat and create its first programs.
- They created programs to address issues in food production, distribution, and access (consumption).
- Many of the people involved in the earlier days were activists working with organized civil society groups.

Participation of civil society

Right to Food (Brazil's Constitution, 2010)

FBSAN
Brazilian Forum
Food & Nutrition
Security (1998)

CONSEA
National Council
for Food &
Nutrition Security
(2003)

LOSAN

National law on food & nutrition security - 2006

SISAN
National System
For Food &
Nutrition Security

**MUNICIPAL
(BH)**

Local
Conferences

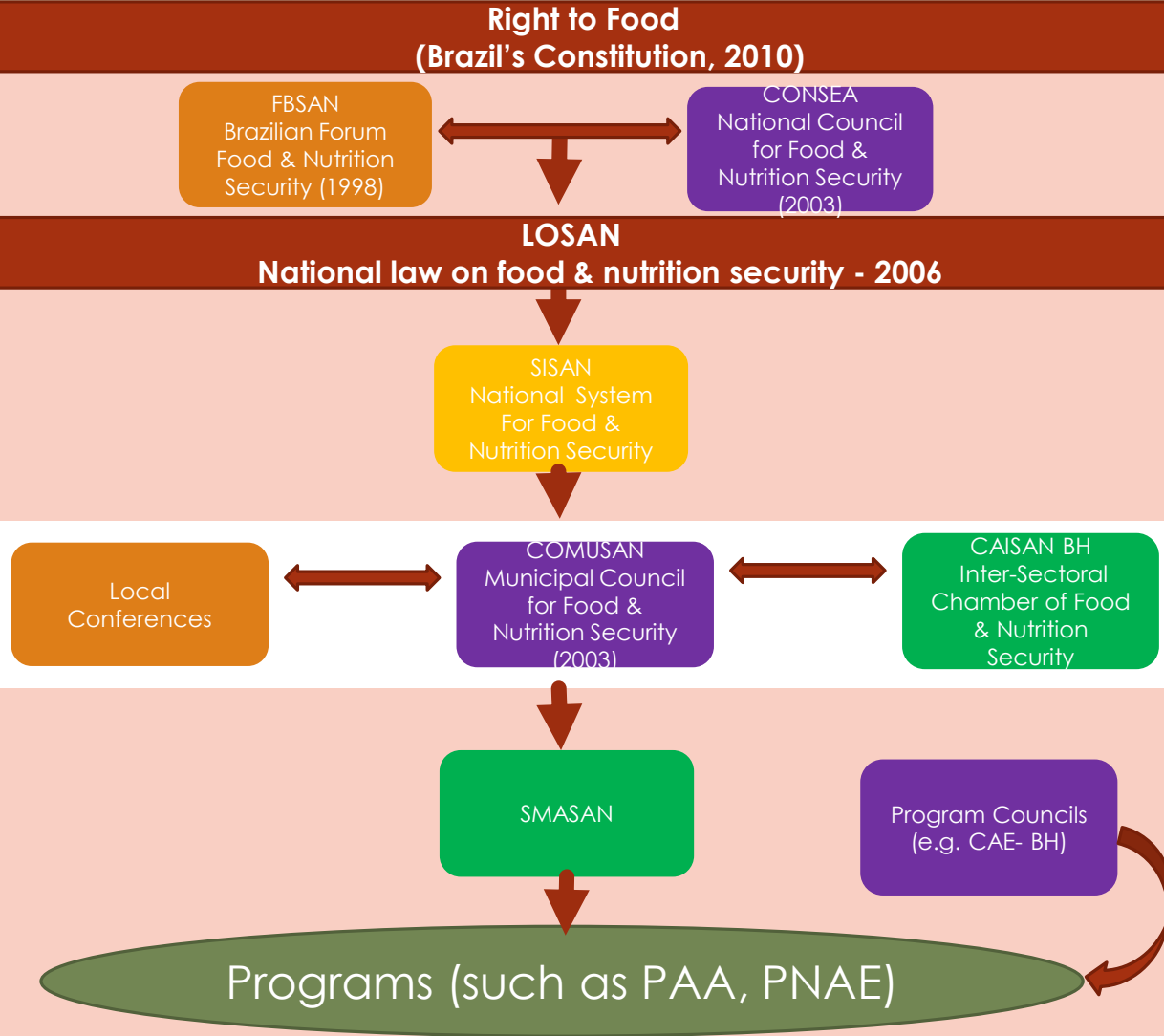
COMUSAN
Municipal Council
for Food &
Nutrition Security
(2003)

CAISAN BH
Inter-Sectoral
Chamber of Food
& Nutrition
Security

SMASAN

Program Councils
(e.g. CAE- BH)

Programs (such as PAA, PNAE)





Challenges



- Partnerships: “turf wars” (e.g., Department of Education giving up control of funds for School Meals)
- Partnerships: Food policies and programs viewed as complementary and “expendable”
- Technical administration/civil servants not as “politically/ideologically committed”
- Continuous new challenges: e.g., overweight and obesity
- Continuous old challenges: social inequality; corruption



Benefits/Lessons

- Contribution to health: Infant mortality rates in the city went from 34.6 in 1993 to below 10 in 2017.
- Partnerships: cost effectiveness (less than 2% of municipal budget)
- Alternative food system created and maintained by government action
- Social justice (rather than “locality” or “ecology”) as central motivation – the need for ONE central motivation
- Inter-sectoral approach to food security
- Scaling-up local programs to the national level
- Institutionalization of governance with participation of civil society



Popular Restaurants

- 4 cafeteria-style Popular Restaurants : serving mostly lunch (also breakfast and evening soup in one location)
- Price of lunch in 2019: R\$3.00 (less than US\$1.00)
- Serves over 10,000 meals per day
- Patrons range from families to students to homeless people to retired bank clerks (universal access)





School Meals Program



- Serves 40 million meals to 155 thousand students in 218 public schools
- Federal funding per child/day (for food): varies from R\$0.32 (for youth) to R\$1.07 (for daycare centres)
- Municipal government covers all other costs (infrastructure and personnel)
- 2009 federal legislation requires 30% of funds to be spent on purchases from small family farms

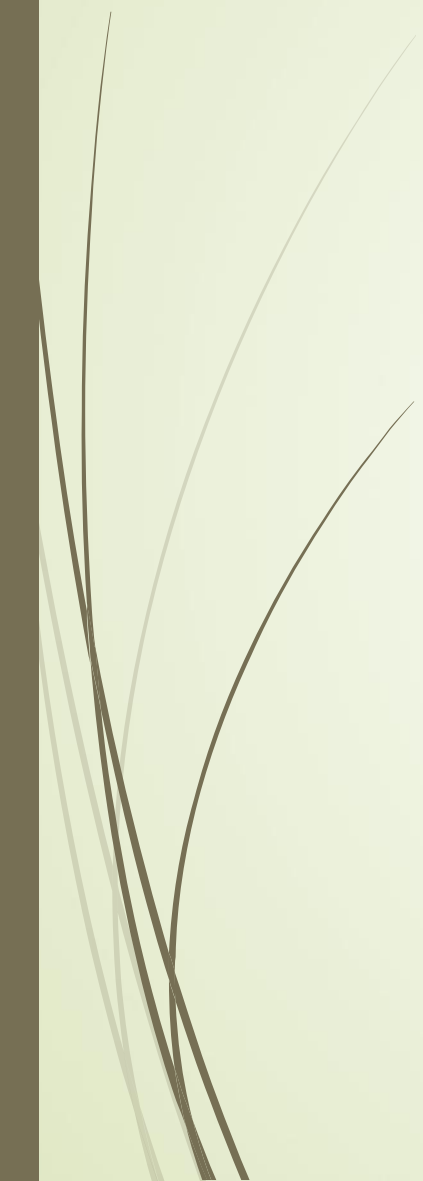


School in Belo Horizonte (2015)





Abastecer/Sacolão

- Commercial outlets licensed with the city
 - 20-25 items have the price (one price/kg for all items) set by the city (20-50% below market)
 - Universal access
 - SMASAN also monitors quality/safety
- 



Abastecer (2015)





Straight from the Countryside

- Main goal: help rural families to establish themselves in the countryside, halting rural-urban migration.
- Smallholder producers are given strategic points in the city to set up their stands. At least 75% of the products sold must be produced by the seller.
- 2017: 20 stands from small family farmers from surrounding rural areas participating in the program.





Urban Agriculture





Thank you!
Questions?

crocha@ryerson.ca

www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity