

**Emerging rurality: rethinking the city based on valuation of the urban-rural.**

**Emanuela Alves da Rocha**

Master Degree Student, PPGAU/UFF, Brazil  
emanuelarocha@id.uff.br

**Eloisa Carvalho de Araujo**

PhD Professor, PPGAU/UFF, Brazil  
eloisacarvalhoaraujo@id.uff.br

## SUMMARY

The development of urban and rural environment concepts pervades landscape characteristics and the dichotomous relationship between these areas. The urban and rural understandings are related to their economic, industrial, and agrarian activities to the city and countryside, respectively. Thus, the urban-rural duality departs the notion of a city that includes multiple environments and induces both an erasure of the ecosystem logic of humans and nature relations and consideration of humans as part of its decrease. In that regard, aspects connected with the dynamic of products and services store, such as water and food provisions, have unstuck from their origins which trivializes the process of production, supply, and consumption. Furthermore, a discussion between urban and rural must consider several points, including food sovereignty, agribusiness, land access inequality, local and regional territorial articulation, and climate. Based on a bibliographic review of academic articles published in journals, periodicals and events, this article intends to ponder these aspects in defence of an idea of urban-rural interdependence from the conception of the urban revolution and the urban phenomenon concept. Besides, this study seeks to strengthen the debate on consolidated and conflicted territorial practices aimed to rethink new public policies toward a more integrated and less unequal territory.

**KEYWORDS:** Urban-rural. Food. Landscape planning.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

To understand the city, it is necessary to apply a spatial and temporal perspective that culminates, in many cases, in the primacy of the urban environment over the rural. The path of what is conceived as “development” and “evolution” establishes the dichotomy between urban and rural, in which the first is a reference of modernity and progress, and the second of delay and retrogression. By moving from the dynamics of nature, the city and the human being move away from the rurality and perception of inevitable interdependence between both means, for example in aspects related to food or climate supply. Although the field of ecologism and sustainability gains strength, issues related to rurality and land management, especially in the field, are on the sidelines of debate and are often criminalized. Named as “combative ecologism” by Acsehrad (2010), social practices and movements from 1980 began to gain space with guidelines of subaltern groups. The author highlights the rubber tappers movement in Acre, the Movement of People Affected by Dams and the Movement of Landless Rural Workers. By encouraging discussion on productive land, many movements point to the need to fulfill the social function of property both in urban and rural areas.

In the etymological context, the term “rural” derives from the Latin *ruralis*, *rus-rulis* which finds reference in the field; a word that converges in the same direction from the Latin agrarian, *ager*, *agrir* (VESCHI, 2019). In its main axis of action, it is related to the cultivation of plants and animals. On the other hand, the term “urban” has its origin in the Latin *urbanus*, *urbs-urbi* referring to the city, moreover, it has the connotation of the point of origin of civilization and evolution of what is understood as “primitive village” (VESCHI, 2019). The urban and rural, however, are usually associated with the economic activities developed in each space, thus rural is similar to the conception of agrarian and urban is related to the industrial, since it is the most prominent time frame than is conceived as urban development.

The advent of the combustion engine provided a paradigm break for both mobility and occupation of the city territory. In the historical context, motor vehicles are highlighted by Peter Hall (2007) with regard to mass transport and cars. The occupation of the suburbs between the end of the 19th and early 20th century influenced the change of the landscape. Hall (2007) explains that the rural aspects of the places were soon replaced by residential sets. In addition,

these occupation processes despised trees and natural features, imposing construction dynamics through urbanization over spaces that were previously intended for the natural environment or food production. On the other hand, movements such as the city-gardens (late 19th century), city beautiful (between 1890 and 1900) and Corbusian city (after the second half of the 1920) throughout the discussion on the planning and occupation of the city recognized the importance of achieving a balance between urban and rural areas accompanied by a containment of urban sprawl (HALL, 2007). Aspects of rurality in these movements occurred mainly through green belts. The regional planning chain also highlighted the relevance of rural and natural environment for cities, since it built as principle the natural characteristics of the region, constituting itself as an essential survey base for planning (HALL, 2007).

In this context, from the conception of urban revolution and the urban phenomenon developed by authors such as Henri Lefebvre (2002 [1970]) and Robert Ezra Park (1987 [1916]), this article seeks to explore the relationship between urban and rural environments beyond the diametrically opposite visualization. Thus, it is intended to understand, based on the logic of submission of the field to the city, how the economic practices affect the territory and the ecosystem as a whole, such as agribusiness; the problems consolidated in the scenario of rural exodus; the food issue from the conception of interdependence between the countryside and the city, together with issues related to logistics and waste; and the potential with regard to climate resilience.

Recent scientific production opens an interesting spectrum about the new meanings for “rurality” in the production of the city’s landscape. These contributions move through the approximation of the rural with nature establishing new relationships between field and city, translated, above all, by processes experienced by social agents around productive practices, creating intentionality, ties, and identities with the landscape that one wishes to transform. We should also mention the ways of living the environment as leisure and escape from the problems of urban life in a context of “nature lovers”, fed by the discourses of a globalized world agenda. Thus, understanding the contours, specificities, and representations of this rurality in the city landscape, by the bias of productive practices, is the challenge that moves us, but is not exhausted in this article.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

This article seeks to promote the discussion of the field-city relationship regarding the process of consolidation of the urban-rural paradox and the importance of productive areas of food to eat and live well in the territory. In this sense, the study is oriented on two main axes: The first discusses the concept of urban phenomenon, globalized scientific agriculture and agribusiness and its consequences in the occupation of the city space and in the debate about food; and the second considers issues such as strengthening certain ways of consuming food and its consequences in the territory – regarding the formation of food deserts and the logistics inherent in this context – and for the food quality of the population considering cultural aspects and habits.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

The methodology of the study consists of the literature review from a survey of academic articles in scientific journals, journals, proceedings, from platforms such as Google Academic; as well as books by authors consolidated in the field of urbanism, geography and sociology, such as Henri Lefebvre, Robert Ezra Park, Milton Santos and Ermínia Maricato. The theme of food treated in this research points to the need to search in other areas, such as environmental sciences, work on the urban-rural dichotomy, such as those of Ricardo Abramovay and Gilberto Freyre. In view of this, the critical analysis of the material raised deepens the context of interconnection between the countryside and the city and highlights the emergence of thinking the rural and the natural as a potential for the formation of healthy cities.

### **4 RESULTS**

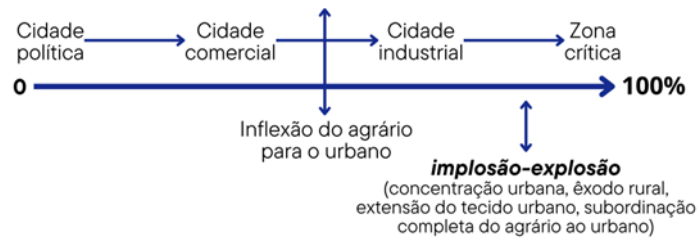
#### **4.1 From the urban-rural dichotomy to agribusiness**

The dichotomy of the urban-rural term was widely explored in the early twentieth century. Industrial development was established as a new technical-scientific paradigm influencing other ways of inhabiting space. Milton Santos (2008) points to a direct relationship between the emergence of new techniques and new historical stages. Park (1987), exploring what became known as an urban phenomenon, explains that the city is now characterized and organized from an economic perspective, reflecting the multiplication of occupations and professions. The urban begins to be established as a novelty, while also stimulating the emergence of a new human being from more complex social relationships between the population and the population with space. In this sense, Park (1987) comments that urban reality is a mediation between man and nature and that, from a more rational imperative, the paradoxical relationship between city and countryside, peasant and urban, and urbanity and rusticity gains strength.

In addition, Lefebvre (2002) equates in an axis that starts from the natural environment – while complete absence of urbanization – toward the urban (Figure 1) to explain, under a spatial-temporal logic, different social practices. Initially, in the context of agricultural development and the sedentary lifestyle of human groups, it is contemplated what he calls the political city: settlements that begin to develop as a village, with an organized social life, and that culminate in the exploitation of the territory and management based on agricultural works, such as drainage and construction of dykes. From the conception of merchandise and the integration between people and things, the commercial city is established where land ownership becomes part of the logic of market and movement – of people and things – promotes other rhythms in the city space, reiterated by consumption, encounter and exchange, stimulated by an idea of freedom (LEFEBVRE, 2002). The urban environment becomes associated with this exchange environment, which impacts the organization and appropriation of space, that is, architecture and urbanism – which is possible to exemplify with the emergence of medieval towns. At that moment, Lefebvre (2002) points to an inversion of meaning, which breaks with the consciousness of a balanced set between the countryside and the city, as an understanding of space and territory, and begins to establish itself as a subordination relationship from the first

to the second. This inflection, according to the author, is directly related to commercial growth through the existence of the market and inaugurates what he understands as an industrial city. Thus, the field, once endowed with wealth, such as the products of the soil and the settled people, became considered only the “circumneighborhood of the city, its horizon, its limit” (LEFEBVRE, 2002, p. 35). This debate already emphasized the conflicting coexistence of two social forms of production and its repercussion in landscape planning – the countryside in the city and the city in the countryside.

**Figure 1 – Space-time axis of forms of occupation and organization of society**



Source: Elaborated by Rocha, based on LEFEBVRE, 2002.

Thus, the technology from this industrial period starts to act in the field, now subordinate to the scientific and market dynamics. Food production begins to subsidize life in the city from a market inserted strictly in urban logic. However, these moments with distinct temporal and spatial characteristics cannot be considered only social phenomena; Lefebvre (2002) points out that each reflects sensations, perceptions, social practices, and the very understanding of discordant rationality. Moreover, it has multiple emergencies, different ideas of development and relations of inequality.

In the composition of this research, the relationship between rural and urban environments – and, consequently, food production – is affected by the development of new techniques, including linked to the process of dissemination and ease of access to information, which culminates in what is perceived as globalization. Milton Santos (2000) explores the link between people and a geographical space, based on a dependence of this area, impacting on the establishment of activities, whether economic, cultural, or political, stimulating the development of a particular place as a community and identity framework, that is, a territory. The process of globalization complies with this conception, since, from the information technique, breaks limits for the mobility of people, ideas, capital and, above all, what Santos (2000) calls technoscience, accentuating the communication among different techniques and provoking a competitive relationship. This deterritorialization accentuates aspects of individuality linked to an idea of freedom and removes the understanding of technique and science in a context of compartmentalization of the community – and what the author emphasizes as a stimulus to solidarity. In view of this, the agriculture – an activity that establishes a relationship between the human being and its surroundings –, from the globalized scientific perspective, necessarily requires new techniques, science and information for production that is subordinated to a market base that impacts from planting to food marketing, through logistics aspects of storage, packaging and transportation (SANTOS, 2008). In practice, the objective is to increase production by using new technologies, even if it is not accompanied by the growth of the planted surface (ABRAMOVAY, 2021; SANTOS, 2008).

With this goal worldwide, through the fight against hunger – a reality of almost half the world population, being a large portion living in a precarious rural environment (ABRAMOVAY, 2021) – and the aid in consolidating the idea of agribusiness (Born at Harvard Business School in 1955), the Green Revolution gains strength in a global scenario of population growth and densification of cities. Abramovay (2021) describes that companies, governments and important segments of society sought to achieve production growth in a systematic and

homogeneous way. The author comments that this process had as main focus the growth of the production of specific crops, such as rice, corn and wheat from the use of nitrogen fertilizers, phosphates and pesticides. These products increase productivity per area, however they dysregulate the cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus in the environment, which compromises elementary ecosystem services (ROCKSTRÖM et al., 2009). The heavy metals, associated with anthropogenic actions, among them intensive agriculture, are present in the composition of fertilizers and pesticides that are responsible for contamination of the environment and human being causing damage to various organs, besides having carcinogenic effects, even if consumed or in contact indirectly ((RAI et al., 2019).

The changes in production, commercialization and consumption instituted by agribusiness demanded an adaptation of the producers. Considering aspects such as the high cost of production and the imbalance between food supply and demand, Pompeia (2021) reiterates that the substrate of agribusiness activity, that is, the public for which the intention was to put into practice the new dynamics of this market, was directed to larger properties and owners with more capital for investment. What the author translates as the primary tripod of agribusiness: inputs (such as antibiotics and hormones) and agricultural machinery; agricultural production; and processing-distribution configures an association of the notion of agribusiness to the formation of corporations that control all phases, from production to commercialization. In view of the Cold War context for the global consolidation of agribusiness, Brazil from the 1950 and 1960 imported and recognized agribusiness as an engine for external export economy that operates not only in planting, but in the management of production, distribution and articulation with other sectors and agents involved with materials and equipment. During this period, the most active Brazilian agencies in the sector were the Brazilian Rural Society (SRB) and the National Confederation of Agriculture (CNA), the current Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil.

Rural activity comprises the Brazilian political and socioeconomic context since the colonial period – where it is worth highlighting its slave labour – until the present day. According to Deponi and Freitas (2022), the Brazilian agro-exporter market had several productive cycles such as sugarcane, rubber and coffee, and currently has a rural diversity through varied land, productive and social scenarios. The authors also highlight those certain factors, such as the ability to link the local to the global, and regional aspects influenced the investment in favour of structural changes in the rural environment and the promotion of economic growth and autonomy. In this sense, Abramovay (2006) points out that the understanding of territory helps in the disruption of the dichotomous notion of urban-rural, since one can understand the rurality beyond the physical limits, considering its dynamics and interactions; an institutional analysis of the interactions present; stimuli of public governance through local actors; and that natural systems are linked to human uses and interventions.

In both the United States and Brazil, the stimulus to agribusiness promotes the expulsion of small producers and peasants from the rural environment by failing or wanting to adapt to the new modes of production and, often, not having enough capital for these investments, seeking, thus, other ways of obtaining income, whether still in rural areas with other producers or in urban areas (MARICATO, 2014; POMPEIA, 2021). A reflection of a new scientific and globalized agriculture (SANTOS, 2008), the process of rural exodus intensifies – in Brazil from the 1940's – feeding the process of exclusion of access to urbanized land (MARICATO, 2014). In this sense, Maricato (2014) builds a very continuous line that goes through the urban-rural relationship precisely to explain the issue of land and how it is established in both means, even if they seem opposite. On the other hand, the relationship of subordination from rural to urban is explained by Paul Singer (1980) using an economic and expansion perspective of the city. The author comments that the production of space considered as urban occurs mainly by the annexation of areas that had previously agricultural use and, as a result, what he calls “cost of production” is based on income, exclusively agricultural of the land, which ceases to gain. Considering that the land valuation is directly linked to the presence of “urban” infrastructure added to the absence or minute investment of this nature in rural areas, the valorization of the attached lands will occur as this occurs.

The result of the homogenizing action of globalization added to its fragmentary action (SANTOS, 2008), that is, that discourages the conception of community and solidarity as a function of individual access to technologies and, consequently, to a “particular prosperity”, it is possible to notice a tendency to deterritorialization and the understanding of space only as a stage of investor installation, instrumentalization, production and gain. Nowadays, food production is inserted and subordinated to the logic of market, which since planting to sale, according to promotes the critical zone described by Lefebvre (2002), manufactures inequalities and devalues not only life in society, but also an entire ecosystem from a dynamic of technological exploration of soil and nature. In other words, the territories are seen and valued as investments – a landscape committed to an economy from this new rurality that is revealed by gathering competitive attributes capable of attracting international capital.

#### **4.2 Think green cities: to eat and live well**

The food changes are related to the market logic aimed at the foodstuff. Peres and Matioli (2020) show in the activities of commercial establishments, mainly of large corporations, a share of responsibility for changes in consumption habits and food quality. In this sense,

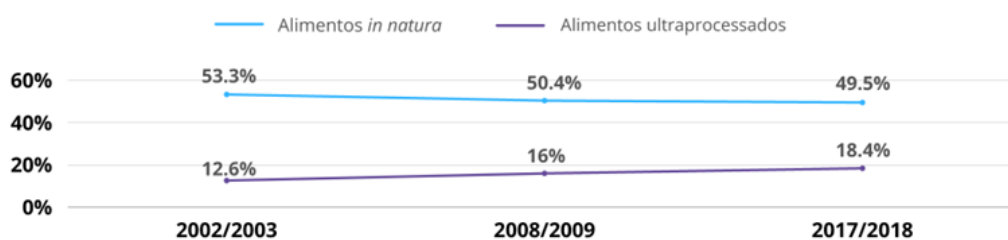
The supermarket is the space of (de)education for consumption. Or rather, for consumerism. For this we gave the central stage of our lives. Because there is no way to reflect on something that has no history. We live a life without ponderations, without stopping to understand the structures and, therefore, to understand the very senses of existence. (PERES; MATIOLI, 2020, p. 34)

In addition to the afore mentioned consumption logic that involves, even, the spatial configuration of commercial establishments, the products offered move away from the pace of

seasonality, inherent to nature, and overcome this barrier through the technological development that had as a trigger the Green Revolution. This variety provided by the markets is illusory, considering that 90% of humanity consumes only fifteen species of about seven thousand catalogued food plants and four million people have only three main and fundamental foods: rice, corn, and wheat (ANTONELLI et al., 2020). The supply of a standardized range of foods daily contradicts the logic and rhythm of nature, as well as being linked to the use of chemical inputs, harmful to health and the environment. Another point to be highlighted is the high consumption of processed and ultra-processed foods that can be linked to its practicality and preparation time. The consumption of these foods, especially ultra-processed foods, is related to the condition of food insecurity, as well as to the development of diabetes and hypertension (IDEC, 2020).

The Brazilian Institute of Consumer Protection (IDEC, 2020) and the World Health Organization recommend the daily consumption of at least 400 g of fresh foods, obtained from nature without changes. However, the surveys of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2004, 2011, 2020) from 2002/2003, 2008/2009 and 2017/2018 show a reduction in the consumption of fresh foods and an increase in the intake of ultra-processed foods (Figure 2). Although this problem has multifactorial origins, it is important to highlight the income inequality that impacts the purchasing power, as well as the dependence of urban centers for access to these foods that causes inequality of geographical nature – regarding the location of commercial establishments. In this sense, it is worth highlighting the concept of food deserts defined as areas of difficult supply of fresh or minimally processed foods (IDEC, 2020). The difficulty of access to these products directly reflects in reproductive work, that is, that essential to the survival of the human being, such as feeding, and that overwhelms the majority of family women (VALDÍVIA, 2018).

**Figure 2 – Comparative chart on the consumption of fresh and ultra-processed foods**



Source: Prepared by the authors from IBGE data of 2004, 2011, 2020.

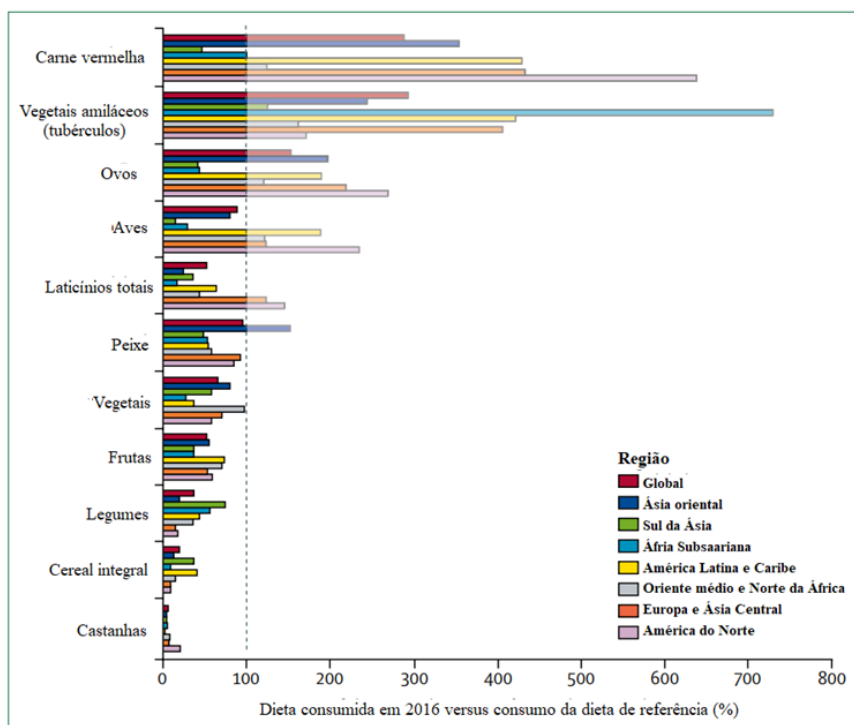
The food disorder scenario involves several factors, such as eating habits and access to food. Both hunger and obesity are the main axes of the Brazilian food problem, where, on the one hand, there is the absence of a nutritional quality diet and, on the other, the uncontrolled consumption of low nutritional quality foods, such as processed and ultra-processed foods. In this context, the definitions of food insecurity seek to characterize different realities: mild, moderate or severe. The first refers to the uncertainty of access to food in the future with an inadequacy of present consumption in order not to compromise quality. The second shows a reduction in the amount of consumption by adults or change in food due to the lack of products. The third occurs when there is a high reduction in quantity, including among children (CAMPS,



2020). According to the research developed by the Brazilian Network for Research on Food Sovereignty and Security (PENSSAN Network) in 2022, 15.5% of the Brazilian population is starving, which is equivalent to 33.1 million people. However, the number of food insecurity, regardless of the level of severity, shows that more than half of the Brazilian population (58.7%) is in this condition.

Abramovay (2021) highlights the importance of vegetable consumption, as well as reducing the consumption of meat and ultra-processed products. According to the author, a quarter of the surface of the planet is dedicated to pastures and 40% of the planting areas are intended for animal feed. In this sense, he points to climatic aspects of meat production of ruminant animals, which corresponds to 70% of emissions of pollutants from agriculture globally. Regarding the participation of the sectors in Brazilian emissions, in 2019, the agricultural activity was responsible for the emission of 28% of greenhouse gases, whose main sources the cattle herd, the use of nitrogen fertilizers, the management of animal waste, the cultivation of irrigated rice and the burning of residues stand out (ALBUQUERQUE et al., 2021). If, on the one hand, there is a great destination of land for the raising of animals for meat consumption, either for the national territory or for export, on the other hand, studies show a consumption of animal protein greater than that necessary by the population. Willett et al. (2019) draw attention to an exaggerated consumption of meat and other foods based on a reference diet (represented by the dashed line in Figure 3), which consists of the evaluation of macronutrients and calories in foods (Figure 3). This diet encourages a diet that includes a large part of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, vegetables, nuts, and unsaturated oils, a low to moderate amount of seafood and poultry, and no or little amount of red meat, processed meat, added sugar, refined grains and starchy vegetables (tubers).

**Figure 3 – Dietary difference between dietary patterns in 2016 and food intake in the reference diet**



Source: WILLETT et al., 2019.

Both the removal of the rurality of the urban environment and the discourse for the defence of the vocation of certain regions of the country for food production remove food from the consumer's dish and establish, in the current Brazilian context, the road sector as an important modal to carry out this logistics. The intermediate between production and supply points is consolidated from this process of food charter, which impacts the final value of the product. However, throughout this displacement, a large portion is wasted. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2017), 18.8% of food produced in Brazil is wasted per year. Figure 4 shows the path of waste in the country, which highlights 50% throughout handling and transportation and 30% in the supply plants (CEASA).



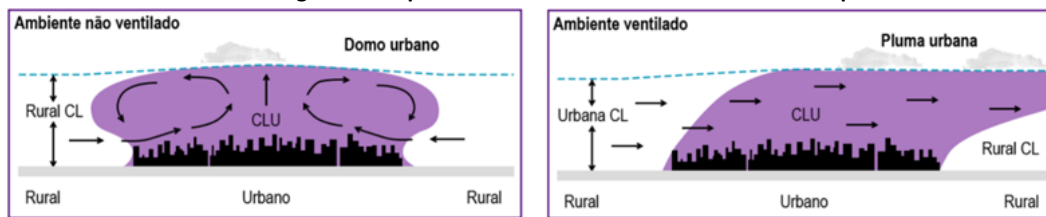
Source: Elaborated by Rocha, based on FAO, 2017.

To establish a relationship of interdependence between urban and rural environments influences the emergence of a new way of inhabiting at the ecosystem level. It is known that the presence of green areas inserted in the urban network can be characterized as islands of freshness because they act in reducing the sensation of heat. To explain the climate contribution of green areas, it is important to understand the process of formation of heat islands, defined as urban microclimates recognized by heat retention, possibly due to urban density, wind stagnation and use of non-natural materials, such as concrete (OKE, 2017). Added to the reality of verticalization of many urban centers, the stagnation of polluted air becomes present in the context of Brazilian cities. Figure 5 illustrates two processes that relate the concentration of polluted air in the city and the importance of ventilation not only within the urban area, but also around its stain to promote the dispersion and renewal of air, from the conception of urban dome and urban plume, respectively (OKE, 2017). An urban planning that rethinks aspects of its morphology with the articulation of local and regional levels can enhance the presence of green spaces within the urban spot – generating processes such as evapotranspiration<sup>1</sup> – and transitions among the cities, such as green belts. This green can characterize not only the natural vegetation spaces, but also those dedicated to food production and rurality. In this sense, it is important to highlight the importance of production modes in balance with nature respecting ecosystem logic, such as agroecology and permaculture.

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<sup>1</sup> Process that allows the absorption of solar radiation by vegetation. Considering the permeability and evaporation process, when the heat is absorbed by the vegetation, it generates a cooling of the surrounding air (OKE, 2017).

Figure 5 – Representation of the urban dome and urban plume



Source: Adapted by the authors of OKE, 2017.

In the context of containment of the urban spot and dedication of part of the city's territory to the natural environment and to the rurality, it is worth highlighting the concept of networked cities explored by Josep María Llop (2020) within the scope of small and medium-sized cities. In defence of more compact cities where it is possible to establish healthier dynamics of displacement, from mixed use and quality housing policy, Llop (2020) explores that cities must work to concentrate 70% of the population in a central radius of up to 4 km. The arguments focused on regional planning in the proposal of networked cities can help not only to contain the emergence of hub cities and reduce asymmetries, but also, in the food environment, to provide investments that equate a joint production and supply of different food crops that can establish several phases related to agriculture – from planting to marketing – at regional level. Public policies aimed at stimulating food production, such as the creation of regional support funds; technical assistance programs; collective purchases of food, machinery, and necessary inputs; and seed library programs – an institution that lends or shares seeds – can be thought of locally and regionally. In addition, the articulation between the consumer and the local producer, through fairs and other initiatives, can act in the fight against food insecurity due to the reduction of large displacements of production. Regarding the improvement of the food quality of the population, it is worth highlighting the Green Exchange Program implemented in 1989 in the city of Curitiba (PR) (CENSI, 2012). The program provided the exchange of recyclable and organic waste by horticulture farmers and explored initiatives aimed at the greener management of waste through composting. However, currently the program is active only in the mode of exchange of recyclable waste in the proportion of 4 kg of these to 1 kg of fruits and vegetables.

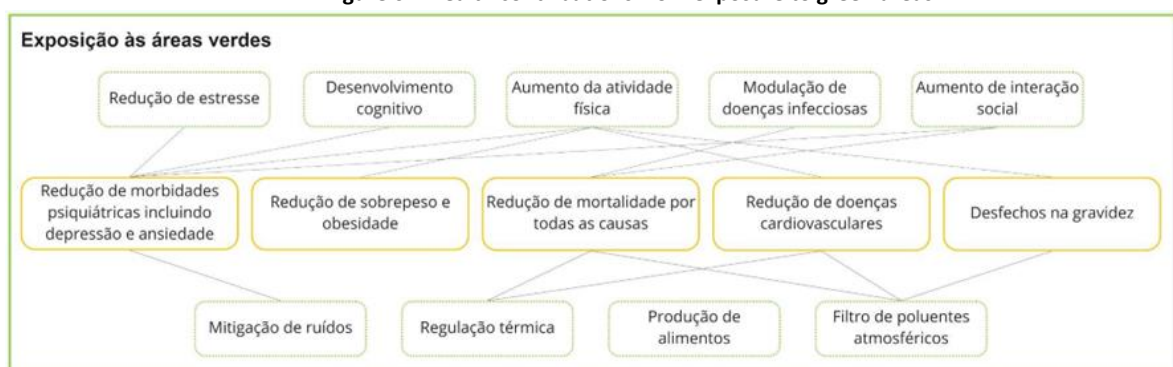
The green areas, focused on food production, can make a difference in landscape planning and play new forms of integration among the commercial circuit of food production, the climate contribution and the general health of the population, which changes the urban-rural dichotomy by cooperation between both means. Abramovay (2021) considers that the notion of rural poverty and insufficient support from food production also stimulates the devaluation of rurality. And, in this sense, the understanding of territory helps to highlight a phenomenon of multidimensional character that involves, among other factors, the devaluation of this portion of the territory from the absence of necessary infrastructures to combat the dependence of urban centers and the disincentive to agricultural activity due to the absence of public policies and debates around the theme. In view of this, Gilberto Freyre's rurbanisation idea (1982) points to the introduction of urban values in rural areas as a means of combating the exodus, reconciling the countryside and the city. Resuming the idea of the urban phenomenon and associating to the scenario of dependence of urban centers, the intention is

to break with the dichotomy and standardize advances on the territory in a more ecological way (FREYRE, 1982 apud FROEHLICH, 2000). Some infrastructures considered as “urban” provide quality of life that has little relation to its implementation in the city or in the countryside, since many of these pieces of equipment and services allow autonomy to the dweller.

In studying Freyre's life and works (1982), Froehlich (2000) explains that the values related to regionality and its capacity for unification in diversity strengthen identity and belonging, as advocated in the idea of community and solidarity stated by Santos (2008). In this sense, Freyre recognizes the kitchen as an important element in the structuring of sociability and combating the decharacterization of the region. From the idea of social ecology – study of the relationship between human beings and the environment considering respect for diversity and organic union of beings – the author points out that, both to understand Brazilian social phenomena and to guide investments and problem solving, it should be emphasized aspects of this regionality inherent to the territorial plurality of the country (FROEHLICH, 2000). Similarly, the rurban solutions come to articulate the discrepancies between the urban and the rural. Freyre (1982 apud FROEHLICH, 2000) places the importance of rethinking the education system in a way that rescues rural figures, feeding a notion of harmony among the means and provoking a new mentality. Froehlich (2000) also points out similarities between aspects of rurbanization and the Regionalist Movement of the 1920 in terms of attention to the specificities of each region generating customized public policies. The author points out that the presence of industries in the rural environment, without harming the specificities of the field, can provide opportunities for a portion of the population that is not dedicated to agricultural activities.

Green areas not only for productive purposes have a positive performance in the health of the population. Exposure to these spaces also brings benefits (AMATO-LOURENÇO et al., 2016). Figure 6 lists the advantages of exposure to green areas for human health; however, it is important to highlight the complexity and multifactorial character inherent to health conditions.

**Figure 6 – Health contributions from exposure to green areas**



Source : AMATO-LOURENÇO et al., 2016.

Rethinking urban-rural from the perspective of urban planning and landscape and public policies stimulates the interdependence between the countryside and the city as a power. Although the defence for the balance between urban and rural areas in the territory is resumed over periods of the history of the city, it should be noted that the urban-rural understood as paradox and diametrically opposite stimulates a dissociation between the human being and

nature, as well as it promotes a logic of erasing elementary aspects of everyday life, such as food.

## 5 CONCLUSION

The population and territorial growth and the role of the urban environment impact the reduction of areas dedicated to natural, as well as increase human actions in the landscape. The relationship between urban and rural (or natural) is established in a dichotomous way, affected by the idea of evolution and progress, associated from the industrial urban period to the present day. Thus, natural resources in cities are often subjected to the urbanization process, although these spaces reflect memories and compose the identity of a people. In addition, they are important for quality of life, both in terms of climatic and physical and mental health aspects, and the very consolidation of the public space as a democratic tool.

Rethinking the city from the dynamics of nature, understanding human action as part of this ecosystem, stimulates an adaptation process. A process that must be guided by a pact for rurality from the recognition of the various social groups and their practices, by reaffirming the place of rural as the value of society. The stimulus to the experience of the city – from a unifying perspective of the urban-rural – and the creation of spaces of interaction and living together reinforce the idea of democratic landscapes, respect for the different ways of living, in addition to thinking insurgent alternatives for an improvement in quality of life and food.

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