TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT: REFLECTION OF RURAL COOPERATIVISM
IN THE SOUTHEAST OF THE STATE OF TOCANTINS

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Research and identify territorial development policies in the southeast of the State of Tocantins and identify the potential of cooperatives belonging to the territory of the southeast of the State of Tocantins, aiming at social economic progress, development, and regional sustainability.

Theoretical benchmark: Regional development ends up becoming a topic that provokes many debates, as social evolution, dissatisfaction, and non-conformity in the new society cause them to group together to train skills and abilities, with local, municipal, and federal governments as partners. and states for the development process.

Method: The deductive method was adopted, based on theoretical and bibliographical study applied to existing research databases.

Results and conclusion: It was observed that cooperativism promotes education, democratizes access to credit, and seeks to develop the community in which it operates. This demonstrates that cooperativism has the necessary tools for a broad social inclusion project in southeast Tocantins.

Implications of the research: The research offers new scientific contributions to the theme of cooperativism, offering theoretical bases for interventions and public policies that impact this economic activity in a Brazilian state with strong economic and social growth trends.

Originality/value: Discussions regarding social transformations in recent decades, related to the globalization of the economy, technology, and its accessibility, have directly reflected in social life and consequently in work relations, thus the increase in regions relegated to oblivion, thus requiring, understanding the meaning of the territorial approach to rural development.

Keywords: Planning, Regional Development, Territory, Rural Cooperatives, Southeast Tocantinense, Tocantins.
DESENVOLVIMENTO TERRITORIAL: REFLEXÃO DO COOPERATIVISMO RURAL NO SUDESTE DO ESTADO DO TOCANTINS

RESUMO

Objetivo: Pesquisar e identificar as políticas de desenvolvimento territorial no sudeste do Estado do Tocantins e identificar as potencialidades das cooperativas pertencentes ao território do sudeste do Estado do Tocantins, objetivando o progresso econômico social, desenvolvimento e sustentabilidade regional.

Referencial Teórico: O desenvolvimento regional acaba por se tornar um tema que provoca muitos debates, pois conforme a evolução social, a insatisfação e o inconformismo da nova sociedade, faz com que se agrupem para adestrar competências e habilidades, tendo como partes os governos locais, municipais, federais e estaduais para o processo de desenvolvimento.

Método: Foi adotado o método dedutivo, embaixo no estudo teórico e bibliográfico aplicado a base de dados existentes com pesquisa.

Resultados e Conclusão: Observou-se que o cooperativismo promove a educação, democratiza o acesso ao crédito, procurando desenvolver a comunidade onde está inserida. Isso demonstra que o cooperativismo possui as ferramentas necessárias para um amplo projeto de inclusão social no sudeste tocantinense.

Implicações da Pesquisa: A pesquisa oferece novas contribuições científicas para o tema do cooperativismo, oferecendo bases teóricas para intervenções e políticas públicas que impactem nessa atividade econômica em um estado brasileiro com tendências de forte crescimento econômico e social.

Originalidade/Valor: As discussões a respeito das transformações sociais nas últimas décadas, tangente à globalização da economia, a tecnologia e sua acessibilidade, têm refletido, diretamente, na vida social e consequentemente nas relações de trabalho, logo o aumento de regiões relegadas ao esquecimento, necessitando assim, entender o significado da abordagem territorial do desenvolvimento rural.

Palavras-chave: Planejamento, Desenvolvimento Regional, Território, Cooperativismo Rural, Sudeste Tocantinense, Tocantins.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Discussions on social changes in recent decades, which are a direct reflection of the globalization of the economy, technology and its accessibility, have directly reflected in social life and consequently in labor relations, thus the increase of regions relegated to oblivion, thus needing to understand the significance of the territorial approach of rural development.

The discussions on rural development have therefore been based on various aspects, one of which focuses on demographic and economic aspects and proposes an analysis that separates the social dynamics of rural areas from the economic and productive processes of agriculture. In this probability, rural labor gains strength, especially with regard to non-agricultural activities and the focus on pluriactivity.

Another perspective focuses on the more sociological extension, which values the ways of life and the culture of the rural population. There is also a more conceptual debate on rurality, indicating that this is a territorial rather than a sectoral concept. In the light of this discussion, the work will be done on cooperativism in the southeastern region of the state of Tocantins, with a focus on rural cooperatives.
Cooperativism emerges as a mechanism to fight social marginalization and exclusion, especially in rural areas, since it has in its essence values that contribute to community development, different from other organizations.

According to the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives (OCB), in Brazil, the culture of cooperation has emerged since the time of colonization. Throughout social evolution and the spread of the Cooperativist doctrine there was doctrinal expansion and on December 2, 1969, the OCB was created, legitimately arising that which would be the defender of the interests of national cooperativism.

In the State of Tocantins, according to data from OCB/TO, cooperativism was born with the creation of the State in 1988, however, before there were already working cooperatives. In the southeastern region of the state of Tocantins, it operates in two segments, one of which is the production of artisanal cachaça and the other in the production of fruit growing.

2 THEORETICAL BENCHMARK

Regional Development ends up becoming a topic that provokes many debates, because according to the social evolution, the dissatisfaction and the non-conformism of the new society, it causes them to group together to train competencies and skills, having as their counterparts the local, municipal, federal and state governments for the development process, (Bastos, 2005).

In this sense, Oliveira (2003) explains that development must be seen as a complex process of changes and transformations of an economic, political and, above all, human and social order. Development is nothing more than growth - positive increases in output and income - transformed to meet the most diverse needs of the human being, such as: health, education, housing, transportation, food, leisure among others (OLIVEIRA, 2003, p. 40).

Oliveira (2003) points out that thinking about regional development is, before anything else, thinking about the participation of local society in the continuous planning of the occupation of space and in the distribution of the thefts of the growth process. Another important factor to be listed would be how economic development takes into account economic growth, which can be calculated through GDP, along with the improvement of the population's standard of living.

According to Clemente (2000), the differentiation between growth and development, it is pointed out that economic growth is related to the increase of production and income, and development is related to the raising of the population's standard of living. This development also depends on each social characteristic, and in some it may go against the idea of economic growth.

As explained by Sachs (2008), growth, even if it is accelerated, is not a synonym for development and to be considered as such should expand employment, act in the reduction of poverty and mitigate inequalities. Another relevant factor would be economic development in response to economic growth, which can be calculated through GDP, coupled with the improvement in the standard of living of the population.

According to Clemente (2000), with regard to the differentiation between growth and development, it is pointed out that economic growth is related to the increase of production and income, and development is related to the raising of the population's standard of living. This development also depends on each society, and in some it may go against the idea of economic growth.

Sen (2000) also corroborates the view that development is a process of expanding the freedoms enjoyed by people, making clear the role of society's protagonism in establishing development. On the other hand, Furtado (2000) proposes that development is grounded in a process of cultural invention and attributes to man a role of transforming agent of the world.
Perroux (1967) points out that the development of a country does not happen all or everywhere and much less at the same time. Efforts are needed to boost this growth in the regions and boost their economic potential.

By analogy with regional development, one can highlight the thinking of Myrdal (1965) who says: "[...] the game of market forces tends, in general, to increase and not to decrease regional inequalities" and in this logic highlights the influence that economic issues have on regional differences.

In this probability, the importance of locating economic activities for the development of a region or locality is highlighted, namely that there is a differentiation between region and place and in this sense Albagli (2004, p.49) highlights the region as being some part between continental and national or between national and local, explaining that the concept of locality is more restricted and has a greater link with the notion of place.

The territory, considered as a socially constructed economic space that has resources and stories built by those who live in it with conventions of values and rules and institutional arrangements that express their forms of social organization of production (Lemos; Santos; Crocco, 2005, p. 175), develops regionally in a differentiated way.

Vázquez Barqueiro (2001, p.39) also conceptualizes territory and for the author territory has a role of protagonism in the development of the economy and society, the territory is an agent of transformation and not merely support of resources and economic activities, since there is interaction between companies and other actors, who organize themselves to develop the economy and society.

Dallabrida (2016, p.23) believes that "the notion of territoriosity contributes to the construction of the feeling of belonging to a given territory, from which arises its identity". Territorial identity would be developed by traits and characteristics of people linked to geographical space, culture, social relations and territorial environmental heritage, becoming the differentiating element of a given population grouping.

Thus, it would be the understanding that territory is resulting from the relationship of society with space, when in this it is incorporated society with its economic and production relations. In order to have a territory, it is necessary for society or social groups to take over the physical space, expand and use technological innovations, and for there to be a feeling of belonging or the identification of society with its territory. SCHNEIDER, 2010.

Also with this understanding, Schmitt; Turatti; Carvalho, (2002). that the understanding of territory indicated the association between the influence of animal or plant species with a given physical area

According to Flores (2006) later, the theoretical basis of territory was incorporated by geography, which associates natural resources, space, power and society. Then, disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, economics and political science began to absorb the debate about the concepts of territory.

In this sense, Buarque (2002) the territory, as an area for the formulation of regional development strategies, is the object of influence of the culture of society, through social movements, private entities and non-governmental organizations.

For Flores (2006), this procedure faces relevant problems such as the confrontation between sectoral policies and territorial policies, centralized and decentralized management and planning structures, culture confrontation, local and external environment, however, according to Chelotti (2010), they will have assumptions about important points for a successful perspective of territorial development proposals.

Haesbaert and Limonad (2007) associate the understanding of territory in three basic aspects fundamental to the understanding of models of instrumentalization of conceptions and notions about this territorial determination:
● **Political Legal:** where the territory is declared as a determined and controlled area, where power is exercised, generally considered as political power of the State;

● **Cultural:** favors the intangible symbolic-cultural extension in which the territory is regarded as the product of the adaptation or symbolic enhancement of a group over its space; and

● **Economic:** the spatial proportion of economic relations, the impact between social classes and the capital-labor association are highlighted.

Albagli (2004) proposes the possibility of determining models aiming at the strengthening of territorialities in the following ways: by stimulating the bonds of similarity and collaboration, based on the common convenience of preserving, recognizing and accumulating what a given territory possesses - its cultural heritage, its peculiarities, its productive techniques, economic potentialities and its environmental resources.

However, the author draws attention to the improbable construction of these territorialities supported in external conditions, without being based on the socio-cultural resources of the territory; and ensures that recognition based on external interests, of instrumental particularity, proposes to raise investments and, in this way, territoriality is valued only by speculative and commercial interest, causing the exploitation of territoriality as a predatory and unsustainable way in the long term, prone to the destruction of the environment and social capital.

In this segment, Paulillo (2000) explains that the resources of power, institutionality, conviction and cooperation or reciprocity are the conditions that define the social structure and the method of development that is implemented in the territory. Given this context, the intention is to bring the importance of cooperativism as one of the modalities for territorial strengthening.

According to Schneider (2003), "cooperatives are a reflection of the cultural, economic and political environment in which they operate, and thus there can be great differences between one cooperative and another". The same author goes on to highlight: (...) cooperatives are organizations constituted by the association of people who seek better economic, social and cultural conditions of life and who, in order to meet this expectation, need to work the side of enterprise (instrument) with efficiency and competitiveness. (...) it is the social economic and cultural promotion of its associates and not the mere accumulation of profit, or surplus.

In this sense, Schneider (2003) further stresses that the cooperative aims to realize the common good and the overall and integral improvement of the cooperatives, satisfying basic material and human needs. The cooperative's objectives are twofold: the search for social and economic efficiency.

The OCB System lists the leading role of the Brazilian field in the production of food and the generation of employment and income in the country. According to the data available, on the OCB website, the agricultural and livestock cooperatives were pillars for the nationalization and commercialization of Brazilian agricultural products, leveraging production, modernization of the countryside, investments and new technologies, conquering the international market, thus reaffirming its importance for the economy in the country. This branch is composed of the "cooperatives of rural or agro-pastoral producers and of fisheries, whose means of production belong to the cooperative" (http://www.ocb.org.br/ramo-agropecuario).

3 METHOD

The methodology adopted will be the deductive method, based on the theoretical study in generic and legal books, legislation, and supporting materials of the cooperative learning systems and their social representation, having as resources the bibliographic, documentary and
other instruments or research techniques in accordance with the methodology followed, capable of assisting research.

Within this system, this work will seek to identify the territorial development policies in the southeast of the state of Tocantins and identify the potential of cooperatives belonging to the southeastern territory of the state of Tocantins, aiming at social economic progress, development and regional sustainability.

4 DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS

According to Rodrigues, et al. (2012), the economic structure of the southeastern region of Tocantins, from the second half of the eighteenth century, organized around cattle ranches and agrarian activities and, currently, even with the migration to the cities, people continue exercising economic activities aimed at the rural. It is a region of great geographical extent, 47,332 km², which represents 17.0% of the total area of the state of Tocantins.

Dianópolis is the most important city in southeastern Tocantins and is one of the oldest in the state of Tocantins considered a historical and cultural cradle, the beginning of its history dates approximately 1750. At that time, there were already rustic dwellings of farmers, ranchers and miners who lived on what the land, cattle, gold and hunting gave them.

It was the scene of the Slaughter of the Nine, which took place in 1918 and was an example of the fight against colonelism by the State. The city is on its way to becoming a geoeconomic hub thanks to the promotion of agriculture and livestock farming as the main economic sector. Tourism in the region has many natural attractions and also holds many stories.

The region covers 20 municipalities of the State of Tocantins, being: Dianópolis, Taguatinga, Arraias, Paranã, Nativity, Almas, Combined, Santa Rosa do Tocantins, Ponte Alta do Bom Jesus, Pindorama do Tocantins, Conceição do Tocantins, São Valério da Nativity, Aurora do Tocantins, Chapada da Nativity, Porto Alegre do Tocantins, Novo Jardim, Novo Alegre, Taipas do Tocantins, Rio da Conceição and Lavandeira illustrated in Figure 1.
Figure 1: Dianopolis micro-region
Source: IBGE (2010)

The strengthening of agribusiness in the region took place in March 2008 with the inauguration of the Manuel Alves irrigation project, southeast region of Tocantins that with the arrival of family farmers who have been producing currently about 850 tons of fruit per month, being the banana with the largest production, followed by mango, pineapple, coconut, passion fruit, pumpkin, watermelon and lemon. In the project, 1,930 hectares (ha) are set aside for family farming and 1,832 hectares (ha) for business farming. Currently, the irrigation project is an example, both in the production area, and in the management area made by the District formed by the producers themselves.

The fruit project developed by the Manuel Alves Project guarantees one more income
alternative, mainly for the producers’ women, thinking about marketing to schools, kindergartens, city halls, markets and fairs. For the project to continue developing demand for qualified professionals to do the administrative, financial, people management, among others.

Dianópolis and the region is also very rich in history and natural beauties, with its sidewalks, houses and churches dating back to the colonial period, well positioned in a strong region in limestone, aspiring to the development of adventure tourism that has been contributing to the sustainable development of the communities and to the development and strengthening of citizenship and social well-being and the quality of life in the existing communities.

4.1 Rural cooperation in Tocantins

According to Rodrigues, et al. (2012), associations and cooperatives active in the Southeast region of Tocantins, which are predominantly rural, have about 6,200 members. However, of the total number of affiliated members, only 48.6% are active and participate in some activity. As for participation in social movements, it was identified that the percentage of those who participated (50%) and/or participated is equal to those who did not participate (50%).

According to data from OCB/TO, cooperativism was born with the creation of the state in 1988, however, before there were already working cooperatives. He highlights on his page the identity of how human values are the essence of cooperativism. The concepts that give identity to cooperativism are:

- **Cooperate** - unite with others to jointly address adverse situations, in order to transform them into opportunity and economic and social well-being;
- **Cooperation** - a method of action by which individuals or family members with common interests constitute an enterprise. The rights are all equal and the result achieved is divided among the members only, in proportion to the participation of each one; and
- **Partners** - individual, professional, producer of any category or economic activity that associates with a cooperative to carry out economic activity or acquire consumer and/or durable goods. (http://www.tocantinscooperativo.coop.br/cooperativismo/#identidadecooperativismo. Acesso on 28/2018).

In the State of Tocantins, nine cooperatives are duly registered in the OCB/TO, as described in Table 1.

### Table 1: OCB/TO registered cooperatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COOPERATIVES:</th>
<th>CITIES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COOPERLAGO - Cooperative of Lagoon Rice Producers</td>
<td>Lagoon of Confusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COAPA - Agroindustrial Cooperative of Tocantins</td>
<td>Pedro Afonso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPAG - Cooperative of Guaraí Farmers</td>
<td>Guaraí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPERCATO - Cooperative of Cachaça Producers of Alembic Southeast Tocantins</td>
<td>Taguatinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPROMA - Cooperative of Rural Producers of the Manuel Alves Project Ltda</td>
<td>Dianopolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPERTINS - Cooperative of Rural Producers of Tocantins</td>
<td>Palms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIESLAND - Agroindustrial Cooperative</td>
<td>Unity in Paradise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Territorial Development: Reflection of Rural Cooperativism in the Southeast of the State of Tocantins

According to Rodrigues, et al. (2012), one of the strategies that has contributed to the promotion of regional development in Southeast Tocantins is the implementation of social policies, through democratic management, with the broad participation of various social and economic actors in a process of continuous planning, capable of fostering the realization of initiatives involving cooperation and partnerships between civil society and the public authorities in the three federative levels.

It is established that agricultural and/or rural cooperatives are distributed in all five territories of the State of Tocantins. The objective of Tocantinense cooperativism is to contribute to human development as well as local development, which is the prerequisite for a process of political, economic, cultural and social transformation centered on the appreciation of the human being, this being the main beneficiary of development.

4.1.1 Rural cooperation in the territory of the Serra Gerais region in south-east Tocantins

In the Southeast of the State of Tocantins, Cooperativism acts in several branches, being the most prominent, the production of artisanal cachaça. The Cooperative of the Producers of Cachaça of Alembic Southeast Tocantins is an institution that was, in its origin, constituted by thirty-two producers belonging to eleven municipalities: Arraias, Novo Alegre, Combinado, Aurora do Tocantins, Taguatinga, Novo Jardim, Dianópolis, Almas, Nativity, Santa Rosa do Tocantins and Conceição do Tocantins.

The producers who integrated this productive arrangement of the still cachaça, decided for professionalization and optimization of the production and marketing process, organizing themselves in the production chain system that has its point of convergence in the Cooperative Integrator Unit, in the city of Taguatinga.

The activity of cachaça production in the southeast of the state is not recent, being historical roots in the expansion of the mining activity of Minas Gerais. In the city of Nativity, cultural vestiges of this movement are still found, through visits to its historical sites, as well as in its religious festivities.

The agribusiness of the cachaça de alembic has found many opportunities to consolidate itself as a source of modernization and integration of agricultural activity, adding value to agricultural products and improvement in the levels of employment and income in the countryside, attending to a potentially demanding market of cachaça tocantinense. In order to represent this category of producers who are eligible to be members of the cooperative, we will show some representative images:

The Southeast of Tocantins has as cooperative representation figures that also refer to the rural environment. COOPERCATO is currently made up of 28 (twenty-eight) sugarcane producers from the municipalities located in the southeast of the state of Tocantiná. Its main production was the cachaça Dama dos Azuis, which has been gaining more and more the regional market, however, during the 18th edition of the Agrotecnologico do Tocantins Fair (Agrotins), whose theme sustainable agroindustry, the family farmers cooperated are already presenting and exposing both their cachaça and initiating the artisanal chope with the intention of strengthening the beverage branch in the State (Revista Coneco Tocantins Magazine).
According to the Project of the creation of COOPERCATO, as well as in informal conversation, of some of the associated members, the identity of these members are family farming and, in a very interesting way, the binding to the cooperative takes place among the members of the families of the cooperatives, wives, brothers, parents, children, among others. That is to say, insertion into the cooperative takes place on a voluntary basis, provided that the interested party has the skill in handling the production of the artisanal cachaça. Figure 2 illustrates the packaging of the handmade cachaça Dama dos Azuis.

The Cooperative of Rural Producers of the Manuel Alves Project (COOPROMA) acts in the project of irrigated fruit growing, located also in southeastern Tocantinense, in the municipalities of Dianópolis and Porto Alegre, intended mainly to the exploitation of irrigated agriculture (tropical fruit), possessing 47 (forty seven) lots occupied according to the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Aquaculture of Tocantins (SEAGRO), producing and employing, benefiting the whole region of southeastern Tocantinense.

In this sense, it is verified that the region of southeastern Tocantinense is benefiting from the existence of the two cooperatives, however, it is noted, that they are still in the structuring phase, few disclosures regarding their development.

Figure 2: Production of Cachaça Artesanal Cachaça Dama dos Azuis

When looking for information about the territory of the General Mountains, there is a vast tourist territory and many advertisements about its potential, in this sense, the expectation is that public policies will be applied and also give prestige to the family agriculture of the region, providing the field worker more dignity by private initiative, citizenship, labor market, income distribution, which among others, are pillars of the social and sustainable development of this region. Figure 3 illustrates the region of the Manuel Alves project in southeastern Tocantinense.
Rodrigues, et al. (2012), state that the conditions for improving development levels in the Southeast region of Tocantins are strongly associated with the success of public policies related to the expansion of life expectations (health, nutrition and others) and education, together with the direct fight against poverty.

Thus, in order to achieve higher levels of development, it is not enough only to ensure decent work and income, it is also necessary to provide the population with compatible levels of education, health, culture, housing, natural resources, among others.

Since, the sustainability of communities is intrinsically related to the guarantee of rights of the population to quality urban services, to housing, work and leisure, that is, to all conditions that contribute positively to achieving what is called quality of life.

5 CONCLUSION

The present work aims to respond on territorial development policies in the southeast of the state of Tocantins and identify the potential of cooperatives belonging to the southeastern territory of the state of Tocantins, aiming at social economic progress, development and regional sustainability.

Thus, according to the research, the importance of the study on territoriality and territorial policies for the purpose of social development of the region of southeastern Tocantinense was observed. There are several segments of incentives to the territories of citizenship, according to data presented by the Portal of the Secretariat of Finance and Planning of the State of Tocantins.

However, it was not possible to identify how these transfers were made or how they were distributed to the municipalities, which considerably harmed the result of the work. Even with little data available, it is demonstrated the importance of Tocantinense cooperativism for human development as well as local development presupposing a process of political, economic, cultural and social transformation centered on the appreciation of the human being, this being the main beneficiary of development.
In this sense, the Land Statute, in Article 73, § 2, lists means, listed in sections I to XII, in the body of the article, which will be used to give full empowerment to the farmer and his family aiming, in particular, at educational preparation, entrepreneurial and technical-professional training, ensuring their social integration and active participation in the process of rural development and establishing, in the rural environment, a climate of cooperation between man and the State, in the utilization of the land.

Based on the evidence, it can be observed that cooperativism promotes education, democratizes access to credit, acts based on democracy, etc., seeking to develop the community where it is inserted. This demonstrates that cooperativism possesses the necessary tools for a wide-ranging social inclusion project in the southeastern Tocantins. And this is only possible because there are consolidated cooperatives, COOPERCATO and COOPROMA, that promote, opportunist and foster social, political, cultural and economic developments.

In this way, this work presents a contribution to the social actors who act directly in the regional cooperatives or who are linked to them in some way would also help those who wish to study cooperativism in the southeastern Tocantinense region.

REFERENCES


