

City	
Country	Brazil
Population	2,375,151 (according to the latest census - 2010); 2,501,576 (IBGE estimate 2018)
Title of policy or practice	Sustainable Territories Program
Subtitle (optional)	Agroecology to strengthen vulnerable urban communities
URL video	https://youtu.be/OueWv13rygl
Category	Food Production
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15.
Brief description	<p>The Sustainable Territories Program, henceforth STP, appears in the context of urban conflicts over uninhabited areas of the city. Requested by homeless families, these areas gave rise to at least 9 urban occupations in Belo Horizonte. Precariously established, these families suffered numerous eviction attempts, until their right was partially recognized by Decree 16888/2018, which declared several settlements as a zone of social interest. While the conflict was tempered, however, settlements still lacked access to basic services such as health, education, basic sanitation, food security, etc.</p> <p>In view of this context, the STP has the objective of promoting sustainable territorial development, through food and nutritional security actions, especially the promotion of urban agriculture, agroecology and agroforestry systems. The program consists of simultaneous several actions in order to integrate vulnerable urban areas in the sustainable food system of Belo Horizonte, thus making it more inclusive, diverse and resilient.</p> <p>To this end, the STP selected four vulnerable areas, based on objective criteria such as absence of public power, regularization in progress, presence of environmental areas with potential for conservation and recovery, and previous practice of agriculture and social mobilization. Thus, the STP is intended for families residing in the communities of Esperança, Vitória and Rosa Leão, belonging to the set of occupations Izidora, and in the urban quilombo (a settlement of people of African origin) Mangueiras.</p> <p>The actions carried out by the program are: mapping of productive food gardens; implementation of community agroecological systems; agroforestry planting in conservation areas and springs; marketing of products at the urban agriculture fair and promotion of food and nutritional education (FNE). To this end, the STP adopts participatory governance based on local dialogue and intra-governmental coordination.</p>
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	03/2017 – 12/2021 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>Municipal Government: In addition to the activities of SMASAC [Municipal Secretariat for Social Assistance, Food Security and Citizenship], manager and main financier, there is involvement of the Municipal Secretariats of Environment, Health, Culture, Urban Cleaning and Planning.</p> <p>State Government: Water and Sanitation Company.</p> <p>Civil Society: NGOs Agroecology in the Periphery, Network of Alternative Technologies Exchange, Popular Brigades, Landless Movement and local leaders.</p> <p>Academy: Researchers from the universities of Minas Gerais, São Paulo and Berlin.</p>
Approach	<p>1) Formulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with leaderships; • Selection of 4 areas with a high degree of social vulnerability, based on previous criteria;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of a project plan. <p>2) Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic local meetings; • Institutional coordination; • Mapping of productive food gardens; • Implementation of community agroecological systems; • Agroforestry recovery of environmental conservation areas; • Training of local agroecology promoters; • Food and nutrition education actions.
<p>Innovation</p>	<p>STP innovates by introducing agroecology as a food production strategy, but also by producing new social, urban and environmental relations in a context of housing conflict. Through participatory transversal governance and collaborative assistance on agroecological and agroforestry techniques, the Program seeks to translate the New Urban Agenda and SDG guidelines into the unique reality of urban occupations.</p> <p>Based on agroecology as a guiding principle, the STP implements a service bulletin aimed at strengthening the production, marketing and consumption of healthy food in vulnerable urban areas. The agroforestry approach also allows the integration of such production to environmental conservation and recovery of springs. Actions are planned with communities in local committees, and later shared in a broader forum, spaces of co-production and participation that enhance the autonomy and social learning of those involved. Technical assistance is in turn collaborative, since efforts are made to facilitate local knowledge and practice through the training of agroecological promoters.</p> <p>Therefore, the approach promoted by the STP allows the promotion of food sovereignty and the autonomy of citizens engaged in the conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of natural hazards and the effects of climate change in the production of resilient and sustainable cities.</p>
<p>Impact</p>	<p>The first significant impact dimension achieved with STP was the promotion of an urban agriculture policy in an area of increasing population density (annexes 1 and 2), and still lacking access to public services (Annex 3). As pointed out, the STP was the first public program to be applied in the area in a complex context of land dispute, thus enhancing mutual trust and reinforcing the citizenship of the resident population. This process was promoted through agroecology, based on the strengthening of existing practices. Over 2 years of operation, 110 home food gardens were mapped and assisted (Annex 4): here, 146 different food species were identified (44% of vegetables, grains and legumes, 31% of fruits and 25% of spices and medicinal herbs). About 37% of the production is conducted exclusively by women - 22% by both women and men - and 55% is exclusively intended for the family's own consumption. 74% use of natural methods for growing products without pesticides. Although only 2% of the production is destined to commercialization purposes, these products are already regularly traded at 3 municipal fairs. In addition, 04 community agroecological systems were implemented, one in each area. A participatory mapping was also carried out identifying 25 water springs, which will be recovered by planting agroforestry systems, starting this year. With regard to the education aspect, 150 producers participated in agroecology workshops and 30 are being trained to become local agroecology promoters.</p>
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>The STP integrates all MUFPP categories. With a focus on food production, the strengthening of lands as sustainable food subsystems not only provides services to food producers (action 24 of the framework), but also promotes urban food production from agroecological techniques, thus legitimizing access and secure ownership of the land (20, 22, 25 and 23). With regard to social and economic equality, STP promotes networks and supports grassroots communities through community food gardens, as well as participatory training of agroecology promoters (18 and 19). The FNE workshops promote sustainable diets and nutrition (7). The intermediation for marketing</p>

actions for urban agriculture in the city (30), in turn, strengthens the food supply and distribution axis. Ultimately, from the point of view of governance, the program is coordinated by a governmental management committee, linked to the local forums and committees, spaces for dialogue and social participation (1, 2 and 3). There is a permanent exchange of data and information with the health secretariat, whose epidemiological diagnosis of the local population guides the actions of FNE and the collaborative assistance, and also with environmental secretariat (5, 6 and 12).

From the social point of view, besides the integration with civil society, whose performance broadens the repertoire of policies practiced, STP focuses on the residents, co-producers of the program's action.

Adversity coefficient

Social and territorial segregation is a serious problem in Brazil. Recent urban policies have failed both to reduce the housing deficit and to provide community solutions to the problem. Only in the metropolitan area of Belo Horizonte there is a shortage of 158 thousand dwellings. In this context, the municipality of Belo Horizonte witnessed the emergence of several urban occupations. The occupations are collective forms of demand and realization of the right to housing, since they materialize in the precarious settlement of homeless families on unused land. Based on community facilities and solidarity practices, occupations modify the urban space, bringing up new political actors and new social dynamics. On the other hand, occupations are subject to numerous vulnerabilities, such as the risk of eviction, institutional violence, the presence of illicit activities (drug dealing, violence, land grabbing) and unsatisfactory levels of access to basic services such as health, education, sanitation, urban infrastructure, etc.

The urban occupations Esperança, Vitória and Rosa Leão served by the STP were established in 2013 by the spontaneous housing of people in an area of more than 3.5 Km², initially destined to a real estate project estimated at R\$ 15 billion (roughly 3,33 billion euros). In the next few years, the Izidora occupations suffered three violent eviction attempts and four repossession lawsuits. In 2015, a dialogue was established with the Government of the State of Minas Gerais. In 2018, the Belo Horizonte City Hall stated the area as being of special social interest. In that same year, a judicial conciliation regularized part of the area.

Amidst the conflict over land tenure, the population residing in Izidora still faces a series of shortcomings. The streets are not paved, there is no basic sanitation, water and electricity supplies are precarious. There are no schools, health clinics or welfare facilities. Only the Rosa Leão occupation and part of the Vitória occupation are attended by health agents.

In this scenario, STP was the first public action to enter the area, still in 2017. Faced with absolute precariousness, participatory governance and agroecology actions have become more than actions of food sovereignty: they also strengthen community ties, redefine the urban, promote health, preserve the environment, create work opportunity and autonomy.