

## **Construction of food sovereignty by rural women in the municipality of Anorí - Antioquia**

Construcción de soberanía alimentaria por la mujer rural en el municipio de Anorí – Antioquia

**Received July 2020 - Accepted November 2020**

**Quántica. Ciencia con impacto social**

**Vol - 2 No. 2, July - December 2021**

**e-ISSN: 2711-4600**

**Pgs 28-39**

**María Fernanda Pérez Arboleda**

Student Planning and Social Development

Colegio Mayor de Antioquia

Medellín, Colombia

mariafelam@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2765-0479>

**Danid Elías Tapias Restrepo**

Student of Planning and Social Development

Colegio Mayor de Antioquia

Medellín, Colombia

dtapias@est.colmayor.edu.co

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3318-7436>

**Luz Dary Ruiz Botero**

Colegio Mayor de Antioquia

Medellín, Colombia

Luz.ruiz@colmayor.edu.co

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9283-8174>

## ABSTRACT

The desire of this research arises from the interest in analyzing the differentiating character between food security and food sovereignty, therefore, focused on the practices of the territory mainly in their production and marketing cycles, it was found that autonomy is an articulating axis. Also to identify the participation of rural women in the main road zone of the municipality of Anorí Antioquia, and at the same time to review public policies that converge with this research exercise. A documentary review was carried out with the intention of investigating the issue of women in rural areas, in institutions, organizations and the state, going through multiple reports generated by different multilateral organizations at the national and international level, in this process the participation in the project "Rural women at the crossroads between politics and peace" was crucial since it constantly feeds the documentary analysis, the theoretical and conceptual construction. It intends to account for the practices of production, commercialization, purchase and consumption, identified in the visits to the municipality of Anorí, highlighting the processes that from the knowledge and autonomy weave food sovereignty, we nourish this observation with women who without the need to belong to a collective or organization build food sovereignty from everyday life.

**Key words:** Rural Women, Peasant Women, Food Sovereignty, Rurality.

## RESUMEN

El deseo de esta investigación nace del interés por analizar el carácter diferenciador entre seguridad y soberanía alimentarias, por lo cual, se centró en las prácticas del territorio principalmente en sus ciclos de producción y comercialización, se encontró que la autonomía es un eje articulador. También identificar la participación de la mujer rural en la zona carretera principal del municipio de Anorí Antioquia, paralelamente revisar las políticas públicas que converjan con este ejercicio investigativo. Se llevo a cabo una revisión documental con la intención de indagar por el tema de la mujer en la ruralidad, en las instituciones, en las organizaciones y en el estado, pasando por múltiples informes generados por las diferentes organizaciones multilaterales a nivel nacional e internacional, en este proceso fue crucial la participación en el proyecto "Mujeres rurales en la encrucijada entre la política y la paz" ya que alimento constantemente el análisis documental, la construcción teórica y conceptual. Pretende dar cuenta de las prácticas de producción, comercialización, compra y consumo, identificadas en las visitas al municipio de Anorí, resaltando los procesos que desde el saber y la autonomía tejen la soberanía alimentaria, nutrimos esta observación con mujeres que sin necesidad de pertenecer a un colectivo u organización construyen desde la cotidianidad soberanía alimentaria.

**Palabras clave:** Mujer Rural, Campesinas, Soberanía Alimentaria, Ruralidad.

## 1. Introduction

The bakery company la victoria has a software called Sapiens, which allows the management of purchasing, payroll, sales and production processes. These modules are designed to record and organize information and obtain reports, but it does not allow me to plan activities, or analyze large volumes of information through visual tools which would be helpful to improve the production process and to make decisions of all variables (temperature, humidity, formulation, equipment) that prevent me from being 100% efficient and meet quality standards. For the production process, 60% of the equipment is automated, from the reception of raw materials to the delivery of the final product. According to Aguja, F. A. P., Cruz, E. O., Micán, G. M. B. L., Carreño, C. J. C., Micán, P. E. O. C., MINCIENCIAS, I. J., ... & Coello, P. J. G. (2020), it is recognized as methodological exercises the strategic development of organizational functions, the company does not make efforts to strengthen its virtual market. As observed, the website still has a Christmas style where customers can easily deduce that the portal is not updated and would choose to use other means or otherwise seek other companies. They make the work hard and unpleasant, which causes abandonment of the position. This increases packaging times by 30% due to the product resting while baking.

The information of analysis of the research that allows us to recognize the processes of food sovereignty proposes the best performance, where the two matrices of analysis and writing, on the one hand, detailed the practices for the construction of food sovereignty by rural women; on the other hand, it was possible to classify the information tracked keeping a scheme from macro to micro.

Consequently, for the objective referred to public policies, after the search at the international, national and local levels and depositing the documents of interest in the research database, we proceeded to read and identify the direct relations that existed there with rural women and food sovereignty, in order to subsequently make the interpretation, analyze if there were contradictions, if one document was related to another or if some were the reason for others.

As a result of the reading, codification and analysis of national and international documents from different multilateral organizations, added to the articulation with the field work, we have some findings that allowed us to detail on the one hand the influence of public policies in the construction of food sovereignty by rural women, but on the other hand we see from the field work carried out the contrast of the daily reality with the information tracked about it.

In the research process, municipal agreements related to rural women and food sovereignty in the municipality of Anorí were reviewed, as well as the ordinances of the department of Antioquia and decrees with the force of law in Colombia, as well as national laws related to rurality and rural women. The analysis of this information is reflected in the comparison of the knowledge and practices of food sovereignty in relation to public policies, as well as the generation of national and international information identified in the documentary review.

We divided the information generated into two main sections, of which we can say that: *first*, we conducted a broad documentary search in which we identified that the triple discrimination has been a constant in the reproduction of the discourse of domination, however, the approach with rural women of the main road area shows that they are administrators of their farms and heads of household above not having land titles or funding to work on these. In the research we were looking for clues about alternative emerging processes or not to compare the information on institutional and governmental processes focused on rural women, finally the path led us to those women who, without being leaders or part of an organized process, had an initiative related to planting and working the land as an enunciation of resistance.

Next, at the national, departmental and local levels, a tendency in the incorporation of the gender approach in legislation and intervention is identified. To refine this, Law 731 was created in 2002, and with it, multiple projects and programs were born, applied at the local, departmental and national levels, which are aimed at growth and economic independence, although ironically these are the same ones that condition the autonomy of the participants, as was identified in the interviews carried out. Finally, we did not identify any municipal agreements during our period of interest that allow the active participation of rural women in autonomous and interesting activities, however, in the municipality there is an important presence of corporations that finance the productive projects mentioned in previous sections.

Secondly, in the territory there is no evidence of large-scale crops owned by large multinational or national companies, however, there is a constant use of the land, only in one of the visits the participation of women on the farm is inactive from the use and work of the land, but highlights its organizational participation as part of the AMMUAM,<sup>1</sup> which has allowed her to travel the national territory; The other four women actively participate in the projects offered by UMATA<sup>2</sup> and Corantioquia, and there is evidence of a neighborhood network that allows the constant circulation of information.

There is a constant practice of commercialization that the women materialize in different ways, influenced by their geographic location within the main road zone, an initiative

from their knowledge was identified in all of them: In the village el roble the sale of eggs and chickens; in the places of Villa Fatima and San Antonio we found stores, which in turn become meeting and recreation points for people who leave the villages; within one of the farms we found several initiatives, one of them is the sale of garden, succulents, vegetables and aromatic herbs, in parallel an initiative is led from the handicraft incorporated to women's footwear. We must highlight the active and constant work of rural women in strengthening their gardens according to the season of the year. The country experienced an internal conflict of more than 50 years between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, People's Army (FARC- EP) and the Colombian State, which under the government of Juan Manuel Santos (2010-2018) is managed to end, in the framework of the negotiation of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace, in the city of Havana and its subsequent signing in the Colón Theater in Bogota on November 24, 2016. In turn, the conflict in the local reality of Anorí, as exposed by Buitrago and Valencia (2013) was one of the municipalities with more actions due to incidence of armed dispute especially in the period from 1997 to 2010. However, the previous municipal government made a big bet on peace, thus aiming to end the existing conflict in the territory, this was materialized by calling its development plan "Anorí a territory of peace 2016-2019" and giving special importance to this in its strategic line two "the new rurality as an instrument of peace to remain and return to the countryside".

In this sense, the implementation of the Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace presents the gender approach as a general principle, i.e. "it shall be understood and applied in a cross-cutting manner in the implementation of the entire Agreement." And this is understood as "the recognition of equal rights between men and women and of the special circumstances of each one, especially women regardless of their marital status, life cycle and family and community relationship, as subjects of rights and special constitutional protection" (Government and FARC 2016, p. 104).

To demonstrate the relationship between women and food sovereignty in the territory, it is assumed that Antioquia has a population of 6,534,857, of this total number of inhabitants 1,413,499 are part of the rural population, a figure that segregated by sex identified 667,347 women (Secretaría de las mujeres de Antioquia, 2016). In the same line, the municipality of Anorí Administratively has been divided into 4 rural sectors, of these it is of interest to account for the Zonal Nucleus El Roble or Anorí Carretera Principal, which is inhabited by 2,189 people of which 1,012 are women, the average number of households per dwelling in this sector is 1.03 and in 155 of them the woman is head of household (Council, 2016).

Consequently, the importance of food sovereignty as an emancipating fact that fights for healthy food, and the lack of studies on rural women that show "their contributions to the construction of the territory based on their particular forms of appropriation" (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2006). (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2006) especially located in specific areas of the country that have suffered from violence, it is important, to ask oneself. How have been the food sovereignty practices by rural women in the main road zone of the municipality of Anorí between the years 2016-2019?

The main purpose of the research is to describe the practices of food sovereignty by rural women in the main road area of the municipality of Anorí 2016-2019, through the identification of public policies of food sovereignty of rural women, in the framework of the implementation of the peace agreement, to specify in the practices of food sovereignty activities of production, marketing, purchase and consumption of food of rural women in the Main Road area of the municipality of Anorí.

This is based on two central categories, food sovereignty and rural women; however, to account for food sovereignty it is necessary to present the distance it has with food security, as this will serve as a previous reference for all the development that the category has had. In this framework, in 2013 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented the document "food security and food sovereignty (Document for discussion)" by Author Gustavo Gordillo, this shows two central differences in both concepts, the first of them is that food security does not have a prejudgment about the different economic sectors present in the stages of food. However, food sovereignty corroborates the differences in the market, making it clear that food is not a market. The second is related to how food is produced, since FAO does not take a position on this aspect and food sovereignty is directed to small-scale production adopted by agroecology (Gordillo, 2013).

However, Via Campesina (1996) states that food sovereignty goes beyond food "*per se*", and shows that in order to achieve world food security, other conditions such as autonomy and decommodification of food are needed. Thus, a first definition of food sovereignty that can be found is the one proposed by Ruivenkamp (2010), which states that "it is the right of peoples to define their own food and agriculture, to protect and regulate domestic agricultural production and market it in order to achieve sustainable development objectives and thus determine the point at which they want to be self-sufficient" (p. 33), which differs from what is proposed by Ruivenkamp (2010). 33) which differs from what is proposed by La Via Campesina (1996) when it mentions that it is the "right of each nation to maintain and develop its own capacity to produce the basic foodstuffs of the peoples, respecting productive and cultural diversity", since the latter emphasizes the cultural aspect in relation to food.

On the other hand, one of the most mentioned definitions "for considering it brief and encompassing as well as one of the most referred and cited" is "Food sovereignty is the RIGHT of peoples, communities and countries to define their own agricultural, fisheries, food and land policies that are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances" notion that takes up (Domínguez, 2017, p. 169) from the Political Declaration of the NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty, Rome, June 2002. Finally, the concept of food sovereignty is understood in this work "as a social and political practice of autonomy that allows communities to define what they produce, what they consume, what they need for their well-being, in close relation to the care of peasant life and their ways of life, from an integrative look, which is not only circumscribed to indicators of economic efficiency" (López, 2015, p. 237). This conception of the term lowers the discussion to more tangible grounds as it puts the communities as the decision makers. In this sense, it will be more potential to see food sovereignty in the local reality.

## **Materials and methods**

Initially the historical hermeneutic paradigm provided a holistic view of the walking process, then the qualitative approach and the action research method mediated the recognition of each of the parts of this observed panorama, the type of study chosen helped to detail and describe these parts and finally it was the techniques and instruments that allowed the generation and analysis of the information.

In the literature on research interests, there are three: explaining, understanding and transforming reality. Based on this, the present research sought to understand the practices of food sovereignty by rural women in the municipality of Anorí. Thus, the historical hermeneutic paradigm made this attention possible, in addition to being able to approach the object of research in an integral manner.

On the other hand, this research was not considered neutral since it was intended to give meaning from the academy to an important practice of rural women who are supported and with whom it is in favor, it is also recognized as bearers of knowledge and to that extent the possibility of establishing communicative relationships.

In this research work, the action research method was used; the construction of this method is attributed to the American psychologist Kurt Lewin at the end of the first half of the twentieth century. This author quoted in Gómez (2005) conceived this type of research as that undertaken by individuals, groups or communities that carry out a collective activity for the good of all, consisting of a social reflexive practice in which theory and practice interact with a view to establishing appropriate changes in the situation studied and in which there is no distinction between what is being researched, who is doing the research and the research process (p. 2). This research allowed a direct



construction with the subjects in the field and a relationship between theory and practice, i.e., it gave the possibility of joint construction.

### 3.Results

The research from its hermeneutic approach recognizes that food sovereignty is a discussion of global characteristics that has been worked on in relation to the commons, mental health, agrofuels and post-development, many of these interventions to reinforce or controvert different political, social and economic positions; in that sense authors such as (Arias, 2015; Diaz and Escobar 2013; Domínguez 2015; Ekmiro, 2016; Jongerden, 2010; Micarelli, 2015; Ramírez et al 2017; Santos 2008) are some of those who have given in their research developed the concept.

With regard to the concept of **rural women**, the Colombian State affirms that it emerges in the search for equity and improvements in the living conditions of rural women, as contemplated in Law 731 of 2002, Rural women are all those who, without distinction of any kind and regardless of where they live, have productive activities directly related to rural areas, even if such activities are not recognized by the State's information and measurement systems or are not remunerated (Congress of Colombia, 2002, p.1).

As can be seen, rural women in Colombia exist as long as their productive activity is related to the rural sector and, being so, the above does not take into account socio-cultural aspects in the territory.

On the other hand, it is important to understand in the construction of food sovereignty that, culturally, men and women do not have the same ways of linking with the environment, in fact,

The specificity of rural women in this area is evident in the knowledge, use and preservation of the environment, which is essential for the treatment of diseases, food security, habitat management, soil and seed conservation and water resource management (FAO, 2002, p.17).

Therefore, its high relation with food sovereignty and their importance in maintaining a harmonious territory. FAO also recognizes that the concept of rural women is alive, diverse and expanding.

Also, according to Vivas (2011), citing the Vía Campesina, the struggle of women is positioned on two levels: "on the one hand, the defense of their rights as women within organizations and in society in general and, on the other hand, the struggle as peasant women, together with their peers, against the neoliberal agricultural model" p.8. Now, the reality of rural women in Colombia is that they do not achieve equality, since discrimination persists for being women, for living in the countryside and many of them



for being victims of the armed conflict, which the United Nations Development Program UNDP (2011) calls triple discrimination.

In sum, it is the theory of the epistemologies of the south, understanding the south not as a geographical place but as a metaphor against all forms of oppression and domination, the theoretical current that will allow the identification of, "new processes of production, of valorization of valid knowledge, scientific and non-scientific, and of new relations between different types of knowledge" in correspondence, to the situation of women as has been exposed, the same author in his critique to the totalitarian logic of social classification tries to show how reality cannot be reduced to what exists, (...) it is a broad version of realism, which includes the realities absent by way of silencing, suppression and marginalization, understood in another way, as realities that are actively produced as non-existent. (Santos, p.82, 2011).

In this sense, the conditions mentioned above as invisible, omitted and discriminatory are generated and reproduced as non-existent, since it is easier for a neoliberal and patriarchal society to have dominion over women's bodies and lives, in the interest of remaining at the top of the system.

#### **4. Conclusions**

Continue with the programs that have been implemented in relation to rural women, strengthen and improve them in order to reduce the traumatic effect that the change of municipal administration every four years has on the projects and their beneficiaries. Consequently, this will make possible over time some structural transformations of this population in the municipality.

In addition, it is very important to promote from the municipal political power, the generation of a clear public policy, and in context, that gives a working horizon, in the reduction of inequality, violence and patriarchy in the municipality of Anorí. Also, to promote the appropriation of land and the economic independence of Anoriseña women.

#### **To the rural and peasant women of Anorí**

To them, who, with their kindness and simplicity, made it possible to carry out this work, we recommend two things: first, to be proud of being peasant women, of planting, of protecting seeds and of generating what has been called food sovereignty. Second, to invite them to generate broader community unity processes, with greater efforts in communication and joint activities, in order to strengthen and reinforce the bonds of unity that have maintained the peasant communities over time, but also so that they can obtain qualitative advances in terms of training and understanding of the importance they have for the territory.

In conclusion, food sovereignty seen from the epistemologies of the South can be interpreted as "the possibility of creating fields of social experimentation where it is possible to resist locally to the evidences of inevitability, successfully promoting alternatives that seem utopian in all times and places except in those where they actually occurred" (Santos 2003, p. 38), as a situated and contextually active hope.

## References

- Council of Anorí, (May 30, 2016). Acuerdo N°016 por medio del cual se adopta el plan de desarrollo Anorí un territorio de paz. Retrieved from: <https://perfildealcaldes.socya.org.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Plan-de-DesarrolloAnor%C3%AD-2016-2019.pdf>.
- Congress of Colombia (2002). By which norms are issued to favor rural women. Colombia: law 731.
- Domínguez, D. (2017). Food Sovereignty as a critical approach and alternative orientation of the global agri-food system. *American Thought*, 146-175.
- Government and FARC (2016). Final agreement for the termination of the conflict and the construction of peace. Bogotá.
- Gordillo, G. (2013). Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentarias (Documentos para la discusión).
- Gómez, B. R. (2005). A pedagogical variant of educational action research. *Interamerican journal of education*, 1-10.
- Jongerden and Ruivenkamp. A. (2010). Food Sovereignty and the Peasant Principle. *Journal of social and human sciences* (12), 31-45.
- López, B. E. (2015). Local peasant knowledge about food: contributions to sovereignty and community mental health. *SALUD IUS*, 232-239. López, B. E. (2015).
- Morales, F. (2014). Know three types of research.
- Mujeres, S. de las. (2016). Situation of rural women in Antioquia: a diagnosis in light of reality and normativity.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2006). Situation of Rural Women in Colombia.

United Nations Development Programme (2011). Rural women managers of hope. Retrieved from [https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/publicgender/document/mujeres-rurales-gestoras- de-esperanza](https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/publicgender/document/mujeres-rurales-gestoras-de-esperanza)

Santos, C. (2008). Food Sovereignty and "postdevelopment". Ecología política, 22-23  
Santos, B. d. (2003). Critique of indolent reason. Bilbao: DESCLEE DE BROUWER.

Vivas, E. (December 2011). Food sovereignty, a feminist perspective. Retrieved August 18, 2019 , from El Viejo Topo , n.º288: <http://www.mientrastanto.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/1781.pdf>