


Government Measures to Address Covid-19 from the São José III Project

Moacir de Souza Júniorⁱ 

Instituto Agropolos do Ceará, Fortaleza, CE, Brasil

Lafaeete Almeida de Oliveira Mesquitaⁱⁱ 

Instituto Agropolos do Ceará, Fortaleza, CE, Brasil

Francisco De Assis Dinizⁱⁱⁱ 

Secretaria do Desenvolvimento Agrário, Fortaleza, CE, Brasil

Bárbara Niele Alexandre da Silva Ribeiro^{iv} 

Instituto Agropolos do Ceará, Fortaleza, CE, Brasil

Summary

The study aims to identify the impacts caused by the Sars Cov 2 virus, in the enterprises supported by the São José III Project. In the course of identifying public policies aimed at confronting the economic and social crisis, the result of the advance of Covid-19 through the interior of Ceará. We identified the efforts of the Secretariat of Agrarian Development in maintaining an agenda of actions that, throughout the period of social isolation experienced by the state, was important for the strengthening and maintenance of family farming enterprises served by the agrarian development policies housed in the scope of the secretariat. Thus, even though they have suffered losses in production and marketing, the alternative investments in technical assistance and guidance to family farmers, fairs, and virtual assistance to beneficiaries have contributed to minimize the effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The methodology used was a qualitative research with the use of a questionnaire. A total of 267 questionnaires were sent out, and 237 were returned, corresponding to 88.8% of the total. The virtual tool Google Web was used to answer the questionnaire.

Keywords: Covid-19. Public policies. São José Project. Development.

Medidas governamentais para combater a Covid-19 do Projecto São José III

Resumo

O estudo visa identificar os impactos causados pelo vírus Sars Cov 2, em projectos apoiados pelo Projecto São José III. No processo de identificação de políticas públicas destinadas a enfrentar a crise económica e social como resultado do avanço da Covid-19 no interior do Ceará. Os esforços da Secretaria de Desenvolvimento Agrário foram identificados na manutenção de uma agenda de acções que durante o período de isolamento social vivido pelo Estado foi importante para reforçar a manutenção das empresas agrícolas familiares servidas pelas políticas de desenvolvimento agrário abrangidas pelo secretariado. Assim, mesmo tendo sofrido perdas na produção e comercialização, alternativas de investimento em assistência técnica e orientação aos agricultores familiares, feiras, assistência virtual aos beneficiários contribuíram para minimizar os efeitos



causados pela pandemia de Covid-19. A metodologia utilizada foi uma investigação qualitativa, utilizando um questionário. Foram enviados 267 questionários, dos quais 237 foram devolvidos, o que corresponde a 88,8% do total. A ferramenta virtual Google Web foi utilizada para responder ao questionário.

Palavras-chave: Covid-19. Políticas públicas. Projecto São José. Desenvolvimento.

1 Introduction

The analysis of the development of public policies for rural areas, based on the effects caused by Covid-19 is a key factor to understand the difficulties that family farming presents in the face of the pandemic that the world has been going through, especially in Brazil, as one of the countries with the greatest impact of the coronavirus worldwide.

The current pandemic scenario, caused by the Sars Cov-2 virus, pushes the vulnerable into an exclusion zone, which is also the result of precarious working conditions, income concentration, difficult access to housing, non-existent basic sanitation, and public health facilities that are barely available to the population. Therefore, this moment demands the development of public policies that seek to minimize the crisis, but that also establish themselves as constant mechanisms of the state's presence as a guarantor of rights for those who knock at its door.

The panorama in the rural areas only gets worse and is associated to the problems faced in small and big cities, the issues of land concentration, precarious access to water, and the absence of a permanent policy of incentive to production, especially family agriculture.

The State of Ceará, in the last few years, has been treading a different path, seeking to develop rural development policies that can assure the growth in the rural zone, especially that of the familiar agriculture. The investments occur in the most diverse areas, with emphasis on projects such as the São José Project (PSJ) that has invested both in access to water and in productive projects, focusing on income generation, production





improvement, and community organization, sustainable business generation, among others.

Thus, this article aims to outline the profile of the actions of the Secretariat of Agrarian Development (SDA) and its impacts on strengthening the enterprises supported by its actions.

3

2 Methodology

Considering the multiple issues that involve the effects of Covid-19 on family farming and public policies, we chose to conduct a qualitative research with a questionnaire in order to better understand the scenario in the state of Ceará.

For this, we understand that doing science is something important and that it needs to contemplate the whole society. In this sense, Fonseca (2002 apud SOUZA JÚNIOR, 2019, p. 137) states that science:

It is the knowledge produced through logical reasoning associated with practical experimentation. It is characterized by a set of observation models, identification, description, experimental investigation, and technical explanation of phenomena. The scientific method involves exact, objective, and systematic techniques. Fixed rules for forming concepts, conducting observations, conducting experiments, and validating explanatory hypotheses.

The basic aim of science is not to discover truths or to constitute as a full understanding of reality. It wants to provide provisional knowledge that facilitates interaction with the world, enables reliable predictions about future events, and indicates control mechanisms that make it possible to intervene in them..

When conducting research, our sense of curiosity needs to be piqued. However, it is necessary to act with ethics, respect, and make the study itself benefit as many people as possible. To this end, the writings of Barbosa and Quintaneiro (2002 apud SOUZA JÚNIOR, 2019, p. 138) are present in which they list the following statement:

In investigating a topic, a scientist is inspired by his own values and ideals, which have a sacred character for him, in which he is willing to fight. Therefore, he must be able to make a "distinction between recognizing and judging, and to fulfill both the scientific duty to see the truth of facts and the practical duty to defend" his own values, which must be exposed and never disguised as "social science" or the "rational order of facts". It is essential to distinguish between politics and science





and to consider that science is not value-free either. While science is a product of the reflection of the scientist, politics is the product of the man of will and action, or of the member of a class that shares with others ideologies and interests.

The empirical study is accompanied by documentary analysis of the reference documents presented by DAS. "This type of research consists of examining materials of a diverse nature that have not yet received analytical treatment or that can be reexamined through complementary interpretations (GODOY, 1995, p. 24).

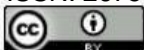
Initially, we relied on bibliographic research of official documents that are part of the theoretical framework that deals with the theme, such as the Decrees of the Government of the State of Ceará, research on official government and SDA websites. Silva and Grigolo (2002, p. 36), when analyzing the characteristics of documentary research, point out that: "documentary research makes use of materials that have not yet received any in-depth analysis". In this sense, the catalogued documents underwent detailed analysis of their information, allowing us to trace and understand the dynamics of the performance of the SDA and the prospects of public policies developed in times of Covid-19.

Bibliographic research is undoubtedly one of the most important sources of research and is a previous step to be taken in a research process, whatever the problem at hand. This is due to the fact that it is absolutely necessary to have prior knowledge of the stage a subject is at before starting any study so as not to run the risk of researching a subject that has already been widely researched (FERNANDES, GOMES, 2003, p. 13).

Para o alcance desses objetivos, fizemos a opção pela pesquisa qualitativa, uma vez que, de acordo com a concepção de Minayo (1994, p. 14),

[...] a pesquisa qualitativa não se preocupa em quantificar, mas em explicar os meandros das relações sociais consideradas essenciais, resultado da atividade humana, criadora, afetiva e racional, a qual pode ser apreendida através do cotidiano, da vivência e da explicação do senso comum.

We also resort to Lüdke and André (1986 apud SOUZA JÚNIOR, 2019, p. 144) indicate that qualitative research has "[...] natural environment as its direct source of data and the researcher as its main instrument. [It supposes direct and prolonged contact of the





researcher with the environment and the situation being investigated, usually through intensive fieldwork.

Still, we avail ourselves of the writings of Macedo et al. (2009 apud SOUZA JÚNIOR, 2019, p. 144), when he asserts that: "The qualitative of a research indicates, in an immediate way, the historicity of its field and its distinction in relation to other forms of research. The terminology qualitative research. The qualifier here makes all the difference.

5

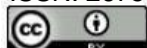
Besides being based on a literature review research, we also chose to make use of the questionnaire so that we could understand the reality with the entities benefited by the São José Project III (PSJ III), thus seeking to assimilate the impacts suffered by their productive enterprises supported by the Secretary of Agrarian Development (SDA).

Gil (1999, p. 128) defines the use of the questionnaire as "an investigation technique consisting of a more or less large number of questions presented in writing to people, with the objective of getting to know opinions, beliefs, feelings, interests, expectations, situations experienced, etc."

It is important to point out that, during the methodological path, the work took place both within the SDA, by means of listening to technicians and consulting documents, on the official site of the secretariat, and also through contact with the people in charge of the entities that answered the electronic questionnaire through the Google Web platform. The collection took place from May 6 to May 23, 2020, and involved the 267 (two hundred and sixty-seven) productive projects supported by the SDA throughout Ceará.

A total of 267 questionnaires were sent out, and two hundred and thirty-seven (237) responded, which corresponds to 88.8% of the total amount. This was considered to be a very expressive number for this action.

To describe the participants we considered variables such as: name of the entity, CNPJ, municipality, name of the community in which it is inserted, type of productive chain,





name of the person responsible for filling in the information, CPF number of the person responsible, position held and gender.

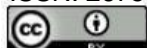
We divided the questionnaire into 06 (six) parts, as follows: (a) questions focused on Covid-19, such as suspected and diagnosed cases, existing deaths, information received and what is the means of communication of the transmission of information; b) the actions recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) and those carried out by the Government of the State of Ceará; c) if there was registration to receive the emergency aid; d) the impact of Covid-19 in the productive chain of the entity; e) the contribution of the São José Project (PSJ) to face the pandemic; and, finally, f) the biggest concern at the current moment and what are the prospects for the future.

Thus, in the face of such questions, the article, through qualitative research, seeks to understand the epidemiological scenario and government measures to confront Covid-19 within the SDA and thus contribute to the analysis of public policies developed in support of family farming in the state of Ceará.

3 Context: paths of social isolation

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported the first alert on the Sars Cov-2 virus after Chinese health officials reported the first cases of a mysterious illness with characteristics of acute pneumonia in Wuhan city, the capital of Hubei province in China. In January 2020, the WHO issued an alert to all countries to prepare to monitor and test for possible suspected cases. It quickly spread throughout Europe, the United States, and Latin America.

Finally, not unlike other countries in the world, the new coronavirus landed on Brazilian soil, precisely on February 26th. The first case in the country was confirmed in the city of São Paulo. Since then, the disease has been spreading rapidly throughout Brazil, initially affecting the most favored strata, who went on a trip to the countries of Europe and returned many already contaminated, thus enabling mass contamination.





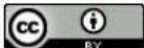
We live in a very precarious social environment, whether in the outskirts of the cities or in small towns, which have in common a population unassisted of basic sanitation, living in substandard housing, exposed to underemployment, besides having almost no access to a quality health service, since, historically, this service has always suffered from lack of investment. And, after the advent of Covid-19, the situation became even more serious.

The virus, however, advanced to the outskirts of the big cities and with great speed ended up migrating to the interior of all Brazilian states. This shows us the fast way in which it spreads, not only here in Brazil, but all over the world. The data presented about this spread is present in the daily lives of communication channels such as TV, radio, printed newspapers, and electronic media, which favors a greater knowledge of the information, since it is spread quickly. It is worth pointing out that we have seen the number of people infected grow overwhelmingly.

According to data from the Ministry of Health, as of August 08, 2020, the country had already accumulated more than 2,733,677 confirmed cases of Covid-19. A data that really impressed the country and that took us to the second place in the world "ranking" in number of deaths, second only to the United States.

The state of Ceará, in the same period, presented more than 192 thousand cases, with 8,002 confirmed deaths. Despite the alarming results, the situation has been stable, thanks to a set of measures taken by the state government in the search for the control of the pandemic.

Facing this scenario of serious health crisis that the planet is going through, the state of Ceará, initially with greater severity in Fortaleza, in the figure of its governor, still in the month of March 2020, took the first measures aimed at controlling the advance of the virus in Ceará's lands. On March 16th, 2020, he issued the Decree Nº 33.510, which indicated an emergency health situation in the whole state, providing a series of measures to confront and contain the spread of the disease. Thus, the government gave the first signs aiming at protecting the health of the population, as well as avoiding the collapse of the health system (CEARÁ, 2020a).





Even with the decree, the situation worsened, since both public and private hospitals began to present a crowded picture in their units, leading the government to publish a new Decree No. 33.519, which intensified the measures of confrontation against Covid-19, even announcing "lockdown". Since then, the Government of Ceará has been intensifying its actions to contain the spread of the virus and the impacts of the pandemic on the Ceará economy (CEARÁ, 2020a).

In June 2020, a new decree was issued, No. 33.627, which guided the total closure in some regions of the state, thus implementing a regionalized policy of social isolation measures (CEARÁ, 2020a).

Although the data from Covid-19 have been showing some decrease in the cases in the state, caution and attention are still needed, and the actions taken so far cannot be neglected at any time, since according to health experts it is not yet time to slow down decision-making.

In this sense, the government of Ceará, through the Secretary of Health, since the beginning of the process of responsible reopening of economic and behavioral activities in the state, has been closely monitoring the epidemiological data of the pandemic in all municipalities and regions of Ceará, in order to support the decisions taken so far about the maintenance or release of new economic activities (CEARÁ, 2020a).

Thus, the government in a planned way has been relaxing and promoting the gradual process of reopening the economy. And, in view of the picture presented above, Decree N° 33,700 of 01.08.2020 extended the measures of social isolation until 09.09.2020, at the same time renewing the policy of regionalization of these measures (CEARÁ, 2020a).

It is worth noting that this decree placed Fortaleza in phase 4 - with greater restriction of economic and behavioral activities, while indicating a more intensive social isolation situation for the Cariri region (CEARÁ, 2020a).

4 Sars Cov-2: Effects on the Global Economy, the Challenge of Economic Recovery





As seen earlier, the state of Ceará, in the midst of the crisis charged by Covid-19, has been relentlessly pursuing public policies to protect the population and recover health in the face of the pandemic scenario that ravages not only the state, but also the country and the world (CEARÁ, 2020a).

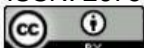
However, it is known that, if on the one hand the investment in prevention and control of the harmful effects of the coronavirus pandemic as a public health problem is essential, it is also necessary, on the other hand, to pay attention to the economic crisis caused by the restrictive measures proposed for the control of the pandemic.

Neto (2020, p. 114) asserts that "A pandemic does not have an impact restricted to the health issue, but also has important consequences for politics, the economy, social relations, and the environment. However, it is very difficult to estimate the impact of a pandemic on the economy."

The World Bank's biannual report on the Latin American and Caribbean region, called "The Economy in Times of CoVID-19" published on April 12, 2020, points to the urgency of government action to bring pathways to protect the most vulnerable, protect jobs, and ensure the resumption of sustainable economic growth. In this sense: "Public policies need to directly address this social dimension of the crisis, which assistance programs for companies and formal sector workers cannot achieve. In doing so, there is no real distinction between supporting microenterprises, supporting households, and supporting communities" (World Bank, 2020, p. 46). The document further indicates that:

Crisis response policies need to directly address this social dimension. The first line of response includes existing social protection and assistance programs, which can be rapidly expanded [...]. The implementation of food distribution programs can also be considered while the more rigid measures of social distancing endure (WORLD BANK, 2020, p. 6).

In the case of Brazil, according to the World Bank (2020, p. 55) "Inadequate implementation of policies in response to the crisis may fail to mitigate the impacts on poverty and inequality rates, possibly fuelling social discontent". Thus, it is to be expected that the challenges to poverty reduction will increase in the wake of the economic crisis.



In an attempt to present society with an immediate response to the strong economic and social crisis that the country is going through due to the impact of the Covid-19 on the lives of the poorest population, the federal government, after modifications in the initial proposal by art of the National Congress, approved Law N° 13.982/2020, guaranteeing a monthly transfer of 600 reais (initially for three months) to informal and low-income workers (BRASIL, 2021).

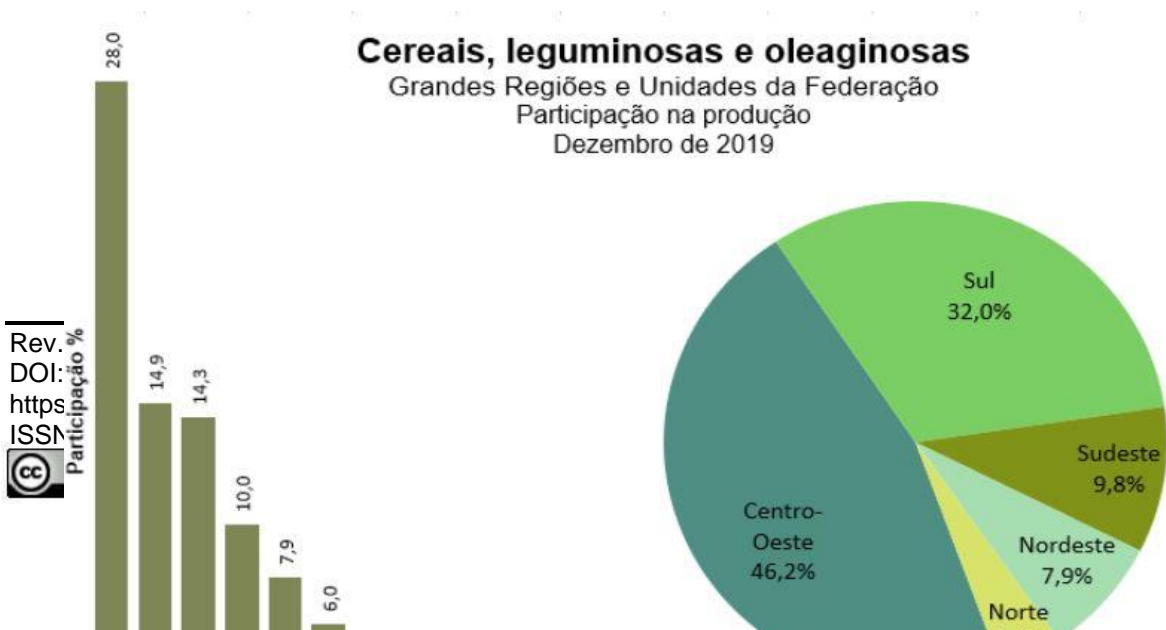
5 Ceará/Secretary of Agrarian Development: public investment policies and perspectives for overcoming the crisis

There is no doubt that the overcoming of this crisis, which is also caused in part by the coronavirus pandemic, demands from the government social responsibility and focus on investments so that it can more quickly present the necessary answers for the resumption of economic growth.

In face of this scenario, it is precisely in the agricultural sector that the most favorable conditions have been presented to overcome the current moment and the fall in the economy, even though we are facing one of the most serious economic crisis pictures today. According to estimates released by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) the harvested crop in 2019 was 241.5 million tons and in 2020 243.2 million tons (IBGE, 2020).

Below, we present a graph indicating the participation in production in December 2019 in the major regions and units of the federation.

Graph 01 – Participation in agricultural production in 2019 - Large Regions and Units of the Federation.





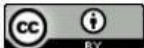
Fonte: Levantamento Sistemático da Produção Agrícola (LSPA), 2019.

If the scenario of the Brazilian agricultural economy is favorable, in Ceará, the optimism repeats itself and the perspective that the sector presents good results is being confirmed even during the period of social isolation through which the state has been going through.

According to data from the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company of Ceará (Ematerce), the rainfall information made available on the website of the Ceará Meteorology Foundation (Funceme), showed that the rains observed from the beginning of 2020 until the end of April of the same year, favored cultivation throughout the state. In most regions, the average rainfall was above average for the period (CEARÁ, 2020c).

According to data from the Systematic Survey of Agricultural Production (LSPA) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE, 2020), Ceará in the year 2020 should reach a harvest of 637,787 tons of cereals, legumes and oilseeds, which may represent a growth of 12.96% compared to the same period of the year 2019, which showed a production of 564,615 tons.

Also according to the LPSA in the year 2019, products such as rainfed rice, snap beans (*phaseolus*), first-crop string beans (*vigna*), irrigated and rainfed corn (grain),





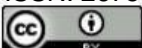
herbaceous cotton and castor beans were some of the items that had a positive variation (IBGE, 2020).

On the other hand, in addition to the good rainy season, the provision of technical assistance to 69,000 family farmers, the distribution of more than 2 million tons of seeds through the Hora de Plantar program, and the delivery of tractors by the São José Project collaborated with the positive result in the production of family farming in the state (CEARÁ, 2020b).

Following the set of interventions aimed at fostering family farming in the State of Ceará, the Ceará government, through the SDA, even in the face of uncertainties and severe economic recession, has been maintaining investments in order to ensure and promote sustainable rural development with the effective permanence of the population that survives on agriculture in their place of origin, providing them with an improvement in income and, consequently, a better quality of life.

According to information contained in the website www.sda.ce.gov.br, it was found that among the investments made and planned by the government of Ceará, through the Secretary of Agrarian Development for the year 2020, besides the Paulo Freire Project and the São José Project (CEARÁ, 2020b), the following are noteworthy:

- 1. PAA Food:** The Government of Ceará guaranteed R\$ 8.55 million to execute the annual stage of the Food Purchase Program (PAA-CDS). The public policy is responsible for the acquisition of part of the production of family farmers with simultaneous donation to registered social welfare entities and low-income families. The program will take place between July 2020 and June 2021;
- 2. The Family Farming Products Portal:** with more than 14 thousand registered farmers, associations, and cooperatives, the Family Farming Portal has become the main showcase of the Secretariat of Agrarian Development. The tool, now available through the Ceará App, brings family farmers and consumers closer together and also provides information about the main items of agricultural production in each region of the State;
- 3. Virtual Fairs of Family Farming:** SDA has been supporting experiences of virtual fairs of commercialization of family farming products. The experience began in the municipality of Quixeramobim, in the central sertão of Ceará, an initiative of the Iarte Institute, an SDA partner, and is already presenting itself as an important strategy for positioning family





- farmers in the market, bringing family farming products closer to consumers in times of social isolation;
4. **Water rate exemption:** during 90 days, 120 rural families served by the Integrated Rural Sanitation System (Sisar) were exempted from water rates. The beneficiaries are men and women who live in rural communities served by the implementation of the São José III Project water supply systems. The action served users with consumption of up to 10m³ per month and the investment of the Government of Ceará was R\$9 million;
 5. **My Property Irrigation Program (PIMP):** this project aims to meet the food demand in quantity and quality, providing farmers with production stability and income increase, coming in turn to mitigate social inequalities, still existing in the rural area. To implement productive projects, with irrigation kits for the production of forage, fruits and vegetables, tubers and grains and to contribute to the food and nutritional security of the benefited population through the production of food for their own consumption and of marketable surplus. Generate employment, income and improved nutrition conditions for the producers involved.

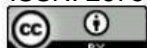
As can be seen, during the months of social isolation, the SDA has adapted to a new reality, which affects the entire state. It maintained an intense agenda of implementation and planning of new investments, thus ensuring that family agriculture in Ceará receives the necessary support.

6 Covid-19: the impact on communities benefiting from productive projects funded from JSP III

The Sustainable Rural Development Project/São José Project III (PDRS/PSJ III), in its phase I, aimed to promote the sustainable development of family farming in Ceará, especially by supporting the implementation of productive projects that would enable the social and economic inclusion of beneficiary families, resulting in an effective increase in their income.

To this end, the JSP III, through its Component 1 - Economic Inclusion, assisted 267 productive projects distributed in 93 (ninety-three) municipalities of the 14 planning regions of the State of Ceará. Below, we present a table with the projects supported by productive chains.

Table 1: Projects supported by productive chains



Productive chains	Quantity of projects
Beekeeping	63
Handicrafts	3
Country poultry farming	8
Dairy farming	38
Coconut farming	6
Cajuculture	26
Commercialization	1
Fruticulture	27
Horticulture	4
Mandioculture	23
Sheep and goat farming	53
Fish farming	8
Food production	4
Seeds	2
Community tourism	1
Total	267

Fonte: Gerência de Planejamento UGP/PSJ III, 2020.

Com o avanço da pandemia da Covid-19 para o interior do estado, a SDA, por meio do seu braço operacional PSJ III, elaborou e aplicou uma pesquisa de campo junto aos beneficiários dos seus 267 projetos produtivos distribuídos em todo o Ceará, com o intuito de identificar o impacto econômico causado por toda a situação, junto às associações/organizações produtivas.

Analisando as respostas enviadas pelos 237 questionários devolvidos, obtivemos as seguintes informações:

1) Regarding item "A", a Covid-19 question (suspected and diagnosed cases, existing deaths, information received and what is the means of communication of information transmission), as it is known in the media, the State of Ceará, especially Fortaleza, was one of the three capitals that suffered most from the pandemic, but this did not free the interior of Ceará to also suffer with all the evils that befell Ceará, especially regarding the loss of life.

According to the responses of the entities, these informed that 44 (forty-four) deaths, with a number of 482 (four hundred and eighty-two) confirmed cases and 506 (five



hundred and six) suspected. We indicate that all age groups were affected, but the two most impacted age groups were those between 30 and 59 years old, with 40%, and above 60 years old, with 30%. The two categories contributed with 70% of the total cases, which directly impacts not only the question of who is most affected, but also the socioeconomic question.

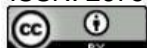
2) In item "B", actions recommended by the WHO and those carried out by the Government of the State of Ceará, we collected the following answers: of the total number of questionnaires returned to the project, all 237 indicated that they follow the actions recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

As for the measures taken by the Government of the state of Ceará, 235, or 99% of the participants answered that the government has been adopting the right practices to contain the pandemic in the state. Only 02 (two) or 1% of those surveyed said they are not satisfied with the measures taken. This is present when they assert that social isolation should be relaxed, and the economy should function freely. However, according to experts, "loosening" measures of social isolation brings a series of hindrances to contain the advance of the disease throughout Ceará.

When doing a general reading of the item above, we verified that the overwhelming majority of the research participants is in favor of all the procedures that are being done not only by the WHO, but also by the Government of the State of Ceará, even though many of these actions are considered unpopular to the population.

3) Regarding the question "C" if there was registration to receive the emergency aid, the associations/organizations indicated in their answers that 245 (two hundred and forty-five) beneficiaries registered with the federal government to receive the amount of R\$ 600.00 (six hundred reais), in order to mitigate the economic impacts caused by the pandemic.

4) Regarding item "D" Covid-19's impact on the entity's production chain, a very expressive number of 95% of the responses gathered indicated difficulties in the process of production and marketing of their products in 2020, from their conception in the field to their finalization. Items such as: restriction of teamwork, lack of labor, rules of social isolation, lack of





transport for the flow of production, lack of a buyer, lack of raw materials and seeds, among others.

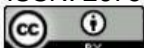
5) In question "E" contribution of the São José Project (SGP) so that the institution can face the pandemic, we obtained the following responses: 198 (one hundred and ninety-eight) interviewees or 84% responded that the project is contributing significantly, because they brought investments to the field through inputs and machinery, they could diversify production with the insertion of fabric masks as a product, the investments made by the SGP in previous years helped a lot in the current moment among others.

For 39 (thirty-nine) or 16% of the participants affirmed that they do not perceive any kind of contribution coming from the project, which leads us to speculate that they cannot associate the investments made by the YP in the productive group, as a means that has potentialized and leveraged the entity with better conditions to face future difficulties.

6) And finally, we have question "F" which indicates the greatest concern at the current moment and the prospects for the future. All 237 respondents who returned the questionnaire informed that they are very concerned about the current situation. This is present in the answers given, since the interviewees listed the following concerns: risk of contagion, crowded hospitals, lack of awareness among the population, disrespect for social isolation, cases that are multiplying with an impressive speed all over Ceará and especially in the countryside.

We note that the above items collaborated immensely to impact in a negative way the productive chains in all the fourteen (14) territories of the State of Ceará. However, with the public markets closed, the non-functioning of the open fairs, so common in the interior, as well as the absence of institutional purchases - PAA and PNAE - and the new sanitary practices also had their share of blame for this very serious picture of economic and sanitary crisis.

We noticed that the project beneficiaries go through many anxieties, and this has a direct impact on the way they position themselves in the face of the pandemic. At the same time that the people in charge say they are worried about the current situation, they also indicate that they are cautious about the future, because in order to get out of this economic crisis,





it is necessary a greater investment from the government, a population that is fully immunized against Covid-19, awareness for possible future pandemics, massive investments in health, among others.

7 Final considerations

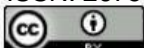
17

We have reached the end of the year 2020 still under the tutelage of Covid-19. Scientists are racing against time to find vaccines that can be effective and efficient in curing the pandemic, which is still spreading and presents itself multifaceted in the face of its process of evolution, in which the process of mutation becomes something common and the virus' ability to transform itself into a more severe contagion than it has presented up to now.

Everything remains so uncertain. The vaccines that are emerging on the world stage have managed to present great results, but we are still loaded with questions such as: How long does the vaccine last in the body? How to guarantee universal access to vaccination to the world's population? Will there ever be another time in human history when we will experience something similar or more harmful than the current one? How will the economic process take place in the world? How to face the health and economic crisis in family agriculture and traditional peoples?

Many are the questions that arise at every moment, therefore, it is necessary to try to minimize the impacts caused by the pandemic on family farming in order to contribute to a better confrontation of this crisis that is not only present in the productive chains of the State of Ceará, but that is present all over the world.

For the family farmer population, the absence of free markets, the social isolation, the lack of commercialization of their products, the difficulty of flowing their production, and the fear of dying, brings up a series of questions about what it is to live in the moment of a pandemic. People were left without a reference and, in this sense, the actions promoted first by the WHO and later by the Government of the State of Ceará brought some relief.





Even knowing that the measures in their totality were and still are very restrictive, the subjects who participated in the research know the importance of following the protocols, since even though they are very unfriendly attitudes towards a part of the population, they are necessary to stop the virus from spreading. It is necessary to follow these new health protocols, since we see experts informing that even with one or more vaccines available, we will still live under the yoke of the virus for a long time.

The SDA, through the PSJ III, in addition to disseminating and promoting activities, has developed actions in which the products of family farming could have an outlet, thus promoting sales through delivery, drive-thru, applications, virtual fairs, all with the aim of minimizing the impacts and/or losses caused to family farmers in the State of Ceará.

The SDA and the PSJ understand that this is a complex and difficult time for everyone, but that it is also possible to come out of this crisis strengthened, and for this, it is necessary to seek new ways to market the production, innovate in an attempt to produce better and more efficiently and, at the same time, make the rural population aware that hygiene practices and sanitary protocols from now on should be part of everyone's life.

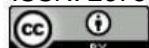
References

BANCO MUNDIAL. **Relatório semestral sobre a região da América Latina e Caribe. A Economia nos Tempos de COVID-19.** Uma colaboração entre o gabinete do economista-chefe para a América Latina e Caribe e a prática global de macroeconomia, comércio e investimento. Banco Mundial. Abril, 2020.

BRASIL. **Lei Nº 13.982, de 2 de abril de 2020.** Disponível em: <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/lei-n-13.982-de-2-de-abril-de-2020-250915958>. Acesso em 09 fev. 2021.

CEARÁ. **Decretos do Governo do Ceará com ações contra o coronavírus.** Disponível em: <https://www.ceara.gov.br/decretos-do-governo-do-ceara-com-acoes-contr-o-coronavirus>. Acesso em: 04 dez. 2020a.

CEARÁ. **Secretaria de Desenvolvimento Agrário – SDA.** Disponível em: www.sda.ce.gov.br Acesso em: 06 dez.2020b.





CEARÁ. **Empresa de Assistência Técnica e Extensão Rural do Ceará** – Ematerce. Disponível em: www.ematerce.ce.gov.br. Acesso em: 12 dez. 2020c.

FERNANDES, L. A.; GOMES, J. M. M. Relatórios de pesquisa nas Ciências Sociais: características e modalidades de investigação. **ConTexto**. v. 3, n. 4. Porto Alegre. 2003.

GIL, A. C. **Métodos e técnicas de pesquisa social**. 5. ed. São Paulo: Atlas, 1999.

19

GODOY, A. S. Pesquisa qualitativa: tipos fundamentais. **Revista de Administração de Empresas** (RAE). v. 35, n. 3, p. 20-29. São Paulo-SP. Mai./Jun. 1995.

IBGE. **IBGE prevê safra recorde de grãos em 2020**. Disponível em: <https://agenciadenoticias.ibge.gov.br/agencia-sala-de-imprensa/2013-agencia-de-noticias/releases/26537-ibge-preve-safra-recorde-de-graos-em-2020>. Acesso em 29 nov.2020.

MINAYO, M. C. de S. (Org.). **Pesquisa social: teoria método e criatividade**. 17ª ed. Petrópolis, RJ: Vozes, 1994.

NETO, R. B. G. O impacto da Covid-19 sobre a economia mundial. **Boletim de Conjuntura**. Ano II. Vol. 2. Nº. 5. Boa Vista. Disponível em: <http://ioles.com.br/boca>. Acesso em: 15 Jun. 2020.

SILVA, M. B. de; GRIGOLO, T. M. Metodologia para iniciação científica à prática da pesquisa e da extensão II. **Caderno Pedagógico**. Florianópolis: Udesc, 2002.

SOUZA JÚNIOR, M. **Navegando no mar sem fim da aprendizagem na terceira idade: uma investigação acerca do uso das TIC e da inovação pedagógica**. Tese (Doutorado em Educação) – Faculdade de Ciências Sociais, Universidade da Madeira. Funchal-PT, p. 310. 2019

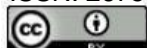
ⁱ **Moacir de Souza Júnior**, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7612-2034>

Gerência de Planejamento, Monitoramento e Avaliação (Geplama), Secretaria de Desenvolvimento Agrário/Projeto São José, Instituto Agropolos do Ceará

Doutorado e Mestrado em Ciências da Educação, área Inovação Pedagógica, pela Universidade da Madeira (UMa), Funchal-Madeira-Portugal; Especialista em Educação Especial pela Universidade Federal do Ceará (UFC); Licenciatura Plena em Geografia pela Universidade Estadual do Ceará (UECE). Atua como Técnico de Nível Superior no Instituto Agropolos do Ceará no Projeto São José. Contribuição de autoria: escrita e revisão do artigo.

Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/9221554883649374>.

E-mail: msjunior0902@gmail.com



ii Lafaete Almeida de Oliveira Mesquita, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8076-8682>

Coordenação PSJ, Secretaria do Desenvolvimento Agrário/Projeto São José, Instituto Agropolos do Ceará.

Doutorando em Currículo e Inovação Pedagógica pela Universidade da Madeira/Portugal. Especialista em Gestão Pública pela Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira (Unilab) e Mestre em Planejamento e Políticas Públicas pela Universidade Estadual do Ceará (Uece). Coordenador do Projeto de Desenvolvimento Rural Sustentável/Projeto São José da Secretaria do Desenvolvimento Agrário do Governo do Estado do Ceará.

Contribuição de autoria: escrita e revisão do artigo.

Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/849350449141421>.

E-mail: lafaetealmeida@yahoo.com.br

iii Francisco De Assis Diniz, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2071-5663>

Secretaria do Desenvolvimento Agrário, Governo do Estado do Ceará.

Especialista em Gestão Pública pela Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro-Brasileira (UNILAB). Redenção-Ceará-Brasil. Graduação em Direito pela Universidade de Fortaleza (UNIFOR) e em História pela Universidade Estadual do Ceará (UECE). Secretário Estadual do Desenvolvimento Agrário do Ceará.

Contribuição de autoria: escrita e revisão do artigo.

Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/9654623971347851>.

E-mail: deassisdiniz@gmail.com

iv Bárbara Niele Alexandre da Silva Ribeiro, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9760-9984>

Gerência de Planejamento, Monitoramento e Avaliação (GEPLAMA), Secretaria de Desenvolvimento Agrário/Projeto São José, Instituto Agropolos do Ceará.

Especialista em Gerenciamento de Processos e Projetos pelo Centro Universitário Farias Brito e em Gestão e Liderança Avançada de Pessoas pelo Centro Universitário Sete de Setembro. Graduação em Administração de Empresas pelo Centro Universitário Christus. Gerente de Planejamento, Monitoramento e Avaliação do Projeto de Desenvolvimento Rural Sustentável/Projeto São José da Secretaria do Desenvolvimento Agrário do Ceará.

Contribuição de autoria: análise de dados.

Lattes: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/0621884497263813>.

E-mail: barbaraniele.sda@gmail.com

Editora responsável: Cristine Brandenburg

Especialista *ad hoc*: Aline Barbosa Teixeira Martins

Como citar este artigo (ABNT):

SOUZA JÚNIOR, Moacir de. Medidas governamentais de enfrentamento à Covid-19 a partir do Projeto São José III. Rev. Pemo, Fortaleza, v. 3, n. 3, e337180, 2021.

Disponível em: <https://doi.org/10.47149/pemo.v3i3.7180>



Received July 10, 2021.
Accepted on October 7, 2021.
Published on October 11, 2021.

