



PROJETO  
DOM HELDER  
CÂMARA

TECHNICAL FILE  
FIELD EXPERIENCES  
AREA: QUIXADÁ (CE)



PROJETO  
MONITORA



# Technical file field experiences: area Quixadá (CE) - Rosimeire

## Projeto Dom Hélder Câmara (PDHC II)

### Realization:

Coordenação Geral de Inclusão Produtiva  
Departamento de Estruturação Produtiva  
Secretaria de Agricultura Familiar e Cooperativismo  
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento

### Organization:

Termo de Execução Descentralizada nº 07/2017  
Centro de Gestão e Inovação para a agricultura  
Familiar (CEGAFI)  
[www.cegafi.com](http://www.cegafi.com)

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Agência Cajuí

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Sara Alencar Magalhães – Librarian – CRB 3367

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# AREA: QUIXADÁ (CE)

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## The context of the experience

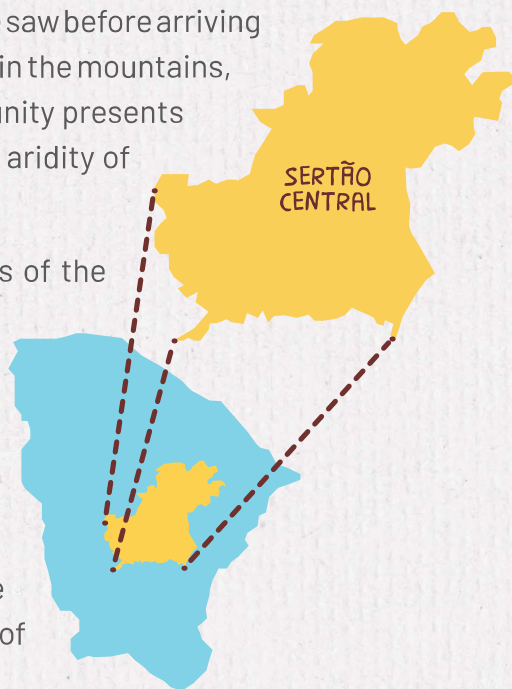
The central region of Ceará's sertão is home to a population of over 250,000 inhabitants (IBGE, 2010). The municipalities of Quixadá and Quixeramobim account for more than half of this total.

In Quixadá, 70% of the establishments are family farmers. However, only 59% of these workers own their land (IBGE, 2017). Of these, 31% have no schooling, 32% are elderly (over 65 years old), and 93% of them have never received technical assistance.

## Rural Productive Incentive and the Quilombola Community Sítio do Veiga

Climbing the Santo Estevão mountain range, in the municipality of Quixadá, in the state of Ceará, and finding the village of Dom Maurício, in the central Ceará hinterland, was the first of the beauties we saw before arriving at the Quilombo Sítio Veiga Community. Nestled in the mountains, located 500 meters above sea level, the community presents abundant vegetation, which contrasts with the aridity of the municipality that was left behind.

The community preserves and keeps remnants of the tradition of its ancestors, such as the orality and the "dance of São Gonçalo", brought to the community more than 100 years ago and continued from generation to generation, as shown to us by the lively Mr. Joaquim, master of popular culture and father of the family farmer benefited by the rural productive fomentation and by the technical assistance of the Dom Helder Câmara Project (DHCP).



There, CETRA's technicians Ademir and Emanuel showed us the surprises that continuous technical assistance is capable of. A project for the production of laying hens that has changed the family's reality and generated hope and dreams.

**CETRA**



Associated with the Articulação Semiárido Brasileiro (ASA), with the Rede Ater Nordeste, with the National Human Rights Movement and the Women's Movement, CETRA is an organization that has known the Dom Helder Câmara Project since its first movements in the 2000s. Currently the center is responsible for eight municipalities and about 900 beneficiaries.

Agro-ecology and living with the semi-arid are basic principles of CETRA's work, as Dona Meire's experience reveals. The affection and care expressed in the relationships with the farmers - a commitment favored by PDHC - ensured the presence of technicians with the families before, during and after the pandemic.



**TO ACCESS  
THE VIDEO,  
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OR READ THE  
QR CODE**

**KEYWORDS**

Gender, food security, productive backyards, commercialization, markets, socio-technical innovation, technical advice, agro-ecological network perspective, resilience, adaptive strategy



## PRIDE IN ROOTS AND A NEW FORM OF PRODUCTION

Family farmer Rosimeire is a young woman who shares the territory with sisters, brothers and her father, in addition to other relatives who remain in the Quilombo. She says she has lived in the region for 48 years, since she was born, and shares the area with more than 40 families who live there.

**"EVERYONE HAS BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE. THEY ARE FORCED TO, BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FIND A JOB. THE SHORTAGE OF WATER IS ANOTHER CHALLENGE. THERE IS NO DAM, ONLY THE CISTERN, AND SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO BUY WATER FROM A WATER TRUCK TO FILL IT UP."**

Meire, as she is called, produces vegetables and harvests fruit to sell in the community - and says that the technical assistance is responsible for her dream. Raising chickens has guaranteed a complementary income for the farmer.

**"THE PROJECT MADE MY DREAM COME TRUE!  
IT HELPED US BUILD A SMALL HOUSE, AND  
TODAY WE HAVE 43 HENS LAYING EGGS. THE  
TECHNICIAN FROM THE DOM HELDER PROJECT,  
ADEMIR, COMES HERE TO VISIT. EVERY TIME  
I HAVE A QUESTION, I SEND HIM A MESSAGE  
AND HE HELPS ME"**

She and her husband, plus two daughters, live in the house. She is expecting a granddaughter, who is about to be born. Her property has a cistern and she reuses greywater through another project that the same assistance service brought to her home: for vegetables and fruit trees irrigation.

*"There is graviola, acerola, beans, corn, but rice, oil, sugar and meat are store bought. The most expensive thing is electric power. No one lives without lights anymore."*



*"In addition, we plant parsley.. People call and order. Before, I used to sell door to door. I paid for a computer course for my daughter only with the money from the sales of parsley. The sales take place in the community itself. Today I have to deliver 100 eggs here in the community. The chickens eat laying feed (which increases the annual productivity), bought in town. With the income from the eggs, I buy the feed and still have a little left over."*

*"The Bolsa Família helps, but it's still not enough. You have to go to Quixadá to get R\$400 but spend R\$30 just for the bus fare - and if you need a snack, another R\$10. We don't even drink water when we're there, it's not easy! I don't like eggs, but I eat them! It's all I have to eat."*

A beneficiary since the first phase of PDHC, Dona Meire has received some kind of benefit since 2004. *"The cistern, the vegetable beds. I also got the water reuse",* she says.

For the farmer, being Quilombola is important and strengthens her confidence, identity and self esteem. *"Being a quilombola is very important to me, because today I feel empowered."*



**"IN THE OLD DAYS, PEOPLE USED TO SAY "WHERE IS THAT N\*\*\*\* WITH BAD HAIR GOING?" AND I WAS READY TO ATTACK. TODAY WHEN PEOPLE SEE THAT BLACK WOMAN I FEEL IMPORTANT, BECAUSE I KNOW MY ORIGINS, WHERE I'M FROM, MY ROOTS. TODAY, I'M BLACK WITH PRIDE. WE ARE RECOGNIZED, WE KNOW OUR ORIGINS. TODAY, BEING BLACK IS IMPORTANT TO ME BECAUSE I KNOW WHO I AM, AND I'M VERY PROUD.**

The challenge, says Mr. Joaquim, is the land: *“The land is very small and we have to leave a part for the owner. In the old days, I used to pay half. Today it is one third. Even so, we have to leave a part to the owner. If we owned the land, it would be better.”*



## LEARNINGS

Dona Meire's experience presents us with many lessons and learnings. From the relationship of trust established between the family and the technical assistance team, to the continuous technical assistance service that the community receives. Without a doubt, the benefits of productive incentive are important vectors for the success of the Dom Helder Câmara Project in the Quilombo do Veiga.

The farmer adopted permanent dialogue with the assistance service for her activities to be successful, generating productive diversity and introducing poultry farming as an income-generating activity for the family. According to Meire, the sale of eggs has been the main source of income for the household, but there are also strategies of diversification, like selling parsley, which has already paid for a professional training course for her daughter, and fruit pulp that she freezes and sells in the community.

CETRA's assistance has been determinant in building synergies in the productive systems, which has generated important transformations. The family has water cisterns for their own consumption, for their animals, and for agricultural production. The biodigester and various agro-ecological techniques are adopted in production.



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## REFERENCES

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