



PROJETO  
DOM HELDER  
CÂMARA

TECHNICAL FILE

FIELD EXPERIENCES

AREA: MONTEIRÓPOLIS (AL)



PROJETO  
MONITORA



# Technical file field experiences: area Monteirópolis (AL)

**Projeto Dom Hélder Câmara (PDHC II)**

**Realization:**

Coordenação Geral de Inclusão Produtiva  
Departamento de Estruturação Produtiva  
Secretaria de Agricultura Familiar e Cooperativismo  
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**Organization:**

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[www.cegafi.com](http://www.cegafi.com)

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# AREA: MONTEIRÓPOLIS (AL)



## The context of the experience

The community of Farias do Meio, in the municipality of Monteirópolis, Alagoas, is home to dozens of family farmers who, for the first time in their lives, obtained technical assistance from Emater Alagoas, thanks to the Dom Helder Câmara Project. In the 2017 Agricultural Census, IBGE identified that the semi-arid region, home to almost 40% of family farmers in Brazil, has the sad mark of 92% of farmers without technical assistance.

**Table 1** | Farmers (family or not) and technical assistance in Brazil and in the semiarid

	TOTAL DE AGRICULTORES			AGRICULTURA FAMILIAR		
	TOTAL	RECEBE	NÃO RECEBE	TOTAL	RECEBE	NÃO RECEBE
BRASIL	5073324	1025443 (20%)	4047881 (80%)	3897408	708318 (18%)	3189090 (82%)
SEMIÁRIDO	1835535	164473 (9%)	1671062 (91%)	1446842	119083 (9%)	1327759 (92%)

Source: IBGE - Censo Agropecuário 2017. Consultation carried out in may of 2022.

The small municipality, with 6,935 inhabitants, of which 94% are family farmers, is among the 5% with the worst Human Development Index (IDHM) in Brazil. Of the family farmers, 57% have no schooling and 77% are men.



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### KEYWORDS

Foment, food security, commercialization, markets, technical assistance, productive inclusion

# CÍCERO AND DJANIRA: PRODUCTIVE FOMENTATION TO FEED THE FAMILY



Dona Djanira, the hostess, is a woman with green eyes that contrast with the arid and dry landscape of the territory. In her productive unit, distributed in two small houses, live eight people, among daughters and sons, grandchildren, daughter-in-law and her husband, Mr. Cícero, 51 years old. *"There are twelve children,"* says the farmer. Among the older ones, some migrated to São Paulo; others to Santa Catarina.

*"The land is a task and a half,"* says Cícero (in Alagoas, a "task" of land corresponds to 3,025 m<sup>2</sup>), a size that represents less than half a hectare.

The arrival of Emater with the Dom Helder Câmara Project (DHCP) also brought rural productive incentive to the family. With this support and the technical orientation of Emater, the family welcomed us to tell their story.

In the municipality, 50% of the family farmers assisted by Emater received the productive incentive, and were assisted throughout all of the processes: from

personal documentation, the DAP, the organization of the UFPA, and the productive project itself.

Some are able to sell even for PAA (currently PAB; 11 families were contemplated and provided food for the program) products such as cakes, vegetables and greens. *"We managed to increase the participation quota in the state PAA and we are going to start expanding the number of farmers. We still can't sell to the National School Feeding Program (Pnae). It's all very bureaucratic,"* says Dacy, an Emater- AL technician.

The goal of the productive project, drawn up in conjunction by the technical assistance and the couple, was to guarantee food security, ensure income, and contribute to improving the family's living conditions by raising pigs.



In DHCP, the productive projects were, to a great extent, designed as strategies for food security and surplus production for commercialization and income generation. They are destined to the construction of productive infrastructures - such as hen houses and pigsties - and to the acquisition of sheep, goats and even cattle.

They designed a 9m<sup>2</sup> facility, but Cicero happily tells us that he built a shed four times larger in size and continues to raise pigs and cattle for domestic consumption. *"If there is anything left over, we sell it abroad. With the money from the project we built six pigsties and a pit to keep everything clean. I already had the arrays here, I needed the facilities."*

The farmer details the importance of technical assistance on the property. *"With the money from the pigs, we live, we have one large boar and sows. We sell the pigs here in the community and, with that money, we can raise the whole family. But everyone helps me out, this girl (daughter) and this boy (grandson) always take care of the pigs together."*

With the productive project and the incentive, the family manages to maintain the pigs and the few heads of cattle they keep. *"We mix forage palm with the cattle feed. But we can't give palm to the pigs",* Cícero points out. The animals and some sales facilitated by DHCP ensure food security for Cícero's family.



Dona Djanira tells us that rain, in the semiarid region, means hope. *"We use piped water from the dam first, and then, if we need it, we get it from the small barrage in our backyard. When it rains, I always feel like we could use that water. I wish I had a cistern to store it. We lose a lot of water when it rains, but that's the way it is. I still have hope."*



Regarding the incentive and the productive project, Dona Djanira declares: *"I have to pay for water, energy, and there is also the health plan, monthly. I spend all the Bolsa Família Program's money on this. That's why having the sows farrowing helps so much."*

## Dom Helder Câmara Project's Impact Evaluation Study

"BEFORE THE PROJECT, THE SITUATION WAS BAD, BUT THEN IT GOT MUCH BETTER. HE (THE TECHNICIAN) ALWAYS COMES HERE, EVEN WHEN I THINK HE WON'T SHOW UP, HE ALWAYS DOES."



Despite all the difficulties, Dona Djanira says that, with DHCP, things are better for them. "We even put a pumpkin aside for you," she says proudly.

*"We want to leave the land to the children. The youngest one still lives here with me, as long as he doesn't decide to leave. The children have to take care of it,"* says Cícero with eyes focused on the horizon, as he gets ready to record the interview.

Eduarda, the couple's daughter, is a young woman who dreams of studying and becoming a nurse, but knows the responsibilities that life imposes on her:

"I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ANIMALS. MY PARENTS SAY IT'S GOOD TO WORK TO GET THINGS."



Despite the difficulties to study imposed by the pandemic, Eduarda dreams of a profession. *“I was sad because of the pandemic, because I really like school. If I had the opportunity to go to college, I would choose nursing. But I know I can’t afford transportation or classes. So I think about being a nail technician. I will be the best.”*

## LEARNINGS

The experience of the family of Dona Djanira and Mr. Cícero, assisted by Emater Alagoas under DHCP, shows that technical assistance and rural productive incentive were important to generate income associated with the marketing of pig farming products. Technical assistance was responsible for elaborating the productive project, organizing the farmer’s documentation, and monitoring the implementation of the infrastructure for pig farming.

The couple guarantees food security for their family and their children who live nearby thanks to the commercialization of animals, which ensures income to buy food in the small town.

The lack of a water storage structure is still an important element that restricts agricultural production, but the family believes that things will change. The technical assistance was decisive in the process of inclusion of the family in markets (even if informal) for meat and live animals, although the sustainability of the activity is questionable due to dependence on external inputs (feed) and the high demand for water.

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