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### **Proposal of Solve the Hunger Problem in Brazil**

In the world's situation when we talk about hunger and how to solve it, it is necessary to focus on what causes it, in order to propose concrete actions for its management, with the purpose to eliminate it in all its forms. In this regard I am aware that there is no magical solution, there are determining factors that cause "hunger", such as poverty. So, its solution would clearly terminate hunger; but I'm aware that this is a problem that far exceeds my strength. With the aim of contributing through this, I present an idea that seeks to join other efforts, to solve and work on the humanitarian problem that is hunger. I believe that no matter how "small" an idea may seem, if it can grant one or more family's access to quality food, then it 100% counts.

In a world with so much abounding, I wonder how it's possible that there are people with constant and overflowing amounts of food in their homes; while many others are simply trying their best to survive on a day-to-day basis.

Hunger is the clearest and most heartbreaking personification of poverty. The problem would not be the lack of food, it's how to get everyone to access it. Some of us wake up in the morning and have food on our plates without realizing the enormous privilege that this represents. Around the world, 690 million people regularly go to bed with an empty stomach [1] having their lives hanging from a thread, according to a report from the United Nations food agencies, these numbers increase by 10 million people a year.

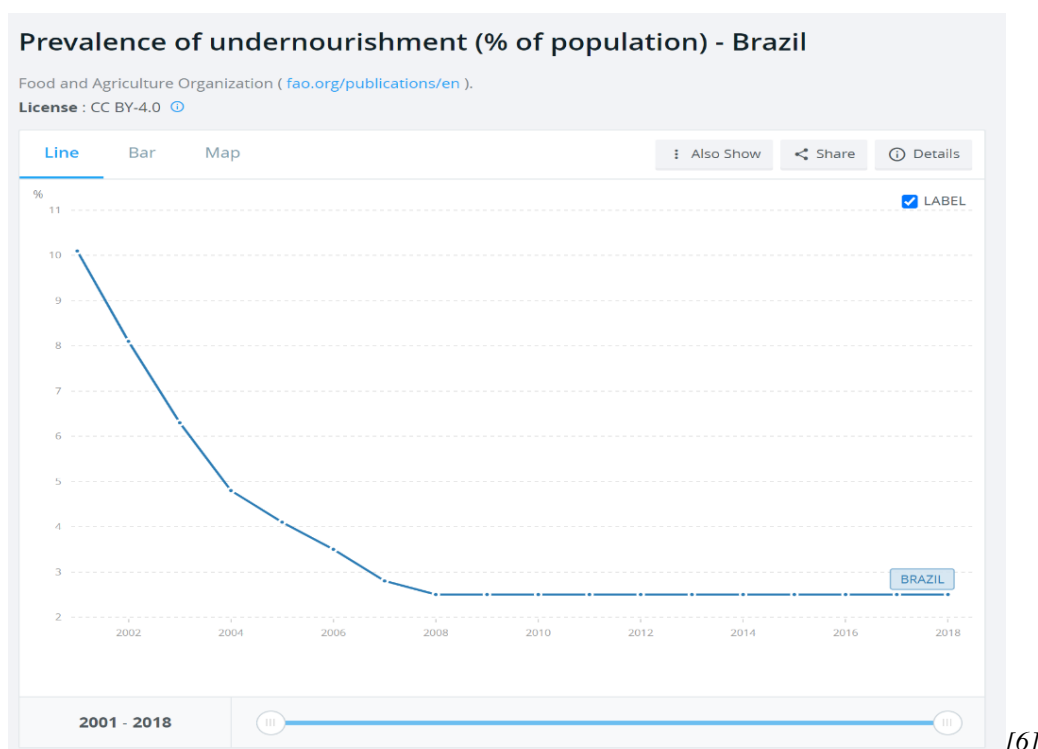
Brazil is the country with the largest territorial extension in South America, and it has a great potential for agriculture income. It is 2,368.788 square kilometers of land with agricultural potential, according to data published by the World Bank. [2]

To address the problem, it is necessary to visualize that Brazil has a population of approximately 211 million [3] and according to the statistics published by "Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean," 1.6% of that population suffers from severe food reliability and 20.6% of moderate food reliability by 2019.[4]

Now we can ask ourselves: Why does Brazil suffer so much from hunger, having its long territorial extension and such bountiful natural resources? The geography of Brazil helps us in terms of the problem since the coasts facilitate the export and import of goods.

To establish Brazil's strengths, we can say that it is the first or second largest producer and exporter of sugar, coffee, orange juice, beef and chicken, corn or soybeans in Latin America.[5]

Now this is a pro or con? The fact that there is the capacity to produce food for export, does not represent a guarantee to solve Brazil's hunger problem, in the sense that resources are not available to the country's population due to unfortunate economic conditions. It is very easy to think that producing this large quantity of food would imply guaranteed access to food, but the statistics reveal a sad reality.



To find a solution, I asked myself: why innovate something that has already been done. In 2003, Brazil had taken a course, that as can be seen in the graph helped in the reduction of hunger, which had given upstanding results.

The objective of government policy implemented during the presidency of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, he wanted to fight the issue that is hunger and poverty, through the implementation of the project called in Portuguese "Fome Zero" (zero hunger) one of the strategies was to increase the access of food to the poorest people. Several reasons achieved the result that was reflected in the statistics, the most important was the support and commitment provided by the president.

In 2007 Lula created an inter-ministerial body for food and nutrition security, intending to coordinate and align the action of 19 ministries with national priorities for food and nutritional security.[7]

Economic growth and labor reform were also key to the success of the policies.

External support was also an important role in implementing this project. For example, Some of the institutions that managed to contribute were the World Bank in 2010 approved a loan of 200 million dollars to support "Bolsa Familia" and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has provided financial and technical support.[8]

The number of people starving has doubled since 2018, The situation is gloomy across Brazil. In all cities, poor people stand in lines for hours every day to get a small portion of rice or a loaf of bread; in many parts, small children can be seen rummaging through the rubbish bins to pick something for their hungry mouths.[9] Apparently, the government policy has changed these efforts and made this a complicated issue. Therefore, my additional proposal would be to review the food security policies that had been implemented in the government at that time and that allowed them to have such important results.

Thanks to the pandemic the food issue has gotten much worse. Statistics show that in April 2021, 116.8 million people began to live in food insecurity, with 43.3 million do not have access to enough food, we can say they have a moderate food insecurity, and 19 million go hungry which we call a severe food insecurity.[10] For example, it has been determined that 35% of families living in favelas in Brazil lost all their income as a result of the social distancing measures imposed to stop the advance of the new coronavirus[11], which has caused Brazilians living in favelas to lose employment because a large majority work in an informal way. Either individually or in precarious jobs, or just because they are unemployed, which aggravates the situation of poverty and therefore access to food.

The Brazilian staple diet includes rice, beans, meat and vegetables. Now, the majority of families are left with one or two items on the plate, with some surviving just on rice. This horrifying situation was revealed in another survey by Food for Justice Research Group (FJRG), which places the number of people with food insecurity at 125.6 million or 59.3% of the population. The survey, called "Effects of the pandemic on food and the food security situation in Brazil", probed if people were eating in sufficient quantity and quality and if they were worried about their food running out. [12]

I realized that Brazil's problem is not food production, since, as we explained before, Brazil has an over-production of food to the point that it is a top-of-the-line exporter. The problem lies in equitable access to food especially for segments of the population that are separated by an economic inequality gap.

My proposal is to implement food policies. The policies would allow food being brought directly from the producers to the final consumer with the following objectives: to offer low prices by reducing or eliminating the intermediaries with the positive effect of improving the quality of life of the producers who, now, wouldn't be forced by the intermediaries to sell the fruit of the land that they obtain with so much effort to be able to feed their families.

I propose to implement, "Markets from the Farm to your Table" or "Da fazenda até sua mesa." The food products would be brought from the production centers and offered directly from sale to the population in open markets, facilitated by the local authorities in areas of easy access, at very attractive prices, on a weekly basis, but with the consolidation of it being of permanent implementation. The savings in distribution costs would lower the final price of the product. Making it possible for a lot more people to access them. To establish concrete means of transportation, it's proposed to establish credit funds that allow this business model to be consolidated, making it very sustainable over time.

For the success and sustainability of the project, agricultures must have the will to formally organize themselves to strengthen the working sector that once produces well-being in the local population; Therefore, it is recommended the constitution of cooperatives or non-profit organizations (NGO) that allow raising funds, sponsorships or any means of both public and private financing to develop the activities and achieve the objectives of the project.

Another very important factor in the issue of food security, is nutrition education, this is a component that would help overcome the cultural gap of food based on a few foods, having a population that through education allowed to invest their limited resources in a balanced diet within reach of their budget, when we take into account that factor changes life and in that way they can take advantage of the variety of products "from farm to table"; that is why it is proposed as a complement the conclusion of inter-institutional agreements that allow the Prefecture/city council the implementation of "educational stations" that provide important educational capsules with information within reach and with vocabulary of easy understanding of the public including easy and economical recipes in order to position in the minds of consumers (population) new food options that would translate into the reduction of diseases, improvement of the state of health and this represents a collective benefit in the medium and long term.

In conclusion, investing in eradicating hunger is a humanitarian issue, but certainly, in economic terms it also represents a real benefit, since well-nourished people enjoy health, it creates a healthy productive mindset by becoming part of the economic engine of a country, since the greatest wealth of a nation is its habitants. Solving a country's hunger seems like a harsh task but when broken down, we're just a few efforts away from helping a majority of people have a healthy and livable lifestyle.

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