

*Perspective*

## Note on agro food chain system

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**In the case of Argentina, a major global commodities exporter, the difficulties created by COVID-19's unfolding repercussions are quite uneven. As domestic food costs continue to climb, affecting millions' living conditions, and state measures aim to ensure the population's access to food, the dominant agribusiness sector is forging new alliances to strengthen its integration into global agro-food markets. In order to fully comprehend agribusiness strategies, it is necessary to consider the effects of the pandemic on peasant-like farmers and rural workers, the alternatives they have developed in recent years in their fight against the dominant food regime, and the extent to which local expressions of this antagonism are being reshaped. We also consider the role of the state in this process.**

**Key words:** Agro-food markets, rural workers, agroecology, peasant agriculture

### INTRODUCTION

The global recession brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to shrink by 4.3 percent in 2020, somewhat less than originally predicted (World Bank, 2021). Millions of people have been plunged into poverty and unemployment as a result, bringing new challenges to traditional economic growth paradigms. For countries that rely heavily on commodity exports, these challenges are not only about the pandemic's implications for their integration into global agro-food markets, but also about persistent issues of food insecurity and various forms of agribusiness inequality. The pandemic has re-ignited questions about the future of this agricultural hegemony, as well as the role that agroecology, peasant agriculture, and territorialized markets can play in post COVID-19 recovery. Argentina's storey is particularly instructive in this regard, considering its economy's structural weakness and reliance on agri-food exports. The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 10.6% in 2020, and much of the estimates for rebounding growth are dependent on assumptions of a comeback in agro-food exports, as in prior crises.

In this article, we examine the measures used by Argentina's hegemonic agricultural sector to deal with the challenges that the pandemic has posed to global agri-food markets. To fully comprehend these strategies, it's necessary to look at the changes brought on by the pandemic for peasant-like farmers

and rural workers, the alternatives they've developed in recent years in their fight against the dominant food regime, and the extent to which local expressions of this antagonism are being reshaped. We also consider the role of the state in this process.

### ABOUT THE STUDY

The epidemic, on the other hand, has aided in its social and political awareness, helping to a wider understanding of the food model they propose as opposed to that of agribusiness in society. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, peasant resistance to agribusiness has converged with environmental conflicts, as it has in other regions of the world. Food sovereignty and environmental justice problems are expressed in their activities and demands, and they shape policies for the transition to agroecology as a major component of alternative food regimes. Academic researchers, educators, unions, and political activists in Argentina backed the political interaction between movements.

President Fernández's government relied on these movements to gain power, as seen by the formation of the Forum for a National Agrarian Program in 2019. Family agriculture organisations were given access to sections of the administration that were relevant to their issues. Family agriculture organisations have been included as main actors in food and social development projects, and their participation in public food purchases is encouraged.

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## CONCLUSION

Concerns have been raised regarding the possibility of more frequent and dangerous health problems in the future as a result of the epidemic. In this environment, offshore food production looks to be a viable approach for both agribusiness firms and governments seeking to maintain the food security of their citizens. Nonetheless, for states and economic actors in the Global South, such a policy exacerbates their already limited ability to negotiate more equitable terms of trade and

restrict the environmental and health repercussions of activities conducted within their borders. Even when the “pink flood” of leftwing governments swept the continent, concentration, dispossession, and environmental and climate crises worsened in Latin America during the golden years of rocketing international commodity prices. As a result, it’s not a stretch to believe that, given the current crisis, creative remedies like the ones discussed here will simply exacerbate the situation. Furthermore, the World Bank predicts that export-oriented countries’ recoveries would be muted in the coming years.