

Opportunities for Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition into Institutional Food Procurement Programs in Brazil



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Introduction

- Brazil's agriculture relies heavily on a few (mostly exotic) species, produced by a small number of big commercial farms, which leaves smallholders, extractivists, local fishermen, traditional communities and family farmers living on the margins.
- Food-based approaches that promote and increase the consumption of native nutrient-rich species are a sustainable solution to address malnutrition, while contributing to livelihood improvements, social inclusion, more equitable distribution of resources, dietary diversification and biodiversity conservation.
- Barriers prevent the better integration of biodiversity for food and nutrition security, including: limited knowledge of the species' nutritional value; unfavorable policies; and limited markets and incentives for farmers to grow and conserve this diversity.
- The *Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition* (BFN) project is influencing existing government initiatives and public policies that regulate the procurement and distribution of food to promote greater use of native biodiversity while linking to local, small-scale producers.



Objectives and Methods

1 Identify those policies/programs falling under the National System for Food and Nutritional Security umbrella that integrate family farming, promotion of food security and sustainable use of biodiversity. The main programs identified, are the **Food Acquisition Program (PAA)** and the **National School Feeding Program (PNAE)**.

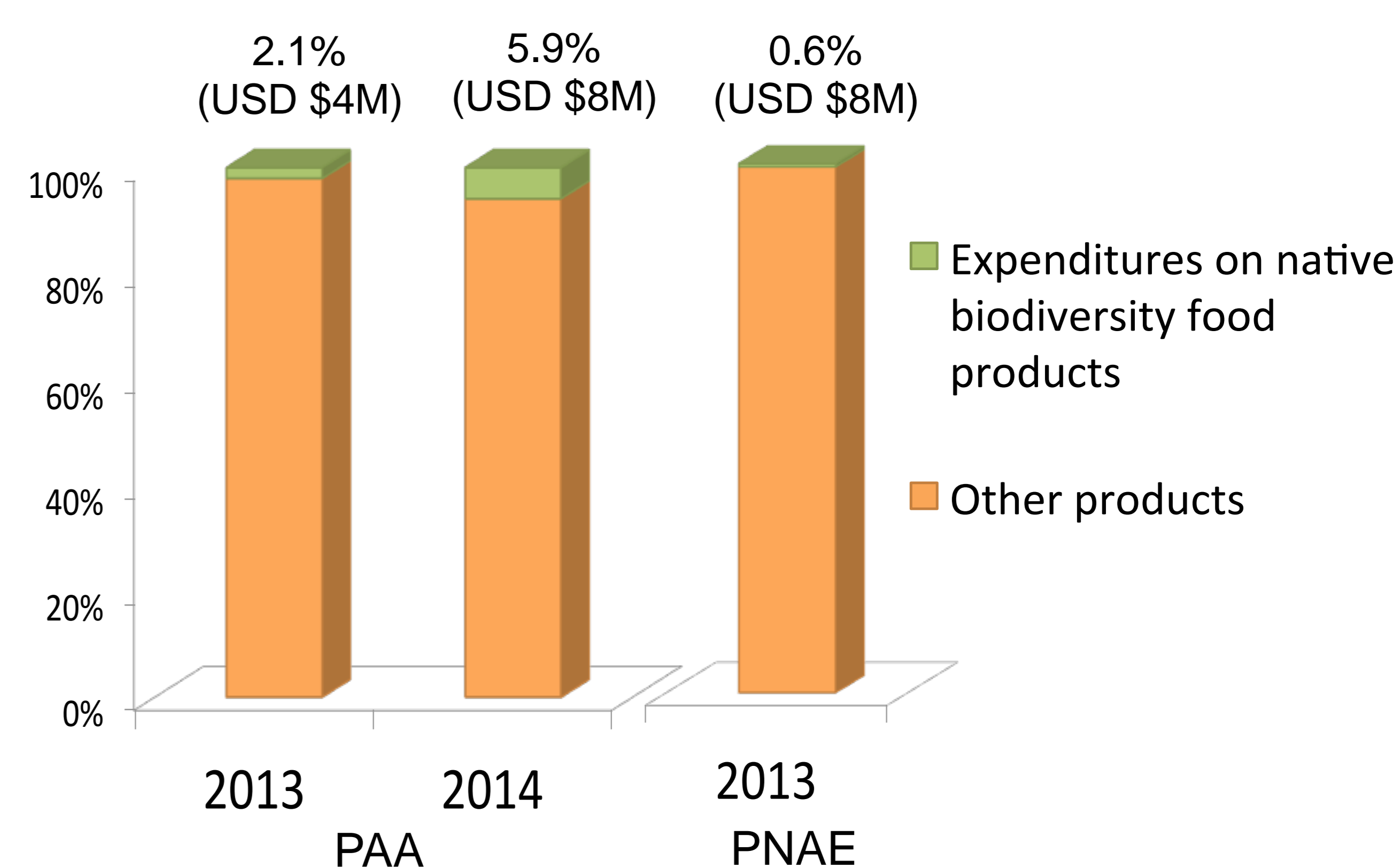
2 Assess yearly expenditures by the 2 programs for the purchase of biodiverse foods to measure their institutional market potential to absorb native species of nutritional importance and socio-biodiversity products from family farmers. See Figure 1

Food Acquisition Program (PAA)

- Promotes access to food and encourages family farming
- Forms public food stocks from family farmers
- Promotes food supply through government food purchases
- Strengthens local and regional marketing networks
- Encourages cooperatives and associations, playing a strategic role in fighting poverty

School Feeding Program (PNAE)

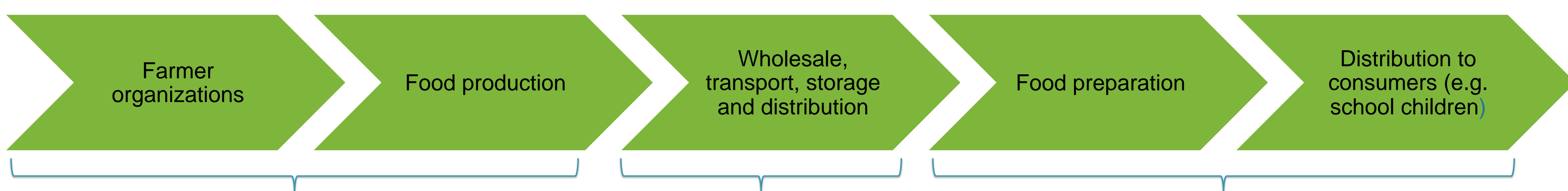
- Contributes to student growth and development, learning, school performance and the adoption of healthy eating habits through nutrition education activities and by supplying healthy and nutritious meals
- Supports local economies by ensuring that at least 30% of federal funds are used for the direct purchase of products from family farms



Mainstreaming biodiversity into PNAE and PAA

Overall, the BFN Project is working on the supply and demand side of the value chain to create an enabling environment for the promotion of native biodiversity of nutritional importance and is doing so by influencing different stages within the school food procurement value chain by:

- Generating and providing nutritional information on 70 edible native species to farmers, institutions and policy makers alike – *Plants for the Future Initiative*
- Influencing policy frameworks, building institutional capacity and coordination to procure native biodiversity
- Raising awareness of biodiversity for food and nutrition to increase demand



Agriculture sector and food production



- Official list of biodiversity foods for policy makers, producers and buyers (Ordinance 163/2016)
- Advocating for financial incentives for the marketing of biodiversity (e.g. premium price, prioritization)
- Booklets for sustainable collection of biodiversity
- Capacity building of producers, traditional communities, policy makers and researchers

Food procurement

Food preparation and feeding



- Develop and document recipes, traditional knowledge, organoleptic tests
- Awareness-raising events, food fairs
- Pedagogical school gardens and tree nurseries



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