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**[Agroecological Food Systems. Advances in the construction of the participatory guarantee system (PGS) in the southeast of Buenos Aires.]**

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally developed tools to provide guarantees and communicate the quality of productions and food traceability, favoring and establishing short local marketing circuits and promoting the organization and continuous improvement of processes (Pengue, 2021). In general, it is a system adapted to small farmers and small-scale processing based on active participation, trust and exchange of knowledge (Fernandez, 2018; IFOAM, 2007). In Argentina, the development of PGSs have been especially associated with the promotion of agroecology. Although their development is still incipient, at least fifteen experiences have been identified. In this context, the SPG of Southeastern Buenos Aires is made up of producers who apply the agroecological approach, organized in groups, cooperatives and fairs; marketing-consumption experiences, consumption nodes and a group of institutional actors and government agencies (INTA, UNMDP, SENASA, Provincial Agroecology Program, Agroecology Promoters and Facilitators, advisors of the National Agroecology Directorate (DNAE); representatives of Municipalities).

The main advances in the construction of the system have been developed in meetings held as spaces for dialogue, collective reflection and exchange of knowledge. Among the main challenges of the process under construction it is possible to highlight: (i) the active and sustained participation over time of the actors involved, as well as the necessary growth of the interest of other civil society actors, where communication and trust constitute solid bases; (ii) the accompaniment of technicians with diverse training and experiences to interpret the possibilities of each group, develop instances of exchange around practices, the generation of agreements in relation to the criteria and way of evaluating the systems and manage from the constitution of the PGS; (iii) the necessary flexibility to accompany territorial processes and the importance of joint work, dialogue of knowledge and co-construction of knowledge for the implementation of a PGS and the strengthening of regional networks and networks of knowledge and experiences for local and regional development.

**Bibliographic references**

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Pengue, W. (2021). *Principios agroecológicos y sistemas participativos de garantías: una guía hacia la agricultura, la alimentación y el desarrollo rural sostenible*. Buenos Aires: Orientación Gráfica Editora.