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Participatory rural diagnosis in family farming for university extension actions

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Family farming has social and economic importance in food production, indicating possibilities for action in the areas of research, teaching, and extension, considering the interconnections between theory and practice. In university extension activities, it is necessary to know the local reality to facilitate the process of socialization knowledge among participants. In this sense, aimed to know and identify the needs of the family unit located in the Laginha settlement, in the municipality of Serra Talhada – PE. Thus, it used the strategy of participatory rural diagnosis (DRP), which establishes a set of techniques that allow the family and the team to analyze the social, economic, productive, and environmental situation, acting more effectively in identifying problems and solutions. Before starting the techniques, the Free and Informed Consent Term (FICT) was presented to ensure the authorization of the necessary actions in the implementation of the university extension. The diagnosis was carried out in August and September 2023. The techniques used were the property map, the timeline and questionnaire. Mapping the property consists of walking around the property with the family, identifying land uses, available natural resources and infrastructures. After the walk, a participatory drawing on poster paper is created with the information collected during the walk and the flows of inputs and outputs of materials and products. The timeline depicts significant events relevant to the family in chronological order. In a dialogue circle, the family was encouraged to report and describe the main events that marked their trajectory the settlement. The information was recorded on colored cards organized by the year of the event. The questionnaire focused on pig and free-range chicken, with closed and open questions about food, reproductive, sanitary management, and the breeding system. All techniques were performed with the active participation of the family. It is concluded that the multiple use of techniques for the diagnosis of the family unit offers productive details, of the local structure, a comprehensive view of the historical context, and the reality experienced by the family, by retrieving facts and processes that contribute to the integration of knowledge. During the process, participants adopt a collaborative and proactive attitude, which allows those involved to get to know each other better and reflect on their practices, facilitating the analysis of problems and the search for solutions. After the diagnosis, the university extension actions were built and planned. Participation is considered a fundamental condition in all phases, as it includes learning and sharing of knowledge and experiences between family farming, students, and teachers, with the aim of planning and developing joint actions.

Keywords: property mapping, participation, planning, techniques.

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