

DOSSIER “BRAZILIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS”

PRESENTATION

This issue of *Revista Paranaense de Desenvolvimento* - RPD brings a dossier regarding the role of regional development banks in Brazil. These institutions compose the Sistema Nacional de Fomento (SNF), comprised by a network of governmental and private financial organizations, such as federal and state public banks, foment agencies and financial cooperatives, besides the Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (FINEP) and the Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas (SEBRAE).

The SNF is large and heterogeneous. His primary aim is development funding, operating in segments under credit shortage and other market imperfections. Considering the scope and dissimilar initiatives of SNF, the attention of the dossier centered on public institutions with regional assignments, which excluded regional foment agencies – organizations with relevant roles in SNF nevertheless.

Public institutions with operations in diverse regions of the country were selected. Therefore, for the purposes of this effort, the following institutions were chosen: Banco de Desenvolvimento do Espírito Santo (BANDES), Banco da Amazônia S.A. (BASA), Banco de Desenvolvimento de Minas Gerais (BDMG), Banco do Nordeste do Brasil S.A. (BNB), Banco de Brasília S.A. (BRB) and Banco Regional de Desenvolvimento do Extremo Sul (BRDE).

Some of these are federal institutions, such as BASA and BNB. They are instrumental to regional development policies in north and northeastern Brazil, respectively. BRDE originated from a consortium between the three southern states: Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul.

The Central-West region is represented by the article from BRB, controlled by the Federal District government. BRB, however, operates in a broad region, exerting its influence on the states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais e Goiás. The Southeast region appears with papers from two state institutions: BANDES, a partially state-owned corporation controlled by the government of Espírito Santo; and BDMG, a public enterprise from Minas Gerais.

The present dossier provides, therefore, a representative sample from the effort of federal and regional banks towards financing development projects – with particular attention to microcredit, small business, city entrepreneurs, smallholdings, innovation, agriculture and large infrastructure endeavours.

Another relevant point is the countercyclical action historically performed by those institutions. The mitigation of the recent economic crisis associated with the pandemic exemplifies that function.

Finally, it is important to highlight the strong alignment from all those organizations to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, consequently, to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations.

In each of the articles, the reader will find abundant details about the history, operations, commitments and objectives of the institutions. I hope you enjoy the reading.

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