

Challenges for Sustainability of SSE: The Interaction between Popular Economy, Social Movements and Public Policies



Case Study of the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers

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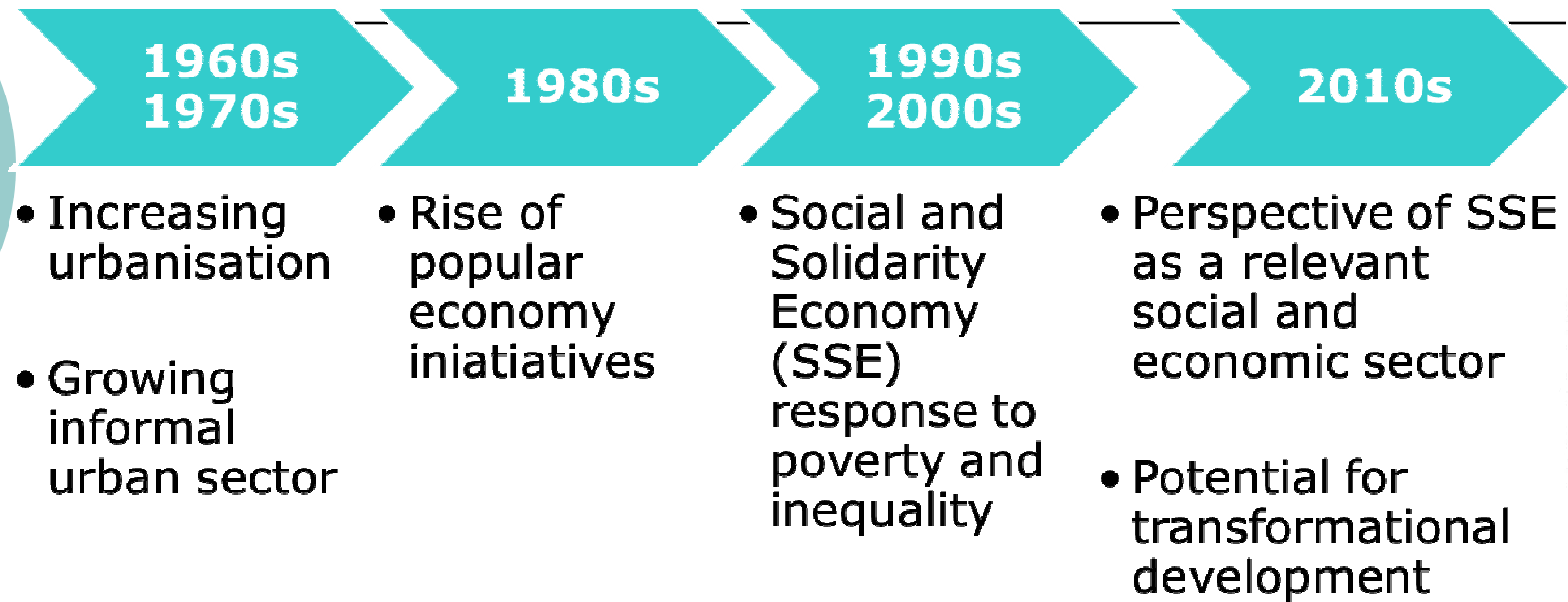
Challenges for Sustainability of SSE

“I never had the words to talk to anyone. I always worked with my head down. With shame. But, after the training, I talk to the people, I make friends, I am happy. My income also increased. I am earning 70% more than before. And it will become better, I am sure about that.”

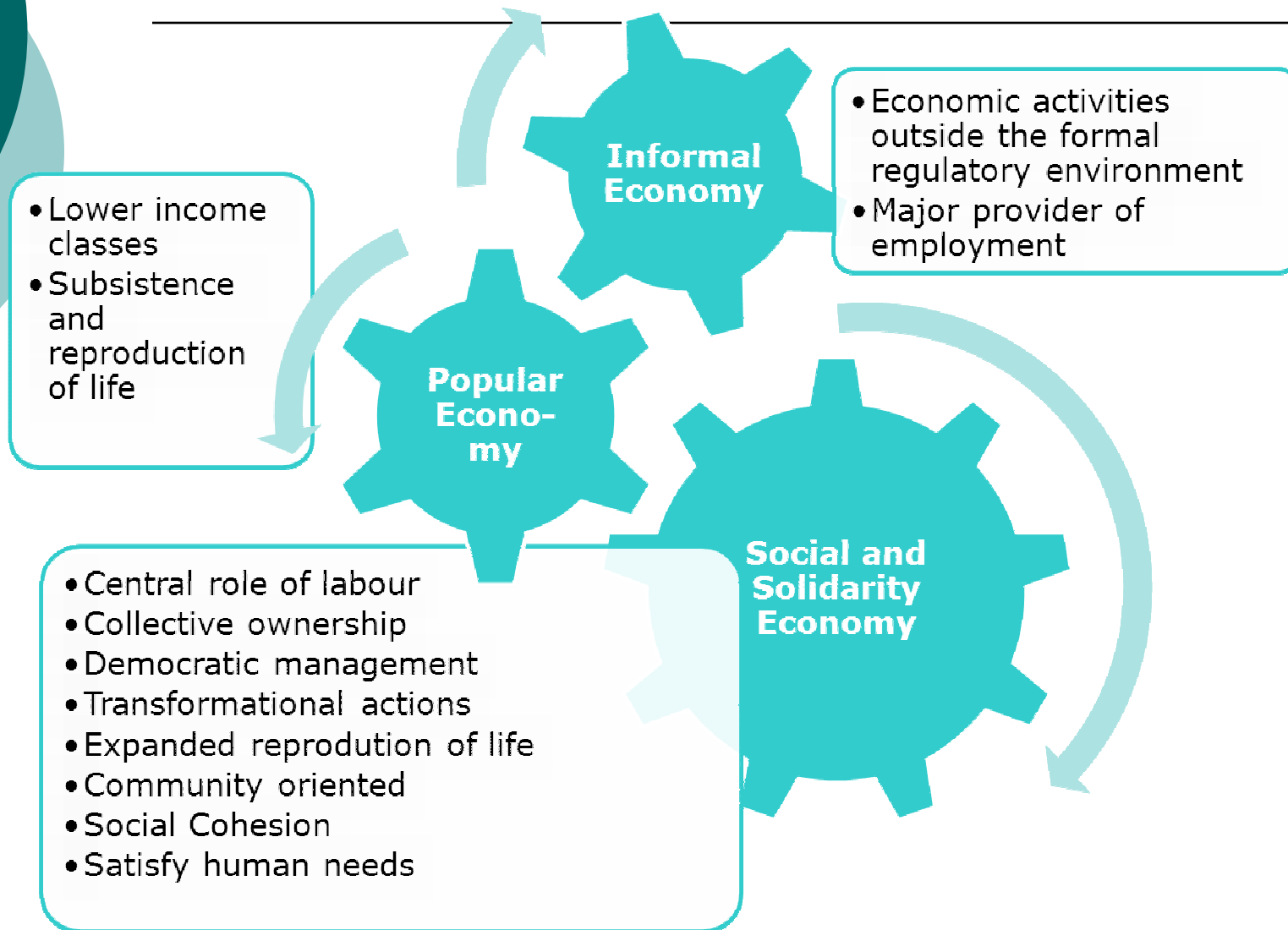
Testemony of Melita Lopes Nunes,
Collector of recyclable materials
Novo Hamburgo, Brazil.
Participant of the project CATAFORTE,
strengthening of cooperatives and
associations of waste collectors.



Challenges for Sustainability of SSE



Approaching Popular Economy and Solidarity Economy



Challenges for Sustainability of SSE

- One third of all solidarity economy enterprises are informal, in the urban areas this reaches two third of the enterprises (SENAES, Brazil).
- The size of the solidarity economy corresponds to less than 1% of the popular economy.
- Challenge for SSE:
 - How to expand SSE?
 - Conditions and contexts for a significant change in quality in the informal popular economy to converge to SSE?





Approaching Popular Economy and SSE

Chile: Associations of informal micro-entrepreneurs

Economic Cooperation

- Access to credit
- Jointly purchase inputs
- Commercialise collectively

Social Cooperation

- Solidarity Fund
- Agreements for medical attendance

Political Cooperation

- Access to public policies
- Legalisation
- Access to markets and fairs
- Training and Assistance (NGOs)

Approaching Popular Economy and SSE Brazil: Public Programa “Vida Melhor”

- Aim to include people living in poverty socially and productively;
- Focus: 120 thousand families in urban areas and 280 thousand families in rural areas;
- Technical assistance for popular economy initiatives: participatory feasibility study, micro-credit, stimulate collective action.



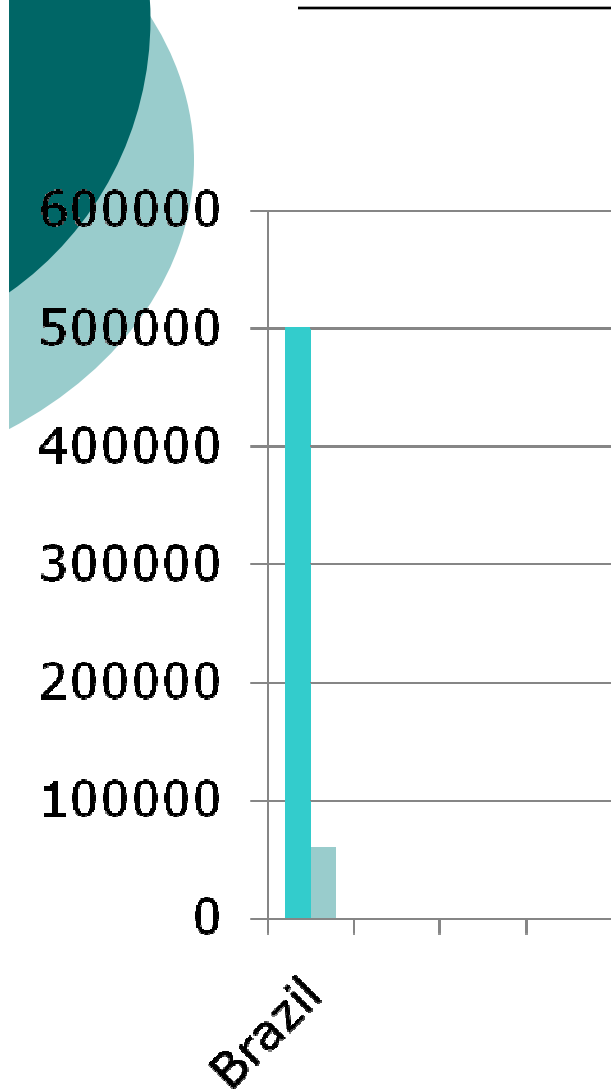
The sustainability of popular and solidarity initiatives supposes a process of development which promotes, together with this economy, other fundamental rights.

Challenges for Sustainability of SSE: Collective Action and Public Policies

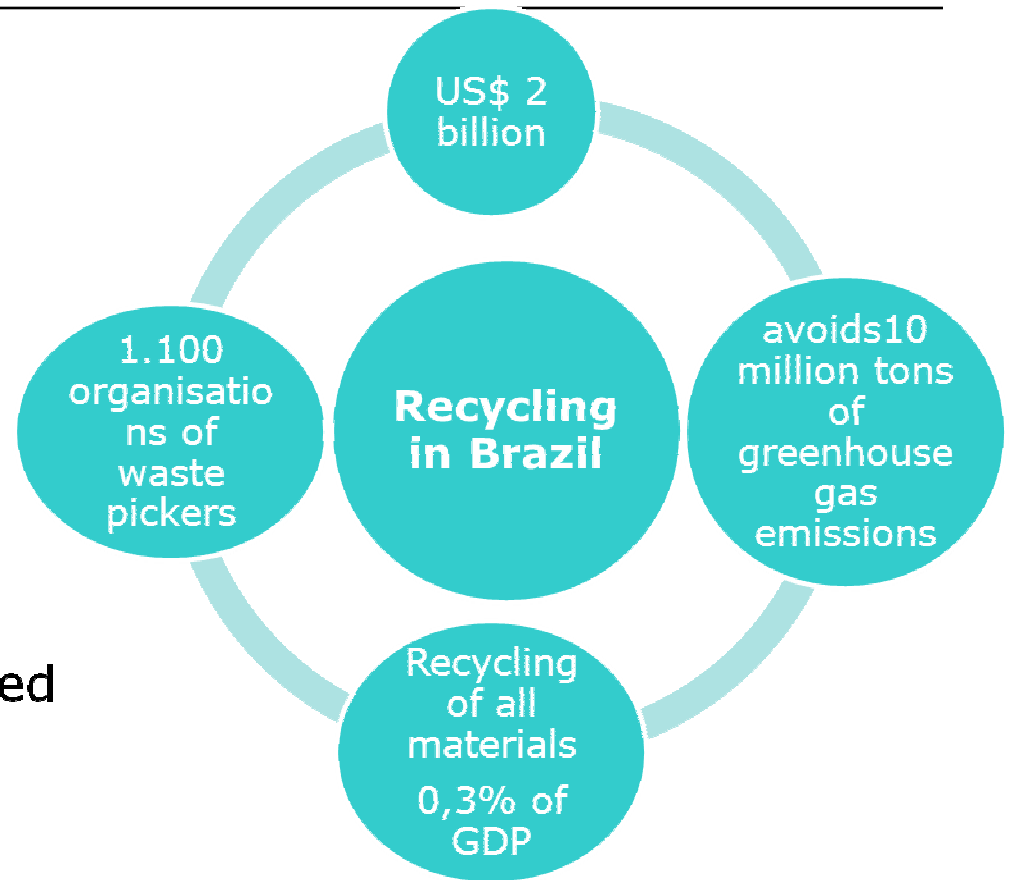
- Collective action: natural resource management.
- Diversity of institutional arrangements for governing common-pool resources and public goods.
- Central role of trust in coping with social dilemmas;
- Fitting institutional rules to a specific social-ecological setting;
- Recognition of the right to organize by a national or local government.



Interaction between social movements and public policies: Global Alliance of Waste Pickers: Context of Brazil



■ Waste Pickers
■ Organised Waste Pickers



National Movement of Collectors of Recyclable Materials – MNCR - Brazil

1980s

1990s

- First organisations of waste pickers in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Porto Alegre.

2001

- Foundation of MNCR.
- *Carta de Brasilia*, proposal for recognition of the profession of collector of recyclable material.

2002

- Profession officially recognised by the federal government.

Latin American Network of Waste-Pickers organisations

- 2003: First Latin-American Congress of Waste Collectors in Brazil, with 800 collectors from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.
- 2005: Second Latin-American Congress of Waste Collectors in Brazil, preceding the V World Social Forum, with 1050 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay.
- Latin American Network of Waste Picker organizations.



Global Alliance of Waste Pickers

- 2008: First World Conference and Third Latin-American Conference of Waste Pickers in Bogota, Colombia.
- 700 participants from 34 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.
- This resulted into the Global Alliance of Waste Pickers.
- After the conference several national movements of waste pickers have been founded, for instance in Kenya and South Africa.



Innovative Institutional Arrangements



Interaction of
Movements of
Waste
Collectors

Innovative
Institutional
Arrangements

Inclusion of
informal waste
pickers in
Solid Waste
management

Challenges for Innovative Institutional Arrangements: South Africa

- *Ikageng Ditamating* Recycling and Waste Management Group founded in Metsimaholo in South Africa, in 2009, with 49 members.
- Merging of two groups of waste pickers at the Sasolburg dump, one composed by women and older men and one of young men.
- After the union the income of the members has increased.
- Main challenge: recognition and participation in the municipal waste management system.



Innovative Institutional Arrangements: India: Pune

1993

- Informal self-employed waste pickers organised themselves into the union KKPKP.

2007

- Cooperative Solid Waste Collection Handling (SWaCH) founded, 100 members.

2008

- Memorandum of understanding with the municipality, regarding door to door collection of waste.

Results

- Members: more stable incomes.
- Three stakeholders meet to evaluate the service delivery.

Innovative Institutional Arrangements: Colombia: Bogota

- 1990: Association of Recyclers of Bogota (ARB).
- 2004: Dialogue with municipal government resulted in the Master Plan of Integrated Waste Management.
- New modalities in service delivery established with the inclusion of informal waste pickers in solid waste management.
- The formal and informal systems continue to co-exist.
- Organised collectors: access to social security, better working conditions and more stable earnings.
- Cooperatives try to advance in the production chain;
- Dificult to compete with private sector.





Innovative Institutional Arrangements: Brazil

2003

- Inter-ministerial Committee of Social and Economic Inclusion of the Collectors of Recyclable Material (Ciisc).

2006

- Decree: Destination of recyclable materials of public institutions for collective organisations of recyclers.

2007

- Law: Exemption of organisations of waste collectors from the tendering-process to carry out the selective collection of urban waste

2010

- National Solid Waste Policy (PNRS): associations and cooperatives defined as priority stakeholders in the recycling process.
- Programme "Pro-Catador", Projeto Cataforte.

Programme ‘Pro-Catador’, Project ‘Cataforte’, Brazil

- Pro-Collector Programme: capacity-building, promotion of networks of commercialisation and production chains.
- Projeto Cataforte: from 2010, MNCR and NGOs, supported by SENAES, offers training and technical assistance, strengthening the organisations and networks.
- Focus: 10,600 collectors, in 19 states of Brazil.
- Results: Training of informal waste pickers and their participation in associations and cooperatives.



Project “Cataforte”, Brazil

Integration of informal waste pickers in SSE organisations

- 2009: Cooperative COOTRACAR, Gravataí: 40 collectors.
- 2010-2012: Project Cataforte: 200 waste collectors were trained.
- 2010: Contract with the municipality for selective collection.
- 2012: 100 members: 60 informal waste collectors integrated in the cooperative; 100 in process.
- Effective integration depends on the implementation of the PNRS by the local municipality.





“I am a waste picker for 20 years. I worked on the open dumpsite. Since I participate in the cooperative, everything became better.

I am working inside the hall. I am not on the street anymore. Nobody steels, nobody burns the materials. When I need gas or food, I get it through an agreement of the cooperative.”

Santa Eva Sampaio,
Coadesps, Jaguarão, Brazil

Challenges to sustainability of SSE: Insertion in the market

- Insertion in the capitalist market, facing the competition of the large capitalist companies.
- Limited conditions to establish the rules of the game.
- Lack of capital to invest in equipments and reforms.
- Challenge to combine service delivery at high quality standards with democratic management cultivating relationships based on cooperation and solidarity.



Challenges to sustainability of SSE: Collective Action and Public Policies

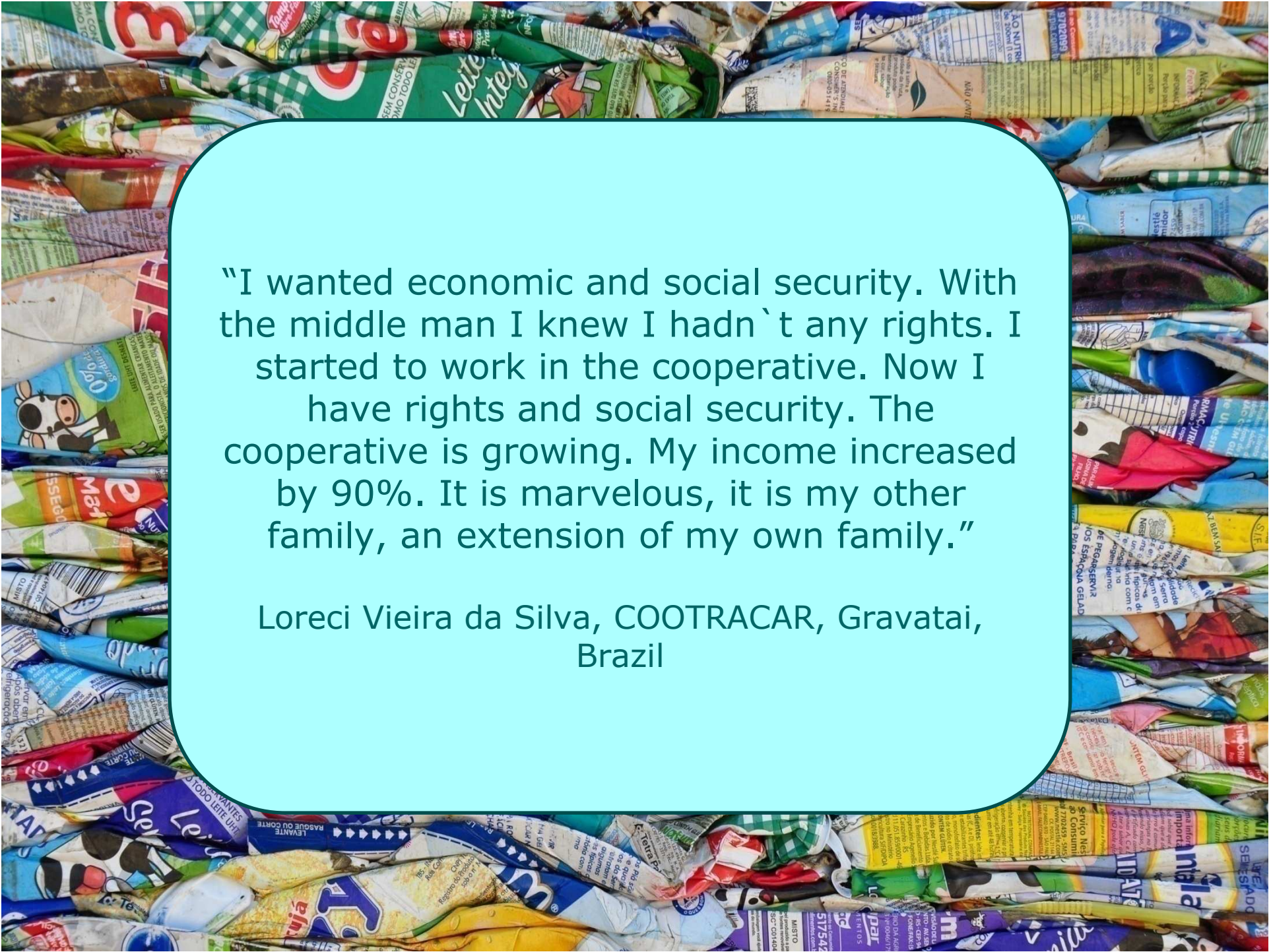
- The sustainability of SSE depends on effective public policies and on a network of advocacy.
- Significant shifts in public policies at all levels require collective action, to achieve the strengthening of SSE.
- The growing organisation of the movements of waste pickers and their alliance with NGOs has made major progress through public policies which strengthen SSE.
- For effective implementation of public policies, the mobilization and coalition of the social movements and NGOs need to be sustained at state and municipal level.



Challenges to sustainability of SSE: Collective Action and Public Policies

- Sustainability of SSE depends on public policies compromised with a process of social transformation.
- To expand SSE, support of NGOs and public policies and programs are needed to establish a significant change in quality in the organizations of the informal and popular economy, to converge to SSE.
- Last decade, promising experiences, which show the potential to expand SSE in important economic sectors in society, as for solid waste management, with the inclusion of informal waste collectors.
 - Public support should also be directed towards strengthening SSE to effectively build up the capacity to meet the demands which arise with the new possibilities shaped by the public policies.





“I wanted economic and social security. With the middle man I knew I hadn` t any rights. I started to work in the cooperative. Now I have rights and social security. The cooperative is growing. My income increased by 90%. It is marvelous, it is my other family, an extension of my own family.”

Loreci Vieira da Silva, COOTRACAR, Gravataí, Brazil



Thank You!

