



## **POSIÇÃO DA POPULAÇÃO RELATIVAMENTE À LEGISLAÇÃO EM BEM-ESTAR ANIMAL NOS PAÍSES BRIC E EUA, EM COMPARAÇÃO COM A EUROPA**

### **POSICIÓN DE LA POBLACIÓN ANTE LA LEGISLACIÓN DEL BIENESTAR ANIMAL EN LOS PAÍSES BRIC Y EE. UU. Y COMPARACIÓN CON EUROPA**

### **PEOPLE'S DEMAND OF FARM ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION IN THE BRIC COUNTRIES AND THE USA, AND COMPARISON WITH EUROPE**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Having in mind a global sustainable agro-trade policy harmonization, this study explored the demand for improved farm animal welfare legislation in the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries and the USA. Results were discussed in comparison to European standards. Data were collected in the BRIC countries and the USA through questionnaires (1000 plus per country). People were asked to rank in a likert scale from 1 (oppose) to 5 (support) the question “To what extent would you oppose or support a law in your country that would require animals used for food to be treated more humanely?” Data were collected in the BRIC countries through questionnaires carefully translated in the local languages. The age and gender of the interviewees was also registered. A multinomial logistic regression was fit to the data ( $p < 0.001$ ), AIC 4972. The parameters found significant were the interactions (-2 log likelihood, chi-square, df, p-value): “country x gender” (5128, 277, 40,  $p < 0.001$ ), and “country x age” (4943, 91, 20,  $p < 0.001$ ). American and Russian women are the most supportive groups. Brazilian men in ages above 50 are even more supportive. The age effect is also felt in India with both men and women of older ages showing high levels of support. The Chinese and the American men are less supportive, as well as younger Indians. Russian males are the group that oppose the most, followed by younger Brazilians and Indians. American and Russian women are the groups opposing the less, as well as the Chinese. The Chinese are those showing higher degree of neutrality, the Brazilians the lower, with the others in between. The laws and their application vary a lot between the countries studied. Nevertheless, the societal willness to improve farm animal welfare legislation, is higher than the opposition and neutrality together, in all the countries studied. The willingness is higher in Europe, and it is also high in American and Russian women, and in older Indians and Brazilians (specially men). The Europeans lead the implementation of farm animal welfare legislation in response to the consumers’ demand. The different cultural backgrounds, the socio-economic factors, and the social, economic, and environmental sustainability are enough reasons to create barriers to policy harmonization in the global trade of farm animal products. If the standards of the importers are not met by the exporting countries disputes may arise. The countries with more advanced legislation will most likely claim ethic principles to impose trading barriers to imports. These barriers may be perceived as market protectionism; however nobody can deny the societal claim for improved animal welfare practices.

**Keywords:** Animal welfare law, BRIC countries, USA, Western Europe, Farm animal trade

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