**README – Dataset on Drought Impacts in Ceará, Brazil (2019–2022)**

**General Description**

**This dataset was used in a research study on drought impacts in Brazil’s semi-arid region, with a focus on the state of Ceará. It compiles qualitative data collected through ongoing drought monitoring performed by field technicians.**

**Dataset Structure**

**Files**

1. **RELATÓRIO DO MONITORAMENTO DE SECAS - 2019 A 2022 CONTINUALLY UPDATED.xlsx  
   Contains monthly responses from Ematerce field officers on drought impacts across 184 municipalities in Ceará. It includes:**

* ***Planilha1* and *Planilha1\_correctedNovDec21*: original records and a corrected version for Nov–Dec 2021.**
* ***summary*: quantitative summary of categorized observations.**

1. **code book quantitiesC.xlsx  
   A supporting file listing coded themes from the qualitative data (e.g., aggravating factors and impact types), including their frequency of occurrence, based on thematic analysis conducted in Atlas.ti.**
2. **Ceara Ematerce Drought Impacts Monitoring v4.atlproj22  
   This is the project file used in Atlas.ti 22 for qualitative coding and thematic analysis. It contains the coded data used to generate the summary in the spreadsheet above.**

* **Software required: Atlas.ti, version 22 or higher. This file cannot be opened without the software.**

**Data Collection and Methodology**

**The dataset was developed using a triangulated qualitative approach combining:**

1. **Drought Monitoring Data  
   Collected monthly by Ematerce extension agents as part of their regular duties. These agents reported localized drought impacts via structured forms. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify patterns, leading to the identification of 14 core impact types, later categorized into hydrological, agricultural, and socio-environmental-economic impacts.**
2. **Fieldwork Interviews  
   Informal and semi-structured interviews were conducted with 60 smallholder farmers across several visits. Interviews were not recorded, but detailed field notes were taken and later analyzed using Atlas.ti.**
3. **Policy Document Review  
   Public policy documents aimed at supporting rural communities were collected and analyzed to identify objectives, instruments, and implementation agents. Insights from fieldwork were used to complement and critically assess these documents.**

**Format**

* **All data files are in Excel (.xlsx) format.**
* **One additional file is in .atlproj22 format (Atlas.ti project file).**
* **Text data is in Portuguese; coded categories and metadata are in English.**
* **Thematic codes are included for cross-referencing field data and monitoring reports.**

**Citation**

**If you use this dataset, please cite the following paper:  
Cavalcante, L., Walker, D. W., Kchouk, S., Neto, G. R., Carvalho, T. M. N., Brito, M. M., Pot, W., Dewulf, A., & van Oel, P. R. (2025). *From insufficient rainfall to livelihoods: understanding the cascade of drought impacts and policy implications.***

**License**

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