

# *U.S. blockade vs. Cuban agriculture*

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"The blockade constitutes the main obstacle to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Development".

This was stated by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla during the Summit of the Sustainable Development Goals, held in the context of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly two years ago, and this statement is still valid today.

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In Cuban agriculture, the losses due to the blockade amount to 270 million 852 thousand 548 dollars between August 2021 and February 2022, informed executives of the Ministry of Agriculture in a press conference, according to the Cuban News Agency (Agencia Cubana de Noticias).

The director of International Affairs of the Minag, Orlando Diaz Rodriguez announced that this figure summarizes the income foregone for exports of goods and services, losses due to geographical relocation of trade, as well as the effects on production and services, monetary and financial losses and technological limitations.

According to the official points out, this primary and strategic sector that taxes food for the people, does not escape the impact of the inhuman economic war against Cuba intensified with the 243 coercive measures adopted by the administration of Donald Trump (2017-2021), still in force with the government of Joe Biden.

The business system, which includes cooperatives and individual producers, has been prevented from positioning its products in the US market, Similarly prevents any trade relationship between the two countries, having Cuba potential to export to the US, Diaz Rodriguez said.

In his speech, he referred to tobacco as the main exportable item of Cuban agriculture, catalogued as the best in the world.

Other attractions mentioned were fresh and industrialized fruits, bee honey and vegetable charcoal, products that the U.S. people have been deprived of receiving or consuming.

In the health sector, he alluded to Vidatox-30 CH, a homeopathic medicine developed by Labiofam used as a complementary therapy for the treatment of cancer and which, due to the criminal policy, cannot be marketed in the United States either.

He also pointed out that in the U.S., businessmen, producers and other representatives of the agricultural sector have denounced the blockade, as well as the measures that intensify it, and have expressed their interest in cooperation and investment, commercialization with the island.

He made reference to the fact that Cuba's agriculture needs to import animal feed, inputs, technologies and raw materials for its development in order to produce food for the people.

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