



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

10^{year} **PetroCaribe**
Energy for Union



**PETROCARIBE:
10 YEARS
OF STRUGGLE
AGAINST HUNGER
AND POVERTY**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Petrocaribe

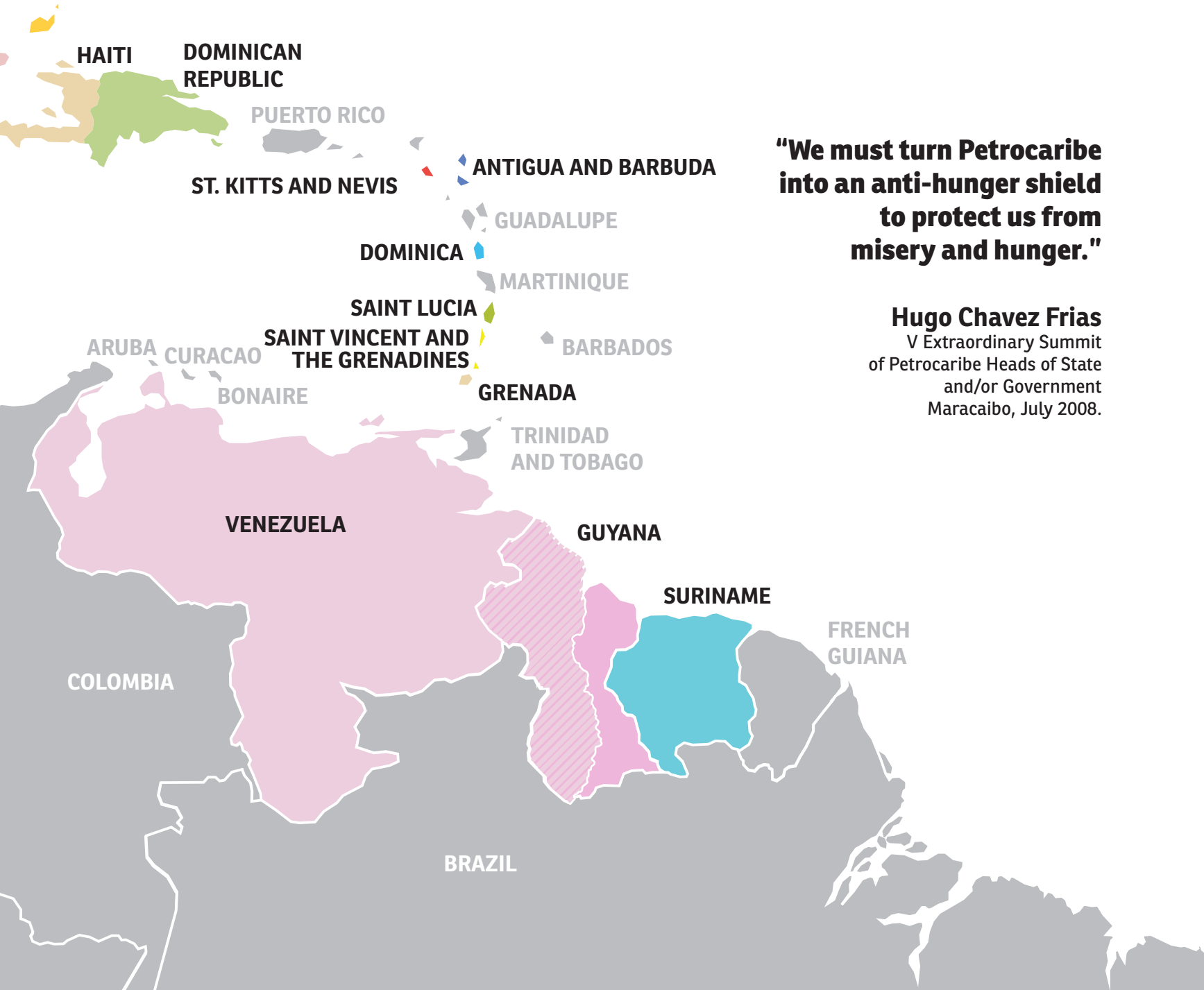


On June 29, 2005, in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government of 14 countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Granada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Venezuela, agree on: “the immediate creation of Petrocaribe as facilitator organ for energy policies and plans, aimed at the integration of the Caribbean peoples through the sovereign use of the natural energy resources for the direct benefit of their peoples” (Petrocaribe Agreement).

With the inclusion of Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, 19 countries are part of Petrocaribe.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**"We must turn Petrocaribe
into an anti-hunger shield
to protect us from
misery and hunger."**

Hugo Chavez Frias
V Extraordinary Summit
of Petrocaribe Heads of State
and/or Government
Maracaibo, July 2008.

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Petrocaribe and FAO have agreed to this special publication with the purpose of making visible the innovating experience in matters of South-South Cooperation (CSS, for its acronym in Spanish) which, within the framework of the energy agreement, has been developed over the last ten years in regards to the Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security (SAN for its acronym in Spanish) in the Caribbean.

The funding of Petrocaribe – which the countries have used for agro-food projects – has had a favourable impact for the peoples; however, its implementation has been insufficiently studied. This publication seeks to systematize and inform about the successful efforts carried out against hunger and malnutrition, within the framework of this energy cooperation agreement, so as to make them properly known, valued, shared and replicated.

ACRONYMS	VIII
PROLOGUE	IX
CORE MESSAGES	X
PRESENTATION	1
PETROCARIBE, ENERGY FOR THE UNION AND THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND POVERTY	2
STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (SAN) IN THE PETROCARIBE COUNTRIES	8
PETROCARIBE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY	14
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	20
BELIZE	26
DOMINICA	30
EL SALVADOR	34
GRENADA	42
GUYANA	46
HAITI	50
JAMAICA	60
NICARAGUA	64
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	72
ST. KITTS & NEVIS	76
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	80
SURINAME	86
ACTION PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND POVERTY "COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ"	90
ANNEXES	101
REFERENCES	105

Acronyms

ALBA-TCP	Alianza Bolivariana para los pueblos de América – Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Trade Treaty of the Peoples
APBEL	ALBA Petrocaribe Belice LTD Alba Petrocaribe Belize Energy Limited
CCM	Centros Comunitarios de Molinado (Haití) Milling Community Centers (Haiti)
CELAC	Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
WFS	World Food Summit
CRISSOL	Plan especial de producción de Granos Básicos “Cristiano, Socialista y Solidario” (Nicaragua) Special Basic Grains Production Plan “Christian, Socialist and Solidary” (Nicaragua)
ENABAS	Empresa Nicaragüense de Alimentos Básicos Nicaraguan Company of Basic Foods
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
PDFJ	Petrocaribe Development Fund of Jamaica
JSIF	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
LTB	Long Term Bill
FSC	Farmers Support Company (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)
GARD	Gilbert Agriculture and Rural Development Centre (Antigua y Barbuda)
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
HDI	Human Development Index
IICA	Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MDB	Miles de barriles diarios Thousands of daily barrels
MERCOSUR	Mercado Común del Sur Southern Common Market
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PBP	People’s Benefit Programme (Antigua & Barbuda)
PDVCAB	PDV Caribe Antigua and Barbuda Ltd.
PDVSA	Petróleos de Venezuela
PETROCARIBE	Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PROSOLI	Programa Progresando con Solidaridad (Rep. Dominicana) Progressing with Solidarity Program (Dominican Republic)
SAN	Seguridad y Soberanía Alimentaria y Nutricional Food and Nutrition Security and Sovereignty
UNASUR	Unión de Naciones Suramericanas Union of South American Nations
PEZ	Petrocaribe Economic Zone

Latin America and the Caribbean have achieved relevant progresses in the struggle against hunger and poverty; year 2015 was a decisive year, with important achievements. The region as a whole has substantially progressed in achieving the goal regarding the reduction of hunger of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and has even exceeded the expectations to reach the goal of the World Food Summit (WFS). This value is shown by the high political commitment of the Governments, as well as the inclusion of a diversity of actors that have joined efforts in this cause.

For FAO, multilateral cooperation initiatives are important in this struggle. That is why the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement is an important benchmark in the construction of a strong food and nutrition security (SAN) agenda, particularly among its member states.

This effort, started by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Frias, was realized in 2013 with the approval of the Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty of the Petrocaribe Economic Zone, a plan that would later take its name in honor and acknowledgment to his commitment to decisively struggle against hunger. The Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty Commander Hugo Chavez Frias, since then, has become an important effort to create further wellbeing and relief to the social demands in favour of SAN and the reduction of poverty.

Petrocaribe completes 10 years since its start, and during this decade, it has managed to generate a virtuous circle between energy and development, between energy and poverty relief, between energy and eradication of hunger. Its solidarity scheme translates into the construction of a regional agenda, in the spirit of brotherhood among nations and South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean; it has been the result of linking political will and the effective complement of the peoples.

That is why we have wanted to present a brief summary of the initiatives and projects regarding SAN that, during these years of the Petrocaribe Agreement, have been developed in its member countries. Cooperation experiences that have left their footprint on the families that have seen their quality of life improve and which become the immediate background and starting point to provide a collective look from the Hugo Chavez Plan.

Plan efforts are focused on a joint construction, valuating assets and national management skills, creating spaces for common ground, leveraging strengths and most of all joining countries in an agreed strategy for the eradication of hunger and poverty; a fact that shows a renewed emphasis on the transformation of political will into specific and defined joint actions to guarantee equitable results.

There are still challenges at a regional level, and if we have learned anything it is that the guarantee of the right to food requires an integral vision, which includes the political commitment of Governments, the mobilization of society as a whole, integrated systems of social protection to support production and improve access, and for the development and strengthening of the legal frameworks in favour of SAN.

FAO will continue to follow-up on these regional efforts and to provide technical assistance to see, in the short term, that particularly the Petrocaribe countries are able to definitively eradicate hunger and poverty.

Raul Benitez
*Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations – FAO*

Petrocaribe is a regional integration agreement which goes beyond energy matters, has a solidary and integration vision, allows member countries to sovereignly use the proceeds of the long term oil bill for social and social-productive projects and programs, fighting hunger and poverty and strengthening Food and Nutritional Security and Sovereignty (SAN).

From its inception in 2005, the 19 member countries have carried out at least 109 high-impact initiatives that have allowed improving availability and access to foods, reducing malnutrition, relieving extreme poverty and improving quality of life.

Throughout these 10 years, most of the Petrocaribe countries have been reducing malnutrition figures leveraged on an on-going political commitment; however, there are still important challenges such as replacing food imports, ensuring the generational replacement of farmers, improving nutritional habits, preparedness and adaptation to natural disasters, including hurricanes and droughts, linking public school systems for food purchases with farmer and family agriculture. All of the above, as part of a fair and solidary commercial integration process.

Currently, Petrocaribe countries, with the technical assistance of FAO, carry out the Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty “Commander Hugo Chavez Frias”, which has its base and guidelines in the CELAC Action Plan for Public Policies in Social Matters, and has the purpose of eradicating hunger, guaranteeing the human right to food, and strengthening SAN through the creation, implementation, monitoring, assessment and systematization of national and regional projects.



Throughout these 10 years, Petrocaribe has been a redeeming mechanism for peoples, based on fundamental principles of solidarity, complementarity, reduction of asymmetries, respect to the sovereignty and free self-determination of peoples. No other integration mechanism in the world is capable or has expressed the will to offer conditions such as those offered by Petrocaribe.

By excellence, it became a driver of change for the development of our societies and countries. And today, more than ever, we must be aware of the great transformer power and its possibilities to continue bringing further security and stability to our region.

In July 2008, our Eternal Commander, Hugo Chavez Frias, said, within the framework of the Extraordinary Summit of Petrocaribe Heads of State and/or Government, “We must turn Petrocaribe into an anti-hunger shield to protect us from misery and hunger.” At the time, the Alba Foods Fund was created, with the specific purpose of funding agro-food initiatives for member countries to achieve food security.

The alliance with FAO, in September 2013, with the approval of the Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, then came to supplement the different instruments established by Petrocaribe since its inception, in 2005, for the funding of social projects, among which we find: the Alba Caribe Fund; the long-term funding (Long Term Bill); the funding provided by mixed-ownership companies, through the social management, created as a requirement of the agreement; the commercial compensation mechanism that allows Venezuela to accept part of the payment in kind, promoting the generation of production capacity in our countries.

This strategic FAO-Petrocaribe alliance allows optimizing the use of the financial resources dedicated by Petrocaribe

to agro-food projects, with the availability of the most advanced techniques to prepare and follow-up on social projects, preserving the identity and customs of each region, and allowing the different communities a starring role in their own development. This publication, through its lines, shows us the road travelled by Petrocaribe in the contribution to the achievement of food security in the Caribbean and Central American region, by identifying the different programs implemented to achieve wellbeing in the region.

Let us continue tracing this road that our Supreme Commander, Hugo Chavez, left as heritage; it will allow us, in a short period of time, to achieve our desired goal of Zero Poverty in the Petrocaribe region.

A solidary, Bolivarian and fraternal hug from Bolivar’s motherland, for everybody.

Asdrubal Chavez

*Minister of the Popular Power of Oil and Mining
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*





Petrocaribe Energy for the Union and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty



Petrocaribe undoubtedly is more than an energy agreement. Although at its inception it had to focus on the development of logistics for the transportation, storage, transformation and distribution of oil and its by-products, it also put into place several mechanisms to face social issues such as hunger and poverty in the Latin American and Caribbean region. These mechanisms were adapted to the circumstances and extended until they became the Action Plan “Commander Hugo Chavez Frias” for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty in the ALBA and Petrocaribe countries, a plan that seeks and proposes a hunger-free zone of peace. In the following pages, we will briefly analyze the evolution process of this initiative.

**ALBA-TCP:
Fundamental Driver of Petrocaribe**

In the III Summit of the Americas (Quebec, Canada), held in December 2001, the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez Frias, notes the effects of the application of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (ALCA) and states his concerns regarding the consequences of such treaty for the peoples of the Americas.

Also in December 2001, at the III Summit of Presidents and Heads of State of the Association of Caribbean States held in the Margarita Island, Venezuela, President Hugo Chavez proposed, as an alternative to ALCA, the creation of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

The delay in its implementation was due to social and political events that took place between 2002 and 2003, both in the world as at a national level. These events have been deemed to be some of the causes of a global food and energy crisis which, in time, Petrocaribe would turn into the focus of its cooperation actions.

In December 2004, Cuba and Venezuela create the ALBA, strongly supported today with the inclusion of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Antigua

& Barbuda, Ecuador, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada, thus being 11 the countries that are part of the so-called Alba region.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Trade Treaty of the Peoples (ALBA-TCP) is an integration platform of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, that emphasizes solidarity, **complementarity**, **justice** and **cooperation**. Its fundamental historical purpose is to join the strengths and capacities of its members, in order to produce the necessary structural transformations and relations system to achieve the integral development required for the continuity of our existence as fair and sovereign nations. It is also a social, economic and political alliance for the defense of the independence, self-determination and identity of its peoples. (ALBA-TCP official website)

ALBA is where the conception of Petrocaribe takes place, as stated by President Hugo Chavez.

“Petrocaribe, an initiative born from the ALBA liberation project, is part of the change in the age we are living.” Hugo Chavez, IV Summit of Petrocaribe, Cienfuegos, Cuba.

This original connection between ALBA-TCP and Petrocaribe, is confirmed in the Minutes of the Petrocaribe Agreement:

We have praised the initiative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, focused on the creation of Petrocaribe, the fundamental purpose of which is to contribute to the energy security, the social-economic development, and the integration of the countries of the Caribbean, through the sovereign use of the energy resources, all of this based on the integration principles called Bolivarian Alternative for America (ALBA); (Petrocaribe Agreement).

This Petrocaribe – ALBA relationship is explained by the important number of countries that, simultaneously, are

part of both agreements and is portrayed in the ALBA/ Petrocaribe Extraordinary Summits and in the initiatives for its integration with Caricom and Mercosur.

Petrocaribe Agreement: the driver of social projects in the Caribbean

On June 29, 2005, in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, the Heads of State and Government of 14 countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Suriname and Venezuela), sign the Petrocaribe agreement, after considering that the global crisis, the global energy situation and its effects on the increase of prices of hydrocarbons negatively and increasingly affect the economic performance and the social situation of the Caribbean countries, worsened by the fall in the prices of their exports, mainly agricultural products.

The Heads of State and Government clearly state in the signed agreement that Petrocaribe is more than just an energy agreement:

(...) We reiterate that it has the purpose of contributing to the transformation of Latin American and Caribbean societies, making them more cultivated, participative, solidary and fair and, therefore, it is conceived as an integral process that promotes the elimination of social inequalities and foments the quality of life and an effective participation of the peoples in the creation of their own fate.

And because of this, the Petrocaribe Agreement established, right from the start, ways to finance social development projects, as well as mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of such funding.

In 2005, the ALBA CARIBBEAN FUND was created, with an initial contribution of USD 50 million by Venezuela; PDV Caribe was created to take care of the

operational aspects of the oil supply, and a set of solidary financial mechanisms was implemented, among which it is important to note those directly related to the funding of social projects in general and, particularly, those focused on the struggle against hunger and poverty.

Ways of funding the social projects established in the Agreement, to date, are:

- » The **Alba Caribe Fund**
- » Long-term funding (Long Term Bill, LTB)
- » The funding of actions, plans and projects performed through the social management of mixed-ownership companies created as required by the agreement
- » The commercial compensation mechanism that allows Venezuela to accept part of the payment of the LTB with goods and services. The production of these goods and services is generally through partner-productive projects, which include farmer and family agriculture in the countries that have chosen this form of payment in particular:

(...) the Alba Caribe Fund is an instrument that favorably contributes to the development of social projects and programs and to the progress of our countries in the socioeconomic area, through the financing of a portion of the oil bill and direct trade among PETROCARIBE member countries
Declaration of the 5th Extraordinary Summit of Petrocaribe

Petrocaribe, a shield against hunger

During 2007 and 2008, a global crisis took place due to the increase in food prices, in addition to the continuous increase in global prices for hydrocarbons, coinciding with the cost of fertilizers and food transportation. At the 5th Extraordinary Summit of Petrocaribe, in Maracaibo, Venezuela, in July 2008, President Hugo Chavez said the following: “We must turn Petrocaribe into an anti-hunger shield, to protect us from extreme poverty, from hunger”.

The declaration and resolutions of this 5th Summit show the concern of all Petrocaribe Heads of State and Government: Food Security and Sovereignty.

That is why it insists, among the agreements, for the creation of a new funding source to be added to the four previously above. That is the **Alba Foods Fund**, with the purpose of being used “used to finance agro food initiatives in member countries in order for them to achieve food security” (Declaration of the 5th Extraordinary Summit of Petrocaribe). This fund is created with contributions equivalent to USD 0.5 for every exported barrel quoted above USD 100, outside the cooperation agreements of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Likewise, the idea of **Petroalimentos** is introduced as an instantiation for the coordination of agro-food policies and with the purpose of ensuring the complementation of food and energy activities. To further reinforce this commitment of Petrocaribe towards Food Sovereignty, the Permanent Council of Ministers of Agriculture is created, with the specific task of setting guidelines and drafting initiatives to build the regional Food Security and Sovereignty. On the other hand, upon the high cost of fertilizers, Venezuela is committed to supply urea in favourable conditions to the Petrocaribe countries.

These measures, implemented within the framework of regional integration to face the critical situation affecting developing countries as a result of the high price of foods, increase in February 2009 when a set of ALBATCP and Petrocaribe countries sign the Food Security and Sovereignty Agreement of the Petrocaribe and ALBA-TCP member countries: **ALBA ALIMENTOS**. This agreement has the purpose of collaborating with the development of member states, starting from an extensive and sustained process of cooperation, complementarity, and integration, contributing to guarantee their Food Security and Sovereignty.

In the Summit, Governments established the main principles that guide the vision of the ALBA-Petrocaribe countries regarding Food Security and Sovereignty, defining it as “the right of the peoples, their countries, or

unions of States, to define their food policy before third countries, leaving aside the unfair policies of international trade and preventing the production of food for fuel” (Food Security and Sovereignty Agreement of the Petrocaribe and ALBA countries. Alba Alimentos).

The company Alba Alimentos created in Nicaragua, for instance, constitutes an important benchmark for national agro-industrial management and significantly contributes to food supply.

This way, the VI Summit of Petrocaribe Heads of State and Government, held in June 2009, approved supporting Caribbean agricultural production –which had as one of its limitations the high costs of fertilizers—through a **Prilled Urea Supply** provision. This initiative considers the allocation of prilled urea production quotas to be destined to the member states requiring it.

Petrocaribe and FAO join forces to eradicate hunger and poverty

In 2013, the commitment with the union of the ALBA-TCP Economic Space (ECOALBA) and the Petrocaribe Economic Zone (PEZ), was confirmed, in an interdependent, solidary and sovereign shared development economic area, destined to consolidate and extend a new economic relations model to strengthen and diversify the productive apparatus and commercial exchange, as well as to establish the grounds for the multilateral instruments countries sign on this matter, with a view towards the satisfaction of the spiritual and material needs of our peoples.

Due to the reorientation by FAO in the institutional scope, the support to South-South Cooperation and the strengthening of social movements, from 2012 onwards the approach is intensified between this institution and the regional integration organs in Latin America and the Caribbean. By July 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding is signed between Petrocaribe and FAO, with the purpose of “carrying out a proposal that allows

aiding Food Security through the identification, design, creation, implementation, follow-up and assessment of local projects that allow developing the skills for the eradication of hunger in the Petrocaribe countries.”*

As a result, in September 2013, a Resolution is issued by the Council of Ministers of Petrocaribe, according to which the countries agree to work in an Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty with FAO collaboration. The approval of such Plan took place in December 2013, in the II Extraordinary ALBA TCP-Petrocaribe Summit, in which the General Director of FAO, José Graziano Da Silva, participated. This Plan fits within the priorities established by the Community of

Latin American and Caribbean States – CELAC, and by the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative 2025 – IALCSH, a commitment acquired by the 33 countries of the region to eradicate underfeeding before year 2025. A more detailed presentation of this proposal is presented in a separate chapter of this publication.

During these ten years, Petrocaribe has totally or partially financed, in different sectors, an important set of projects to the direct benefit of the peoples of the Agreement in agro-food matters. In the following chapter, we will know the key elements of the food situation in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone (PEZ).



* Memorandum of Understanding between the Executive Secretariat of Petrocaribe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for cooperation in matters of the struggle against hunger within the framework of Petrocaribe. Caracas, July 23, 2013.

A close-up photograph of a person's legs walking on a field of golden rice. The person is wearing dark shorts and is barefoot. The rice is in the foreground, and the background is blurred, showing more of the field and some structures. A blue curved shape is on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

**State of Food and Nutrition
Security (SAN)**
in Petrocaribe countries

In the whole zone covered by the Petrocaribe Agreement, it is possible to see significant progresses in the struggle against hunger, both in a regional, sub-regional and national scope. One of the cross-sectional elements that identify this successful path is the political commitment assumed by the governments and countries of the region.

The latest estimates by FAO, FIDA and PMA (2015) regarding underfeeding confirm a positive trend in the struggle against hunger in the Petrocaribe countries. Although since the end of the 1990s progresses in this matter have been consolidated, challenges remain, as 12.6% of the population of the Petrocaribe Agreement is still underfed (Figure 1).

Figures observed represent an important but insufficient progress, as compared to the beginning of the measurement (1990-92 three-year period), when hunger affected almost 23% of the population. By comparing these figures to the rest of the region, the need to maintain and double the efforts to overcome hunger becomes evident.

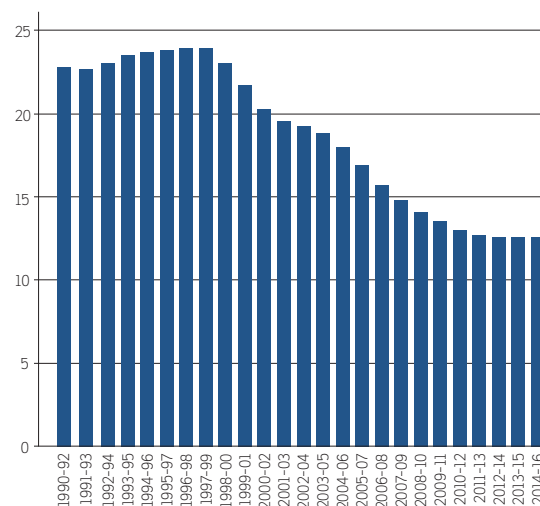
In Latin America and the Caribbean, hunger affects 5.5% of its population, fulfilling international goals regarding hunger. However, a look at the subregion shows difference within the set of countries. In general, the Caribbean subregion is at greater disadvantage, as 19.8% of its population is affected by hunger. Also, 75% of the underfed population in the Caribbean lives in Haiti, a situation that clearly shows the need and the urgency to implement actions in all areas to face hunger in that country. South America has managed to reduce underfeeding rates to less than 5% and, in the case of Central America, 6.6% of the population is affected by hunger.

In the Caribbean region, the economy of many countries has been based on agriculture, supported by services. Agricultural activities for internal consumption, as well as sets of crops for export, represented by sugar, cotton or banana, have reduced their share and have been replaced by tourism, financial activities and other services. This

has turned the Caribbean into a net food importing subregion, which is affected when the global prices of food increase, as it did in 2007-2008, as well as in June 2010 and February 2011. However, regardless of the increase in food prices, Petrocaribe countries have had the chance to have resources to guarantee to their population, year after year, access to food.

On the other hand, an overview of each country member of Petrocaribe helps identify the gaps and allows guiding and focusing efforts to consolidate progresses and double actions in those countries with bigger challenges in terms of underfeeding.

Figure 1: Evolution of underfeeding rates in Petrocaribe



Source: FAO, FIDA and PMA (2015)

Chart 1 allows observing the state and evolution of underfeeding in the Petrocaribe countries that have such information available. Among them, seven countries have met the goal regarding hunger established in the MDGs: Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Among these, Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela present underfeeding rates below 5%. Likewise, six countries have met the goal established in the CMA, by reducing the number of hungry people by half, between 1990-92 and 2014-16: Cuba, Guyana, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, St.

Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

On the other hand, the situation in Guatemala and Haiti continues to be of concern. In the case of Guatemala, both the number of underfed persons as well as the rate have increase as compared to the first three-years period of the measurement. As for Haiti, although it has managed to reduce the ratio of people suffering hunger, it is still alarmingly high, for over half of its population is underfed.

Chart 1. Number and rate of underfed persons in Petrocaribe countries

País/región	Millones de personas					Prevalencia				
	1990-92	2000-02	2005-07	2010-12	2014-16*	1990-92	2000-02	2005-07	2010-12	2014-16*
Belize	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	9.7	5.8	<5	5.7	6.2
Cuba	0.6	ns	ns	ns	ns	5.7	<5	<5	<5	<5
Dominican Republic	2.5	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.3	34.3	28.4	24.2	15.9	12.3
El Salvador	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	16.2	10.6	10.7	12.6	12.4
Guatemala	1.4	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.5	14.9	20.4	15.9	14.8	15.6
Guyana	0.2	<0.1	0.1	0.1	<0.1	22.8	9.7	10.4	11.8	10.6
Haiti	4.4	4.8	5.4	4.9	5.7	61.1	55.2	57.1	49.3	53.4
Honduras	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	23.0	18.5	16.4	14.6	12.2
Jamaica	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10.4	7.3	7.0	8.3	8.1
Nicaragua	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	54.4	31.3	23.2	19.5	16.6
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	<0.1	<0.1	0.0	0.0	<0.1	20.7	16.8	9.2	6.4	6.2
Suriname	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.0	<0.1	15.5	13.9	11.5	8.3	8.0
Venezuela, B.R.	2.8	3.8	2.5	ns	ns	14.1	15.3	9.0	<5	<5
Petrocaribe	16.7	17.8	15.9	13.2	13.4	22.7	20.3	16.9	13.0	12.6
Latin America and the Caribbean	66.1	60.4	47.1	38.3	34.3	14.7	11.4	8.4	6.4	5.5

Source: FAO, FIDA and PMA (2015)

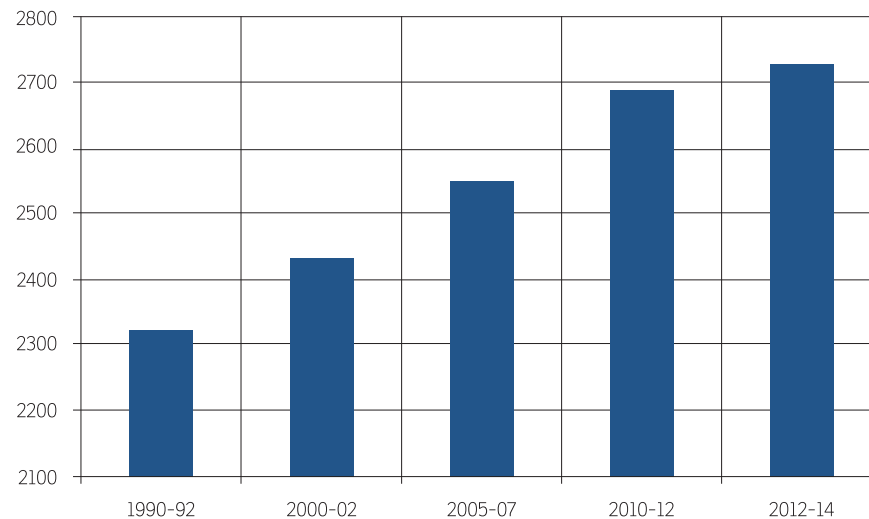
One of the necessary conditions to reach food security is to have sufficient food available for the consumption of the population. However, it is necessary to understand that having the necessary amount of food does not guarantee that all persons have access to it.

As with the rest of the region, over the last few decades, food availability in Petrocaribe countries has grown faster than the population, thus allowing a greater amount of food per person than the minimum requirements for a healthy life.

Figure 2 shows that food availability, in terms of energy, has increased since the early 1990s, reaching 2,731 calories per day per person in the latest estimate available, that is a 17% increase in regards to 1990-92 availability.

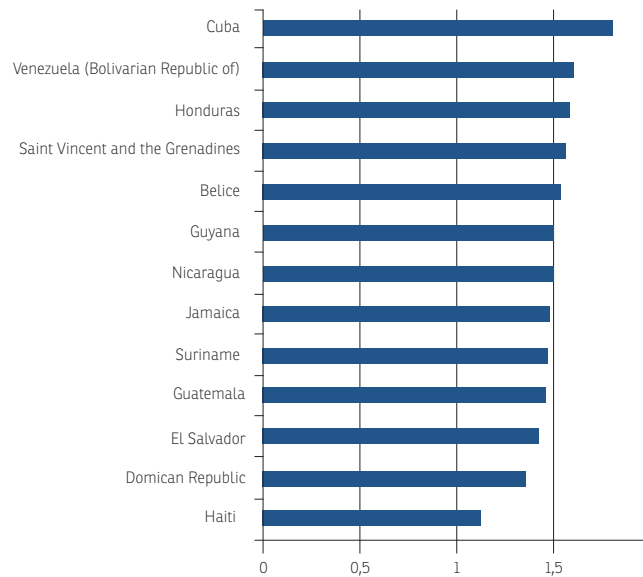
Individually, all countries of the Agreement have a caloric availability that is higher than the minimum energy requirements (Figure 3); among them, Cuba presents a food availability that exceeds by 81% its minimum requirements, and its inhabitants have more slack; Haiti, on the other hand, has the lowest range between food availability and its requirements, exceeding it by 12%.

Figure 2: Food Availability in Petrocaribe (kcal/person/day), weighted average



Source: FAO, FIDA and PMA (2015)

Figure 3: 2012-14 Food offer index, ratio between energetic offer and minimum daily requirements.

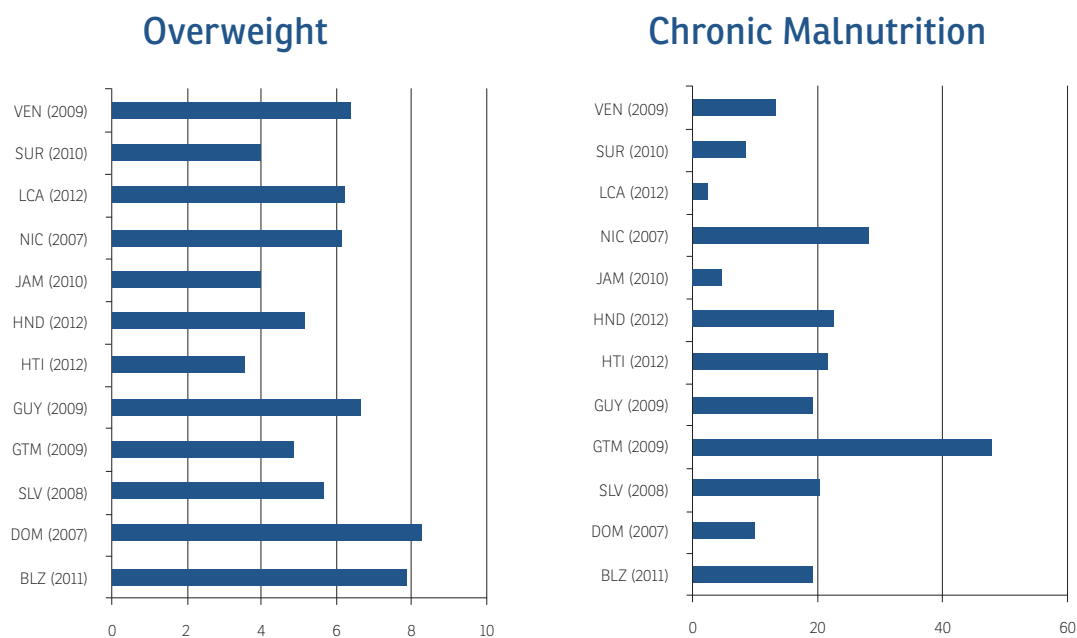


Source: FAO, FIDA and PMA (2015)

As it was already mentioned, the existence of sufficient food availability is not enough to guarantee food security; it is necessary to have the resources to purchase them, whether monetary or physical. To have a full vision, it is necessary to take into consideration factors such as economic growth and job creation, which are crucial for families to be able to acquire basic goods, a matter that is affected both by structural and timely elements.

In the first case, food prices require constant monitoring, because they directly affect the purchase power of households, particularly among the most vulnerable ones, as they dedicate a greater portion of their income to food consumption. Regarding the second case, structural elements, basically inequality and poverty, make access to food difficult. In such sense, the existence of a significant number of persons in poverty is one of the elements of risk and vulnerability in the access to food. In this situation, the strategy of cash transfers to the vulnerable population represents an important short-term measure.

Figure 4: Malnutrition in children younger than 5 years of age, Petrocaribe countries, percentages (%)



Source: OMS

Although progresses in the struggle against hunger are undeniable, Petrocaribe countries face the double load of malnutrition: in addition to lack of calories and nutrients, there are challenges imposed by overweight and obesity as a result of eating habits. Figure 4 shows, at the same time, both phenomena in the population of these countries.

Both in the medium as in the long term, there are many challenges for the region, particularly for the smaller island

countries, to increase production, taking into account the fact that spaces for agriculture are limited while the population increases, and younger generations are not getting into agro-food tasks. However, many countries are already implementing policies to reduce food imports. As a regional block, we intend for food consumption in the Petrocaribe region to be matched with an increase of intra-regional trade under fair and solidary terms that consider the asymmetries and favour local producers.



Petrocaribe as instrument of **Nutrition** **and Food Security and Sovereignty**

Throughout its history, Petrocaribe has contributed to the strengthening of the economy of member states, bringing benefits to the improvement of the quality of life of their populations through funding projects linked to food security and sovereignty.

Petrocaribe establishes, as its core principle, the social and economic development of nations. This core principle is considered an essential instrument for good practices in energy matters in our countries. It represents a successful experience, subject to be replicated and adapted in other latitudes and other contexts, as it is conceived – through the use of energy resources to its benefit—as an enabler of policies and plans for the economic and social development of member states.

Most Petrocaribe efforts for social development are focused on the strengthening of social policies, programs, projects and social-productive actions; on the follow-up of the investments resulting from the long term oil bill, and the social management of mixed-property companies and affiliates in the different signatory countries of the Agreement. The foundations that support these policies, programs, projects and actions are conceived to favour the integration of the peoples through the strengthening and organization of the social fabric of each country, as well as the overcoming of poverty and hunger situations in the region.

In this sense, Petrocaribe is more than a hydrocarbons supply agreement with excellent financing conditions for member states. Among its many achievements in the different countries that are part of the Agreement, we should note the social projects carried out in the areas of tourism, education, culture, health, housing, environmental hygiene, roads, sports and agriculture. For that, Petrocaribe has a series of Technical Groups with the purpose of identifying projects based on the potentials of

the region, which allow, currently and in the future, the diversification of the energy matrixes and the drive to the development of member states*. Within this framework of the constitution of a Petrocaribe Economic Zone (PEZ), the prime objective is to facilitate economic and political relations, thus promoting the development of a complementary, fair and balanced trade that answers to the highest interest of the progress of the peoples.

ZEP intends to go beyond energy matters and provide new opportunities for economic and commercial development, through the performance of joint plans and projects, not just in the areas already mentioned in the paragraph above, but in all those that are feasible to be developed. Likewise, it allows new spaces for participation and coordination, which are more extensive for the social movements of the region, and facilitates a new dynamic of cultural exchange among the countries**.

From its inception, Petrocaribe countries have been using the resources and advantages provided by the Agreement to make progress in nutrition and food security and sovereignty (SAN) for their peoples. This publication shows, country by country, the benchmark experiences that confirm the effort of Petrocaribe in the struggle against hunger. However, it is also important to assess the action that has been carried out throughout these ten years as a whole.

The following presents the main objectives achieved through the “two-way approach”, which combines social programs with productive development actions as a road towards food security. This means taking care of the most urgent situations through immediate measures, combining them with long-term policies, programs and interventions that allow making structural changes to deal with the underlying causes of hunger.

* http://www.petrocaribe.org/index.php?tpl=interface.sp/design/union/readmenu princ_acerca.tpl.html&newsid_temas=4

** http://alba-tp.org/public/documents/decimo/Espanol/INFORME_de_gestion.pdf

In this sense, we can point out three important aspects on which to elaborate:

1) Between 2005–2015, 109 projects have been and are being carried out (see Annex 1) focused on the struggle against hunger and poverty in Petrocaribe countries.

The research carried out for this publication allowed identifying and classifying the different projects that have been and are being developed in member states. This is indeed a first step for an exhaustive systematization of the achievements of Petrocaribe.

The identified projects can be classified taking into consideration their connection to the struggle against hunger and poverty.

1.1. Availability

Agro-food projects directly related to food production for the eradication of hunger.

These include those investments in different kinds of crops, cattle, poultry and swine farms, fisheries, agricultural mechanization, fertilizers, seed development, among others, affecting food availability.

1.2. Access

Support infrastructure projects for the development of agro-food production.

These are related to such investment works that are indispensable to properly develop the stockbreeding and farming production. They involve different phases in the agro-productive chain, from seeding to marketing.

1.3 Use

Social projects to improve the population access to essential foods, goods and services.

These social projects have been financed by the Petrocaribe Agreement to face urgent food difficulties that, on a daily basis, the population of member states

experiences. School meals and direct transfers for the purchase of foods, among other programs, are in this category.

1.4. Stability

Projects focused on meeting basic needs to improve the quality of life of the population.

These cover other social projects of different kind, in benefit of the population in general and which are a fast and effective response to alleviate extreme poverty in the short term.

2) The emphasis on the development of family farming as a successful experience resulting from projects related to food production.

One of the best allies in the struggle against hunger in our countries is family farming, considering not only its role in the production of foods, but also its contribution to rural employment and the development of the territories. In this sense, the aspiration that guides joint operations of international and regional organisms is for “this to be the last generation of Latin Americans and Caribbeans co-existing with hunger.”*

Family farming is also one of the three priorities of FAO in the region, developed through the regional initiative “Family Agriculture and Rural Territorial Development”**. This initiative seeks to promote rural development processes in which family agriculture takes a central role. The goal is to help member states from the region strengthening the governmental capacity to develop inclusive policies, focused on people (taking into account gender, ethnicity and age) and promoting the sustainable management of natural resource systems, considering the culturally diverse food systems; extending access of small farmers to public services, productive resources and markets; strengthening organizations of producers; increasing production, productivity and

* FAO Representative. *CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming, held in Brasilia*. <http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/265889/>

** *Trabajando de cerca con los organismos de integración regional -CELAC, PETROCARIBE-ALBA, MERCOSUR, CAN, CARICOM y SICA- y con los gobiernos nacionales para desarrollar el potencial del sector al máximo*. <http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/265889/>

competitiveness levels among small farmers; and reducing the high vulnerability to weather risks and environmental threats.

According to FAO, between 50% and 70% of the food consumed in Latin America and the Caribbean comes from this type of agriculture*.

In several countries, including Nicaragua, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and El Salvador, family farming is at the center of the strategy that has allowed making progress in the struggle against hunger, both in food production as in its revitalizing effect among rural communities as spaces for popular wisdom and culture**, which has allowed successful experiences that must be noted within the Petrocaribe Agreement.

Some examples:

A first experience is the “Food Productive Program” or “Zero Hunger” in Nicaragua, by the Ministry of Community, Cooperative and Associative Family Economy, focused on farmer family units that, following a gender approach, makes the woman in the family the partner and owner of the productive bonus assets. She is given the pregnant pigs and cows, poultry, as well as seeds and vegetable material. The Program covers the whole Nicaraguan territory and includes women of any age that have no income and that work between 1 to 10 squares of land (0.7 – 7 hectares) in rural or semi-rural zones. As of 2014, investment in this program has been USD 15.4 million, in addition to the value of the lands and the workforce developing the family project.

The main effects can be observed in the number of families it serves, approximately 26,000, as well as the practices focused on increasing agricultural yields and the promotion of municipal management, literacy and community development. But undoubtedly one of the

core elements of good practices is the gender approach which turns it into “the greatest woman leadership program in Nicaraguan fields”***.

Another case is that of the Farmers Support Company Ltd – FSC, created in 2014 in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, to which Petrocaribe allocated, as starting capital, USD 2.2 million through the LTB, and which have allowed financing a rolling loans program for supplies and the retainment of farming workers.

Farmers (approximately 32% adult women and 5% youths 35 years of age or younger) from all agricultural zones in the country, have been able to choose this financing. This rolling fund does not only allow the continuous inclusion of new stockbreeding and agricultural producers, but has also had an important effect on the increase of production and diversification of crops.

Another experience to note is that of Empresa Socioproductiva ALBA Alimentos El Salvador, which also with the rolling fund model develops a surface that is equivalent to 57% of the whole farmable area of the country.

It gathers a total of 395,588 farming and stockbreeding producers, 82.2% of which are subsistence producers.

Financing came from ALBA Petróleos de El Salvador, in the amount of USD 45 million disbursed along 3 years, with an annual rate of 2%, at 25 years of maturity and with a grace period of 3 years. The fund is also provisioned with revenues from the production of farmers and agro-industrial producers themselves, the recovery of returnable funds, donations, etc. The integral strategy carried out by this Program includes, among others: Support with loans to small and medium-sized producers and cooperatives; technical assistance; reactivation of unused lands;

* FAO. *Agricultura familiar y desarrollo territorial rural en América Latina y el Caribe*. <http://www.fao.org/americas/perspectivas/agricultura-familiar/es/>

** Undersecretary of Agriculture of El Salvador, in the ministerial meeting of CELA countries. *Idem*.

*** Zero Hunger Program. http://www.economiafamiliar.gob.ni/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=672&Itemid=228

marketing of agricultural supplies; farming machinery and equipment services; elimination of usury; purchase and distribution of food at “Fair Price”.

The following can be mentioned among the most important impacts:

- a) The creation of more than 180 thousand jobs by 2014,
- b) More than 36 thousand beneficiary families,
- c) The inclusion of women as workers, with over 37% of the jobs,
- d) Double the production, creating greater revenues for the families,
- e) The reduction of the basic basket price through the creation of a food supply system at national level,
- f) The export of agro-industrial products under fair trade mechanisms,
- g) Development of phyto-sanitary plans or seeding plans with environment-friendly products, thus allowing doubling the agricultural production,
- h) Organizational development through ALBA Producer Groups which are organizational cells that enable the marketing of the products with fair price principles and the permanent creation of new agricultural techniques.

The rice-planting experience in the Artibonite Valley, in Haiti, is directly related to the struggle against hunger and poverty, as in its phase I it had the purpose of contributing to the improvement of productive efficiency, to the increase of farmed surface and the modernization of the process of transformation and marketing of the rice. In its phase II, it seeks to increase, in a sustainable manner, the rice production in such Valley, promoting the social-productive skills of producers in the areas of influence of the Communal Milling Centers (Centros Comunales de Molinado, CCM). Project financing for phase I was USD 9.3 million, and for phase II, the budget is USD 14.7 million.

The project takes into consideration the gender approach and pays special attention to families headed by women. Likewise, it includes the sustainable approach of the process taking into consideration the organizational development of producers, the efficient use of water and the use of technologies to increase and improve seed quality. On the other hand, the second phase puts special emphasis in the inclusion of new food areas to guarantee the right to food among these producers and, also, to generate a surplus in the food production that can be directed to the local trade structures.

Petrocaribe has financed and also finances, but in a smaller scale, family farming projects, generally through the Alba Foods Fund. An important support to family farming in countries of the Agreement is the allocation of quotas for the sale at preferential prices of prilled urea (fertilizer) produced by the company Pequiven, of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. As of 2014, 286.6 MTM have been sent to: the Dominican Republic, Guiana, Suriname, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Cuba and El Salvador.

3) The infrastructure to support Agriculture as a factor for long term change of prevailing conditions.

Petrocaribe, as we have seen, facilitates the development of projects in different social and cultural areas of member states of the Agreement, but also invests in important infrastructure works, directly related to family agriculture, which have a determining influence to be able to develop and achieve the goals of projects regarding the eradication of hunger and poverty.

In this sense, we can name for instance the construction of silos in Haiti and Nicaragua. In the first case, with a 40 thousand tonnes of capacity in Haiti –Lafiteau, West department–, that has allowed the improvement of the

planning of agricultural resources for the population. In Nicaragua, the project covers the repair and conditioning of silos and warehouses of Empresa Nicaragüense de Alimentos Básicos ENABAS.

Also, the construction of agricultural roads has been supported by Petrocaribe. In St. Vincent & the Grenadines, for instance, the “Roads Improvement” project, the purpose of which is to increase the commercial capacity of farmers through paving 610 meters of highways. The cost of such improvement was USD 92,884, and has allowed access to the agricultural farms of Lauders (South Central Windward).

This brief presentation of the Petrocaribe agreement as instrument of Food and Nutrition Security and Sovereignty (SAN), seeks to identify and show the efforts of countries in the development of the strategies of this regional integration mechanism to struggle against hunger and poverty. This way, by sharing the knowledge acquired, it can be added to the institutional memory, turned into actions and replicated in the local, regional and international scope.



OVERVIEW:

Part of the Lesser Antilles, it is located in the Eastern Caribbean Sea. These islands are located east of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and north of the French territory of Guadelupe.

Prime Minister: Gaston Browne

Language: English

Area: Total: 442.6 km² (Antigua 280 km²; Barbuda 161 km²)

Estimated population: 92,000 inhabitants (2014)

Population density: 207.9 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features:

In Antigua, low-lying limestone landscapes prevail, with its highest point being Mount Obama, formerly Boggy Peak, so named in 2009, with a height of 402 m.a.s.l. In Barbuda, the terrain is low and flat, but does have a plateau, and its highest point stands at just 42 m.a.s.l. La Redonda is a rocky and uninhabited island. The archipelago has no major rivers.

Antigua has 365 sandy beaches, many natural lagoons, ports and offshore reefs.

GDP (at current prices): USD 1.201 billion (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 2.2%;

Manufacturing: 13.3%; Services: 84.3% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.774 (world rank 61)*

Underfeeding: 13.9%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2005 (Founding member)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** CELAC 2011-2013 Platform)





Antigua & Barbuda

Antigua y Barbuda

Tourism is the main source of income of Antigua and Barbuda. Growing urbanization and the closing of the sugar industry made the contribution of agriculture to the national GDP fall to 2%. In 2008, the global inflation of food prices led to sharp increases in the local cost of food. Subsequently, in October, Hurricane Omar caused floods that caused large crop losses. Both events prompted the Government to accelerate its projects to boost domestic food production, with measures to promote traditional family vegetable gardens.

In February 2013, together with FAO and IICA, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda launched the Zero Hunger Challenge Plan, with the purpose of eliminating hunger and extreme poverty within two years, through the implementation of activities that include home vegetable gardens, school meals, health and nutrition, food security and food market systems. As for the home vegetable gardens, the goal to establish 400 units in two years was widely exceeded; since by November 2014, more than 450 vegetable gardens had already been established and about 700 people had enrolled in the program.

PDV Caribe Antigua y Barbuda Ltd. (PDVCAB) is a government company incorporated in 2005, with the primary goal of carrying out the activities related to the operations of the Petrocaribe Initiative. This includes the import of petroleum products and the implementation, management, or financing of social and infrastructure projects to generate the maximum benefits for the people, according to the development policy of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. PDVCAB also coordinates the projects funded through the ALBA Caribe Fund.

Since its inception, PDVCAB has invested over USD 25.9 million in a series of social programs that have benefited segments of the Antigua and Barbuda society, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, the youth, and single mothers, although benefits reach all social strata.

By June 2015, the following projects and initiatives have been, and continue to be funded in the area of Food Security and Sovereignty:



People's Benefit Program (PBP)*

The PBP was implemented in 2009 and is run by the Community Development Department of the Ministry of Social Transformation, jointly with PDV CAB. It aims to help vulnerable families in the purchase of food and basic products to achieve a better quality of life. The Program provides a monthly subsidy of USD 80 for people with disabilities or in a vulnerable situation (with a monthly income below USD 300 per household).

Beneficiaries are given a special debit card to purchase food and personal items in the designated outlets in urban and rural areas, thus allowing the decentralization of the process. Approximately 40 beneficiaries are approved monthly.

By the end of 2013, the program has benefited 2,163 individuals, with an investment of USD 7.4 million.

The Central Marketing Corporation, an institution created to market the products of local farmers, is one of the main suppliers participating in the program. Another authorized dealer is the Fisheries Division of Antigua, which sells the catch of local fishermen. To date, they have sold more than USD 4.44 million, which has helped strengthen the market for locally produced food.

* PM Spencer's Statement at 5th Anniversary Celebrations of Petrocaribe Agreement November 8, 2010 Official website of the Government of Antigua & Barbuda http://www.antigua.gov.ag/article_details.php?id=1053&category=38 <http://www.antigua.gov.ag/>



Rehabilitation of desalination plants in Crabbes (Antigua) and Barbuda

The project is funded by the ALBA Caribe Fund and coordinated by PDV CAB in both islands. It aims to improve water quality, reduce losses and extend the coverage of the distribution network. It includes enhancement works for USD 8 million.

Antigua

- » Replacement of more than 29,565 meters of badly damaged galvanized steel pipes with PVC pipes.
- Expansion of the water distribution network by 5,181.6 meters in previously unattended areas.
- » Increase of Antigua's water storage capacity by 18.2 million liters and installation of a seawater reverse osmosis plant in Fries Beach, to increase the water production capacity of the island by 2,73 million liters per day. This plant was commissioned in November 2011 and has the capacity to improve the supply of water for approximately 20,000 residents.

Barbuda

In Barbuda, the project will increase the water storage capacity by 681,913.5 liters, and the water production capacity to 100,000 liters per day. The reverse osmosis plant, currently under construction, will greatly improve the quality and supply of drinking water. Currently, there is supply only 12 hours per day.



The Government of Antigua and Barbuda fully supports the vision of the United Nations to provide relevant education and training for young people in agriculture, given that the area has an enormous potential for prosperity.

The “Empowerment of Youth in Agriculture” project seeks to transform the economy of Antigua and Barbuda through the development of agriculture, enhancing training and job creation for the youth.

In May 2014, PDV CAB and the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC), signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the “Empowerment of Youth in Agriculture” project. The investment made by PDVCAB for the execution amounts to USD 1.25 million.

The project includes the acquisition of equipment and supplies and the use of advanced techniques in agricultural sciences, which enables seven farmer companies retained

to plant 12 hectares of land and produce crops for export to several countries in the region. The project began with the planting of onions and will employ up to 30 youngsters, including GARD Center apprentices.

As an innovative feature, this project includes an internship program, through which secondary school students can join the farms for the necessary practical experience that will allow them to develop agriculture.

Other Projects

Name	Purpose	Description
Support for the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre in its program to promote the agricultural product processing industry	To promote the use of alternative energies for the agricultural product processing industry	Financing for the construction of a crop and fruit solar dryer / 2008. Financing for a business training program in the production of fruits and vegetables processed in solar dryers. The financing of both projects amounted to USD 18,500
Subsidy Program for the Elderly	To bear a positive impact on the income of the country's elderly and improve their quality of life	Annual subsidy of USD 444 to pay part of the water, electricity or telephone bill, for seniors 60 or older on social security pensions
Subsidy of LPG for Barbuda	To subsidize the transportation cost of LPG cylinders from Antigua to Barbuda in order to reduce the selling price of propane in the sister island	Since its inception in 2009, PDVCAB has invested close to USD 140 thousand in such subsidy.

Source: PM Spencer's Statement at 5th Anniversary Celebrations of Petrocaribe Agreement November 8, 2010 Official website of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda http://www.PETROCARIBE.antigua.gov.ag/article_details.php?id=1053&category=38



OVERVIEW:

Located in the northeast end of Central America, it borders to the north with Mexico, to the south and west with Guatemala and to the east with the Caribbean Sea.

Capital: Belmopan.

Prime Minister: Dean Oliver Barrow

Languages: English and Spanish

Area: 22,966 km².

Estimated population: 348,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 15.15 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: Its particular rectangular shape covers approximately 100 km from north to south and approximately 95 km from east to west, with a total length of 210 km of land borders. The Hondo and Sibun rivers mark the northern and southern borders of the country. The highest point in Belize is Doyle's Delight, at 1124 meters above sea level.

GDP (at current prices): USD 1,624 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 15.5%; Manufacturing: 15.4%; Services: 69.2% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.732 (World rank 81)*

Underfeeding: 6.2%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2005 (Founding member)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (FAO - Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015).





Belize

Belize

Although Belize's economy has been traditionally focused on agriculture, the service sector has grown in recent decades and currently represents 69.2% of its GDP, while the agricultural sector accounts for about 15.5%, including exports such as sugar and citrus fruits. The main challenge Belize faces is to strengthen its agriculture amid unfavorable climate conditions.

Belize joins Petrocaribe as a multilateral agreement in June 2005, and the bilateral agreement in September that same year. The agreement consist on the direct sale by Venezuelan to Belize of oil by-products including gasoline and diesel.

The first Petrocaribe oil shipment from Venezuela to Belize came in early November 2005, and was offloaded in the city port for storage in the warehouses of ESSO, a Big Creek Group company operating in the north of the country.



Increased food production for self-sufficiency and export

Funded by the Petrocaribe Alba Food Fund, the initiative involves the delivery of tractors, plows and tools for Belizean farmers, in order to facilitate agricultural work in this Central American nation.

The purpose of the provision is to deepen and strengthen food safety, prevent food shortages in the region and promote the increase of agricultural production.

Public Banking

In September 2013, with the contribution from Petrocaribe, the people of Belize inaugurated in the city of Belmopan, the National Bank of Belize, a public bank aimed at financing resources to expand the economy and address the needs of low-income families. This financial project of social content is the only publicly owned bank in Belize.

The Belize National Bank is a public institution, incorporated with an initial capital of USD 9.95 million, provided by the fund raised through the financeable oil bill pursuant to under the Petrocaribe Agreement.

Between 2013 and 2015, the government of Belize and Petrocaribe have financed different programs related to agro-foods and the reduction of poverty.*

National Highway Reconditioning Program

With a budget of USD 15,096,372, the program considers the reconditioning and paving of the primary and secondary roads network of Belize, including the improvement of streets and drainage in main cities and towns, with the purpose of reducing the transportation costs of agricultural products to processing facilities and points of purchase.

Reconditioning of the Sugar Roads

It consists on the improvement of rural and connection roads of the area known as the “Sugar Belt” in the north of the country. USD 2,056,227 were invested in this project.

Food Pantry Program

A food assistance program, with an initial budget of USD 512,820 to provide basic foods at a subsidized cost to poor women and children, and to marginalized seniors.

Conditioned Cash Transfers Program

Focused on the weaker and underprivileged in urban and rural zones, the program focuses mostly on young individuals and single mothers. It consists on the provision of cash to beneficiaries who, in exchange, participate in social service activities.

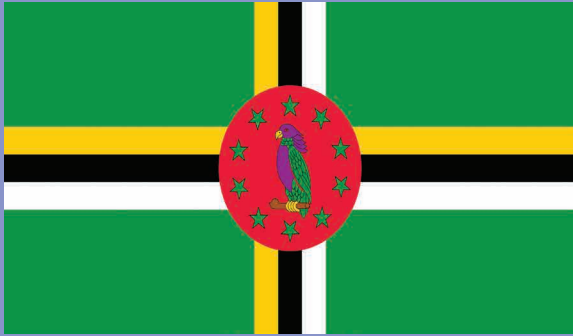
* Source: Ministry of Public Works and Transportation and Ministry of Finances and Economic Development of Belize.

Rural Water System

With an investment of USD 250 thousand from the Alba Caribe Fund, improvements and adjustments were made to the drinking water system of San José Sucotz, in the Cayo District.



© SANA - Programa de Cooperación Venezuela-FAO



OVERVIEW:

Island state located in the eastern Caribbean Sea, between Martinique to the south and Guadeloupe to the north.

Capital: Roseau.

President: Charles Savarin

Prime Minister: Roosevelt Skerrit

Language: English

Area: 751 Km²

Estimated population: 73,000 inhabitants (2014).

Population density: 97.20 inhabitants/km²

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: Its territory is covered by a large forest and has many waterfalls, springs and rivers. It has the Boiling Lake, which is considered to be one of the largest hot springs of the world. In the Northeast, it has sandy beaches. It also has the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, a tropical rainforest where the landscape blends with volcanic features, and which was acknowledged recognized as a World Heritage Site in 1995.

GDP (at current prices): USD 517 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 16.9%; Manufacturing: 9.2%; Services: 73.9% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.717 (Rank 93)

Underfeeding: <5%

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2005 (Founding member)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** PLATAFORMA CELAC - período 2011-2013.





Commonwealth
of **Dominica**

Commonwealth of **Dominica**

Dominica's economy depends on tourism and agriculture, especially the banana industry. 40% of its workers belong to the agricultural sector. Dominica is an exporter of bananas, soap, baby oil, vegetables, grapefruits and oranges. Like other Caribbean territories, it is very vulnerable to natural disasters.

On June 26, 2006, the mixed-capitals company PD Caribbean Dominica Ltd. was incorporated, with 55% of shares held by PDV Caribe and 45% by Dominica Petroleum Company Ltd.

According to recent statements by the Minister of Housing, Lands, Settlement and Water Resources, Reginald Austrie, Dominica has benefited, within the Petrocaribe Agreement, from more than USD 76 million over the last ten years, a contribution that has helped implement major social and economic development programs.



© Petrocaribe

Waitukubuli LPG Filling and Fuel Storage and Distribution Plant

Located in the village of Jimmit, with a capacity of 39 MBD, the plant is planned to supply the local market. It began operating at the beginning of 2008. Since the start-up of its facilities, the government began a program to supply gas cylinders to needy sectors.

Development Program for the Kalinago Caribbean Territory

Implica un esquema de crédito para pequeños préstamos a miembros de la comunidad Caribe Kalinago, la mayoría de los cuales son destinados a actividades agrícolas. Se han otorgado 2 000 créditos.



© Petrocaribe

Pigs, poultry and fisheries project

It started running in the first quarter of 2013, with the construction of a slaughterhouse in the town of Layou Park State. The program includes the production of poultry and pigs, as well as the reconditioning, expansion and creation of fishing production units. It has favoured 70,000 individuals.



OVERVIEW: Central American country on the Pacific Ocean coast, between Guatemala and Honduras.

Capital: San Salvador

President: Salvador Sánchez Cerén

Language: Spanish

Area: Total: 21,041 km²

Estimated population: 6,405,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 304.4 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features:

Its territory is crossed by volcanic mountain chains that provide it with a soil rich in ashes and lava, turning it into an extraordinarily fertile soil for crops such as coffee. It is the only Central American country without an Atlantic coastline.

GDP (at current prices): USD 24,359 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 10.4%; Industry: 23.8%; Services: 65,8% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.662 (world rank 115)*

Underfeeding: 12.4%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2009-2014 Observer; 2014 onwards: full member

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (CELAC 2011-2013 Platform)



A woman wearing a white hard hat and a white short-sleeved shirt is shown in profile, looking down at a handful of rice grains she is holding in her hands. She is also wearing a blue harness. The background is a bright, out-of-focus industrial or agricultural setting.

Republic of EL Salvador

Republic of **EL SALVADOR**

Between 1991 and 2002, poverty and extreme poverty levels in El Salvador dropped significantly, and important progresses were observed in the social area. This included an increase in school enrollment, and a drop in child and maternal mortality rates, as well as greater access to drinking water and health services.

Salvadoran economy recorded a 4.7% growth in 2007. However, the effects of the global financial crisis of 2008 had consequences. Exports and remittances declined, unemployment and poverty rates increased, as well as energy and food prices.

In recent years, Salvadoran economy has started to recover; nevertheless, challenges are still many.

The agricultural and livestock sector in El Salvador has a structure predominantly based on family production,

with two distinct categories: subsistence agriculture, accounting for 82% of all producers; and Commercial Family Farming, given its relationship with the market, representing 16%. The remaining 2% is considered as commercial agriculture with the exclusive use of hired labor.

The Government of El Salvador, FAO, and other sectors have joined forces to achieve an improvement in the quality of life for families practicing family farming and to strengthen the agricultural and livestock sector. FAO actively participated in the design process of the Family Agriculture Plan (PAF) and provides technical support in its implementation.

Petrocaribe has allowed expanding the operation of the Alba Foods, a program intended to prevent speculation in the sale of basic food products such as grain, corn, and rice.

The first agri-food program developed in El Salvador within the framework of Petrocaribe is the Financial Strengthening of the Production Process. Its goal has been to provide low cost financial resources for small and medium agricultural and livestock producers who are assured the sale of their products without intermediaries.

ALBA FOODS,

Socio-Productive Company



Founded on February 16, 2012, ALBA Foods is based on the values of solidarity, quality, service, loyalty, honesty and innovation, and is applied throughout the country, that is, 14 departments and 262 municipalities.

ALBA Foods is geared to generate agricultural processes that allow the reactivation of agriculture. The central government participates by providing technical assistance and agricultural expansion, while the private sector places the products of the farmers in the market.

It has a strategy focused on promoting in the agricultural sector a social and productive enterprise through: loans to small and medium producers and cooperatives; technical assistance; the reactivation of idle land; the marketing of agricultural supplies; agricultural equipment and machinery services; the elimination of usury; the purchase and distribution of food at a "Fair Price"; the storage of grains and other agricultural products; job creation in the agricultural and agro-industrial sector; food supply at a national level, bearing an impact on the cost of the basic food basket of the population, and the export of fair trade agro-industrial products.

Main stakeholders in the ALBA Foods production chain:

Producers and companies selling exclusively Salvadoran merchandises are the main stakeholders. On the other hand, the government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, allows the duty free marketing of seeds.

The following are among the goals of ALBA Foods:

- » To develop projects and promote ALBA social and initiatives to improve the quality of life of the country's most vulnerable population.
- » To promote growth in the agricultural sector and to support, as a priority, small and medium producers; to develop environmentally friendly agro-industrial practices; to promote fair trade to supply the domestic market.
- » To stimulate the economy by encouraging the production, marketing and export of agro-products.

Funding sources

Funding comes from ALBA Petroleos de El Salvador, reaching an amount of USD 45 million disbursed within 3 years, at an annual interest rate of 2% for a 25 year term and a grace period of 3 years. The funds would also grow with the revenues from the production of farmers and agro-businesses themselves, the recovery of returnable funds and donations, among others.

Innovations in the implementation of this project:

» *In technological matters*, phytosanitary plans or sowing plans with environmentally-friendly products (green ribbon) have been developed, allowing to double agricultural production.

» *In organizational matters*, the ALBA Producer Groups (GPA) have been set-up as organizational cells that allow trading products at fair price, as well as the ongoing training on new agricultural techniques.

Loans for farmers

The executed investment amounts to USD 36,420,745, through 36,338 loans granted as follows:

Crop	N° of Loans
Rice	608
Beans	3553
Maize	28,809
Sorghum	2500
Coffee	129
Sugarcane	55
Beans for seeds	264
Other loans	420

Resulting Impacts

ALBA Foods has boosted the economy and has allowed beneficiary families in the country to access loans for agricultural production which, by doubling the production, has that yielded higher revenues.. This has had an effect on the market and has led to the reduction on the price of basic goods.



© Petrocaribe

Resulting Impact of the ALBA-Foods Social-productive Company Project as of 2014

Economic sector(s) affected	Impact on the agricultural, livestock, agro-industrial, trade and service sectors.
Total number of jobs created by the project	Over 180,000 (direct and indirect) jobs have been created in the Salvadoran agricultural industry to date and, as of the end of 2015, with the reactivation of 142,857 hectares, the expectation is to create between 250 thousand and 300 thousand jobs for farmer men and women.
Number of jobs created for female workers	The project has created 13,513 jobs for women.
Number of jobs created for male workers	The project has created 22,825 jobs for men.
Number of beneficiary families of the project	36,000 families; 180,000 individuals (directly and indirectly)

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt, stands in a lush green cornfield. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is filled with tall corn plants and their large leaves. A blue curved graphic element is on the left side of the image.

SUPPORT TO THE FAMILY AGRICULTURE PLAN (PAF)

PAF is a policy implemented by the Salvadoran Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, since February 2011. Its main goal is to reduce rural poverty levels through the creation of prosperity and wellbeing among the families pursuing Family Agriculture in priority territories. It also seeks to include Commercial Family Agriculture producers in the structured systems to focus the offer and increase productivity through the transfer of technologies, goods and services. It also aims to contribute to the increase of competitiveness of national agriculture through promotion and knowledge management, encouraging the creation and growth of innovative producers through brainstorming mechanisms and the generation of new technologies, entrepreneurship projects and other value added services*.

* <http://www.iica.int/Esp/regiones/central/salvador/proyectos/Paginas/paf.aspx>

The PAF is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and has four sub-programs:

1. National supply program for Nutrition and Food Security (Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional - SAN).
2. Family Agriculture Program for the productive chain.
3. Program for agricultural and livestock innovation.
4. Industry and commerce link program.

Some of the goals achieved by PAF:

- » Construction of new infrastructure for the storage of grain production.
- » Over 50% of sales in supermarkets are produced domestically, generating good profitability for farmers.
- » Strengthening of livestock industry since the implementation of the “Vaso de Leche” (Cup of Milk) program, which benefits 1.3 million Salvadoran students in public schools. With the purchase of this product from livestock cooperatives, the Ministry of Education favours approximately 3 thousand dairy producers.
- » Diversification of the production and trade of non-traditional products, such as honey, which started to be exported to Germany.
- » Training of 26,977 farmers through the Family Agriculture Plan, in the management of home vegetable gardens, the planting of vegetables, fruit trees, micro-irrigation systems, preservation of soil and water, and improved poultry sanitation and nutrition.

- » Development of 3,234 home vegetable gardens for the production of crops for an equal number of families, so that these did not just diversify and improved the availability of foods in their homes, but also started to produce income.



The construction of a rice plan is projected, in an area of approximately 3,500 hectares in the Bajo Lempa zone. The project shall have to be carried out with the guarantee that Petrocaribe will establish pre-purchase agreements for the production of such plant.



OVERVIEW:

Located northwest of Trinidad and Tobago, northeast of Venezuela, and southwest of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The island properly called Grenada is the largest in the country, but there are smaller islands called the Southern Grenadines: Carriacou, Petit Martinique, Ronde Island, Caille Island, Diamond Island, Large Island, Saline Island, and Frigate Island.

Capital: Saint George

Prime Minister: Keith Claudius Mitchell

Language: English

Area: 344 km²

Estimated population: 107,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population Density: 311 inhab/km²

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: The islands are of volcanic origin; the inland is slightly mountainous with several small rivers flowing towards the sea. Just 8 km north from the coast of Grenada is Kick-‘Em-Jenny, the most active volcano in the region known as the Lesser Antilles arc.

GDP (at current prices): USD 836 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 4.4%; Manufacturing: 8.8%; Services: 86.8% (2013)

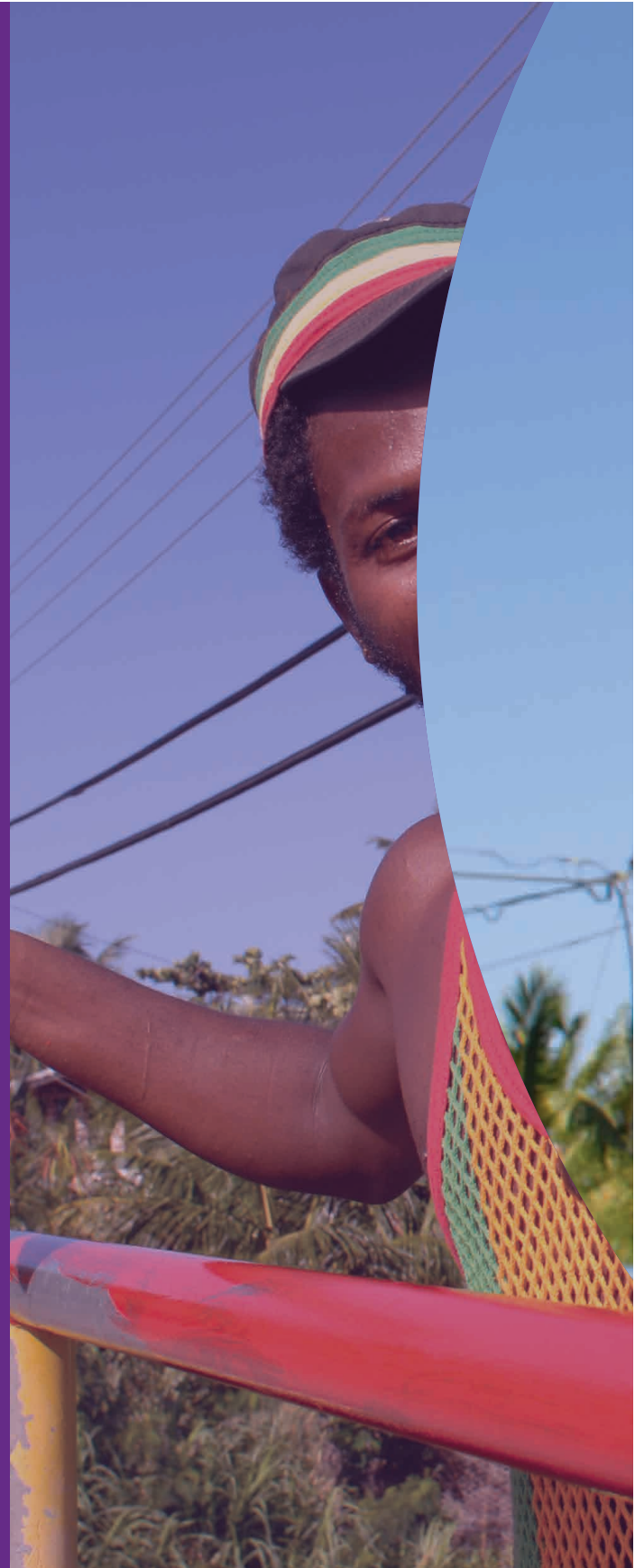
HDI (2013): 0.744 (global rank 79)

Underfeeding: 18.7%

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2005 (Founding member)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (PLATAFORMA CELAC - período 2011-2013)





Grenada

Grenada

Grenada is known as the “Island of Spice” as it is a natural source of nutmeg, mace, clove, ginger and cinnamon; it also has other natural resources such as timber, tropical fruits and deep water piers.

Grenada depends on tourism as its main source of economic resources, particularly after the construction of its international airport in 1985. Some progresses in construction and manufacturing, together with the development of a strong financial industry, have contributed to the increase in its GDP. Over the last few years, the country has been recovering from the damages caused by Hurricanes Ivan (2004) and Emily (2005).

The Grenadine Government, in collaboration with FAO, implemented the Zero Hunger Challenge Initiative (ZHCI) in 2013, focused on the eradication of hunger and malnourishment and to strengthen food security. It has a budget of USD 11.3 million through the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Environment, with support from FAO.

From the beginning of the agreement itself, in 2005, the support of Petrocaribe to Grenada has been critical for the development of areas such as the economy and infrastructure.

The mixed-ownership company PDV Grenada Ltd., legally incorporated in 2007, operates in the capital since 2010. Different actions began then in the social and energy areas.

The Petrocaribe Agreement guarantees to Grenada the supply of diesel oil, for sale in the local market and the total needed for the generation of a national electric power plant.



Petrocaribe Funds for Social Development

As established by the energy agreement, resources must be used for social projects that benefit the Grenadine people and the region in general, in areas such as education, housing, training, employment and entrepreneurship, transportation, and food, among others.

School Feeding Program (SFP)

SFP, under the charge of the Ministry of Education and Development of Human Resources of Grenada, operates since 2008 with an annual budget that has been increased every year. Currently, it exceeds USD 1.1 million, having implemented USD 8,303,654 to date. It benefits kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, previously selected, through the free supply of appropriate daily food at study centers.



Objetivos

1. To help improve school enrollment and attendance, reducing drop-out
2. To improve knowledge of the nutritional value of local foods, maximizing their use and the preparation of school meals.
3. To improve local food production at schools for such food to be used in the program.
4. To equip and improve school kitchens and eating facilities, to fit the program and expand it.

In addition to providing food, SFP also seeks to improve knowledge about local food production by providing **nutritional information**; it also promotes the implementation of **school vegetable gardens** to produce a portion of food, most of which is supplied by the program, and also provides support with **infrastructure and equipment**.

Farm Labour Support Program



Under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, the program was created in response to the decline in small-scale agriculture as a result of the hurricanes. It is aimed at creating jobs in the agricultural sector and boosting local food production, diversifying the number of crops that Grenada produces, such as cocoa and nutmeg. By 2012, the program had increased 890 hectares, including 607 hectares of cocoa with the corresponding drainage, and 141.6 hectares had been dedicated to the planting of nutmeg, and 51.4 hectares for fruit trees. The program supported producers of these crops who wanted to plant at least one acre (0.405 Ha). The program served cocoa farmers in the pruning of cocoa fields.

So far, a total investment of USD 789,219 has been reported, benefitting some 1,500 farmers.

"Hugo Chavez" LPG Cylinder Filling Plant

In April 2015, the Petrocaribe Agreement, through the mixed-ownership company PDV Grenada Ltd., made progress in the energy security of the region with the opening of the "Hugo Chavez" LPG cylinder filling plant, with an investment of USD 3.9 million, for a storage capacity of 1200 barrels (BLS) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). In this facility, 800 canisters will be processed daily at fair prices, for use in kitchens for food preparation, thereby ensuring a better quality of life for populations with lower purchasing power in the country.



OVERVIEW:

Guyana is located in northern South America. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, by Surinam to the east, Venezuela to the west and Brazil to the south. 90% of the population lives in the coastal zone.

Capital: Georgetown

President: David Arthur Granger

Language: English

Area: 214,969 km²

Estimated population: 808,000 inhabitants (2014).

Population density: 3.75 inhabitants/km²

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: Guyana has four characteristic geographical areas: the coastal belt, the forested highland region, the plains and the desert area. Much of the coastal area is between 1 and 1.5 meters below sea level.

GDP (current prices): USD 2.99 billion (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture 21.1%; Manufacturing: 29.5%; Services 49.4 % (2013)

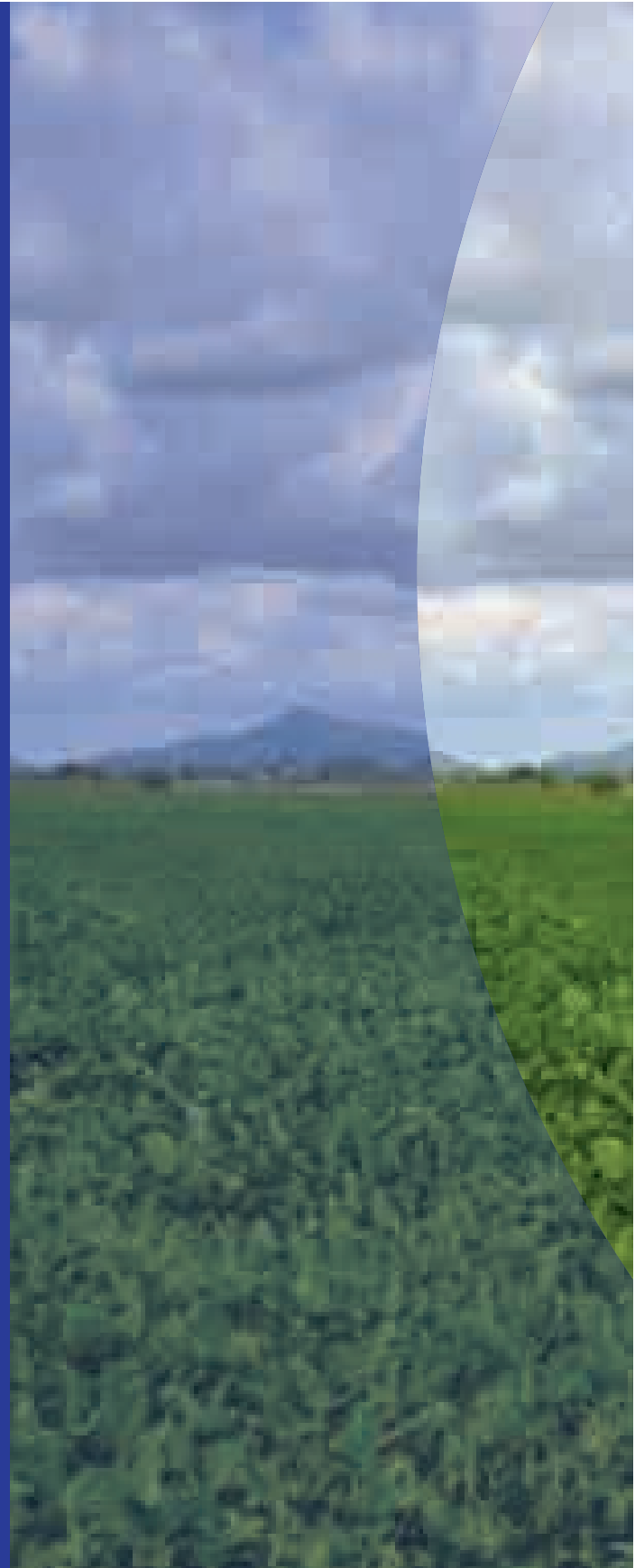
HDI (2013): 0.638 (rank 121)*

Underfeeding: 10,6%**

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2007

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (FAO-Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015)





Cooperative Republic of **Guyana**

Cooperative Republic of **Guyana**

Along with mining and with agricultural and fisheries exports, the planting of crops represents a substantial part of the base of Guyana's economy.

Rice production is so strategic, that Guyana is currently the largest producer of the Caribbean region and the first one to exceed the target of over 500 thousand tons.

According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana produced close to 633,000 tons of rice in 2014, an increase of approximately 18% as compared to the 535,212 tons of 2013; likewise, it exported close to 501,208 tons of rice in 2014, an increase of approximately 27% as compared to the 394,000 tons exported in 2013. The Caribbean nation aims to produce approximately 618,000 tons of rice and to export around 521 thousand tons in 2015.

Guyana is one of the 18 countries that in the 38th FAO Conference, held in June 2013, were acknowledged for having achieved, in advance, the goals of both the Millennium Development Goal number one (MDG-1), as well as the more demanding goal of the World Food Summit (WFS).

Guyana joined Petrocaribe in September 2005 and, pursuant to clause IV of the Agreement, it has used the mechanism of commercial compensation through the sale of rice.



Commercial compensation

Since joining the Agreement in 2005, Guyana has managed to benefit its economy by ensuring the safe supply of oil and its by-products under optimal financing conditions. At the same time, it has used the financed portion of the oil bill to support rice cultivation and an increased production, both for its domestic market and for export, thus strengthening Food Security in the Caribbean region.

Based on the Petrocaribe Agreement, Guyana has supplied, since 2009, 210 thousand annual tons of paddy rice and milled rice to Venezuela.

"The partial reason for the increase in rice production in Guyana, was our partnership with Petrocaribe"

(Mr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, in a visit to Venezuela. February 2015)



Urea

The Guyana rice industry uses 20,000 tons of urea per year. Within the framework of the energy agreement, Petrocaribe supplies part of this fertilizer under very favorable terms for Guyanese farmers to pay lower prices.



OVERVIEW:

Country in the Antilles located on the island of Hispaniola. With the Atlantic Ocean to the north, and the Caribbean Sea to the South and West, it shares its eastern border with the Dominican Republic. The Republic of Cuba lies to its west. Its territory also includes Gonâve island, Tortuga island, the Cayemites and Cow Island, as well as several other islets in its territorial waters.

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Prime Minister: Michel Martelly

Language: Haitian Creole (Creole) and French

Area: 27,750 km²

Estimated population: 10,510,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 378.74 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features: The most important valley in the country, in terms of crops, is the Riviere l'Artibonite, south of the Northern Mountains. This is where the Artibonite river is, which is considered to be the longest in the country and the island. It begins in the western region of the Dominican Republic, and continues most of its length through the center of the country, emptying into the Golfe de la Gonâve.

GDP (at current prices): USD 8.394 billion (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 23.5%; Industry: 31.1%; Services: 45.4% (2013)

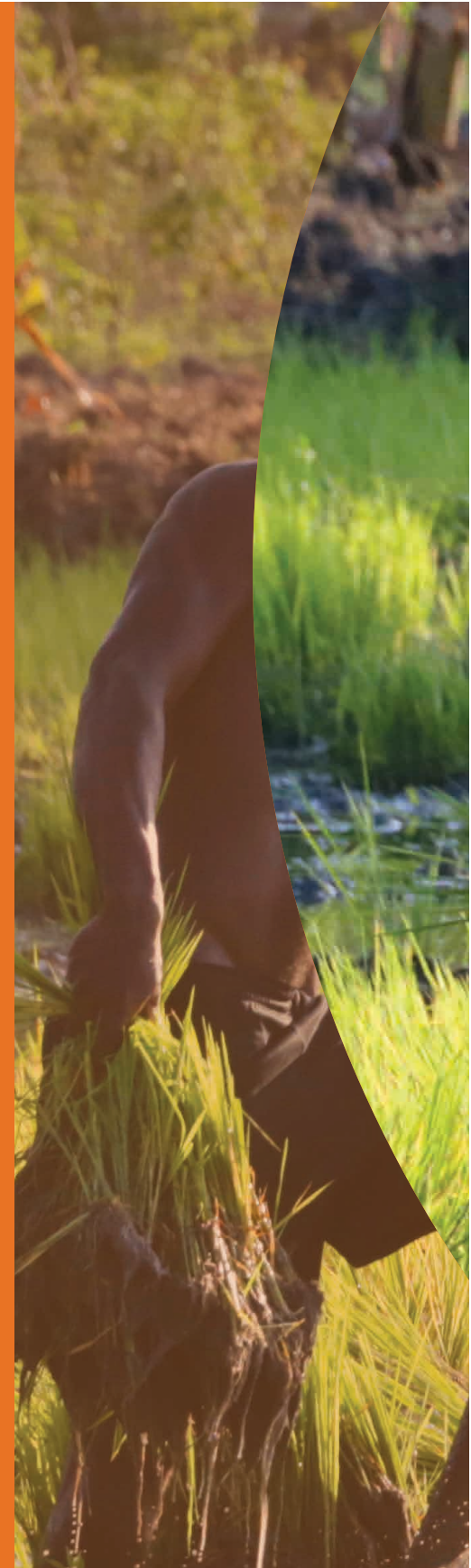
HDI (2013): 0.471 (world rank 168)*

Underfeeding: 53.4%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2007

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (CELAC 2011-2013 Platform)



A shirtless man is walking through a lush green rice paddy field. He is carrying a large bundle of harvested rice stalks in his right arm. The field is filled with tall, vibrant green rice plants, and a small stream of water is visible in the foreground. The background shows a blurred landscape with more greenery and a hint of a structure. The overall scene is bright and natural, capturing a moment of agricultural labor.

Republic of **Haití**

Republic of HAITÍ

Natural disasters in Haiti

According to a quick assessment by FAO after the 2010 earthquake, more than 80% of homes in rural zones were severely damaged, while the homes in the Léogane basin were completely destroyed. There was a reduction in irrigation water volume in the municipalities of Gressier, Léogane and Grand Goave, which particularly harmed bean plantations. The stacking of seeds was severely affected, as well as irrigation tools and facilities. Barely two years after, the North department suffered an intense drought, that added to the damage already caused by Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy. Shortly after, the cholera epidemic that struck the country left a toll of 9,000 deaths, and infected over half a million persons, i.e., 5% of the population within less than two years.

Haiti joined Petrocaribe after the implementation of the Agreement in October and November 2007, with the arrival of two asphalt shipments, amounting to approximately 16,300 barrels. This was how a cooperation process began, which has been fundamental through time for the Haitian development process.

Haiti's challenges are immense, given its high vulnerability to natural disasters, such as tropical storms, droughts, floods, and earthquakes, like that of the last decade. Since more than two-thirds of Haitians earn a living from agriculture, natural disasters have a devastating effect, as they destroy the livelihood of families, resulting in a serious situation of food insecurity.

In the case of the 2010 earthquake, Petrocaribe, in solidarity, wrote off the debt Haiti had acquired to such date within the context of the Agreement, continued to ship fuel to support power generation and actively contributed to humanitarian tasks.

The Haitian government, in coordination with Petrocaribe, continues to work to overcome adverse situations, supporting the creation of livelihoods and the recovery of the agricultural systems to strengthen the SAN.

By March 2015, the Government of the Republic of Haiti had budgeted some USD 1,666 million for the implementation of 275 projects* in infrastructure, education, health, housing, environmental hygiene and water supply, among others.

Thirty projects of this group are directly linked to the fight against hunger and poverty, and the Government of Haiti allocated for them a joint budget of USD 192.14 million.

Three of them are among the most important initiatives: the EDE PEP National Social Assistance Program (Helping the people), Support to Farmers through the sale of urea and seeds at subsidized prices, and the Artibonite Valley Development.

The EDE PEP consists of fifteen projects grouped into four categories: Emergency, Structure, Human Development, and Economic Development. Nine of these projects stand out for their greater impact on the fight against hunger and poverty in Haiti.

As for the Artibonite Valley Development, phases I and II of the Rice Production Intensification project in the Artibonite Valley project, have been under way since 2009.

Both the PEP EDE, and the Support for Farmers and the Artibonite Valley Development projects, show guidance from Petrocaribe to focus actions on the countries of the Agreement with initiatives that are priorities established, in a sovereign manner, by the national governments.

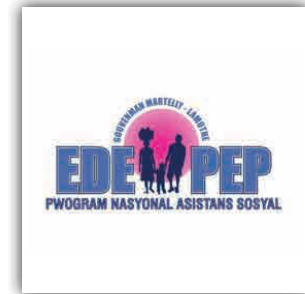
The following will look deeper into each of them.

* By December 2014, 234 projects had been registered, according to the Haitian Government. (2014). *La transformation d'Haïti à travers les grands travaux de reconstruction avec les fonds Petrocaribe. Gouvernement de la République D'Haïti.*



National Social ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

EDE PEP



The EDE PEP program, presented in early 2013, intends to fight against poverty through the coordination and implementation of innovative social assistance projects. It is aimed at the population living below the threshold of extreme poverty and its goal is to improve the life quality of Haitians.

The EDE PEP begins with the creation of a network of social agents of the RUB (*Registre Unique de Beneficiaire - Sole Register of Beneficiaries*), which aims to ensure that project resources effectively reach the most vulnerable population, through the identification and prioritization of demand, and the dissemination of information, both to beneficiaries and the general public.

EDE PEP Execution

The program consists of fifteen projects grouped into four categories:

1

Emergency:

Projects focused on guaranteeing food to the most vulnerable beneficiaries and victims of disasters.

Panye Solidarite. Support for vulnerable families by assisting them for twelve months with a basic food basket at a cost of approximately 12 USD. The responsible agency is the Fund of Economic and Social Assistance (*Fond d'Assistance Economique et Sociale* - FAES), with a budget of USD 23.3 million. **Results as of December 2014:** 1.1 million bags of food delivered to families in extreme poverty.

Kantin Mobil. A food aid project. The Government, through the Fond d'Assistance Economique et Sociale (FAES), deployed 12 mobile casinos, where up to 4,000 hot meals can be produced daily for distribution to vulnerable population, mainly in urban areas. The project also provides hot meals in cases of emergencies. **Results as at December 2014:** 2.7 million meals served in 16 communities throughout seven departments.

Resto Pep. Support through the sale of hot meals to the population in areas of extreme poverty in Port au Prince neighbourhoods, at a subsidized price (USD 0.21). **Results as at December 2014:** 653,000 hot meals distributed.



2

Structural:

Projects that benefit the most vulnerable population through direct financial contributions.

Kore Moun Andikapé. Monthly transfer of USD 8.45 by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, and the Secretariat of Integration of People with Disabilities, for people with reduced mobility members of families in extreme poverty situation and who are unable to work or pursue an economic activity, in order to contribute to their sustenance in the family expenditure. Each person receives the benefit for twelve months. **Results as at December 2014:** 4,256 beneficiaries.

Kore Ti Granmoun. A bonus for 65 years of age or older who cannot survive on their own means.

Bon Dijan Solidarite. A USD 17.82 bonus granted by the Fund for Economic and Social Assistance (FAES) to families affected by natural disasters, to cover immediate needs until recovery.

Ti Manman Cheri. Monetary assistance, with a budget of USD 14.4 million, granted by the Delegate Ministry for Human Rights and Fight Against Poverty, which allows mothers in extreme poverty to keep their children in school. It



consists of the cash transfer of USD 8, 12 or 16, according to the number of children enrolled in school and with regular attendance. Results as at December 2014: 86,234 extremely poor mothers, with at least one child in school, as beneficiaries.



Restoran Kominoté. The installation of stands that sell food for USD 0.18 to people in poverty.

3

Human Development:
Projects that support access to education at all direct levels.

Universal and Free Compulsory Schooling Program (Programme de Scolarisation Universelle et Gratuite Obligatoire - PSUGO). Free and compulsory universal schooling program, that aims to ensure the access of children and adolescents to education. During the 2011–2012 academic term, the program served 1,023,073 children from 9,853 (public and non-public) schools, allowing access to school meals programs.

Cantine Scolaire. Free school cafeterias for children attending school. The goal is for these cafeterias to be locally sourced as a way to promote the economy in the area. As of December 2014, 34 thousand children had been served, using for that 30% to 40% products from local markets.

Kore Etidyan. Starting from October 17, 2012, it consists on the delivery of a monthly subsidy of USD 42.26 by the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (*Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle - MENFP*), with a budget of USD 1.8 million, for university students in different careers, including agriculture and nutrition, to cover the costs of their education. **Results as at December 2014:** 31,409 university students had received the subsidy.

4

Economic Development:
Projects that encourage agricultural production through various mechanisms.

Kredi Fanm Lakay o Kore Fanm Nan Agrikilti. Loans granted by the Ministry for the Status of Women in collaboration with FAES, aimed at women in rural areas to encourage their participation in the pursuit of a productive agricultural activity that allows them to access and integrate the production, processing, and marketing processes of agricultural products. **Results as at December 2014:** 1,180 women.

Kore Peyisan. Project for the support of agriculture and rural entrepreneurship, through the Fund of Economic and Social Assistance (FAES) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development. With a budget of USD 6.3 million, kits of seeds, small livestock, and tools are provided to small farmers and artisan fishermen, allowing them to improve their living conditions. **Results as at December 2014:** 159,408 kits delivered.

Distribisyon Bet Pou Elv Aj. Support program for small farmers, with the delivery of goats for recapitalization after the losses experienced in 2012 as a result of Hurricane Sandy. 70% of beneficiaries were women.



SUPPORT FOR FARMERS Through the sale of urea **and seeds at subsidized prices**

In 2007, the supply of fertilizers to Petrocaribe countries was included with the purpose of strengthening agricultural production capacity and achieving Food Sovereignty. In its VIII Ministerial Council, the Agreement approved the energy bill compensation manual to provide prilled urea to signatory countries. Under the proposal, according to the farmed area of each member country, an annual quota of this fertilizer, a by-product of the petrochemical industry, is allocated.

In 2013, Petrocaribe delivered 4 thousand tonnes of prilled urea to Haiti.

Artibonite Valley Development

The Artibonite Valley is the main irrigation and rice production zone of the country. Production takes place during the rainy seasons. This Valley covers over 60% of the cultivated area with rice, and provides 80% of the national production.

Regardless of the significance of the rice production in the Artibonite, farmers had not have a permanent and affordable supply of agricultural goods and services. Given its relevance for the food sovereignty of Haiti, Petrocaribe decided to support the rice cultivation development in the Artibonite, and since 2009 has been implementing the project: **Rice Production Intensification in the Artibonite Valley, Phases I and II.**

Rice consumption in Haiti
According to the diagnosis by the three-party commission formed by Cuba, Venezuela and Haiti in 2009, the national annual demand for rice in Haiti was estimated in 450 thousand tons, and the national rice production stood at approximately 90 thousand tons.



Rice Production Intensification in the Artibonite Valley, Phase I (2009-2013)

The overall purpose of the project was to contribute to the improvement of the proceeds of stakeholders in the rice chain, through boosting production efficiency, increasing the farmed area and modernizing the transformation and marketing process of rice.

The rice production intensification in the Artibonite Valley, in its Phase I, had a budget of USD 9.3 million, to work on four points:

- » **Efficient use of water:** promoting the creation and functioning of water user associations.
- » **Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures:** rehabilitation of channels in the Grande Saline, Desdunes l'Estere and Marchand Dessalines communities. It is important that irrigation works had not been refurbished for a long time.
- » **Application of new technology packets:** particularly focused on the supply of quality seeds.
- » **Institutional strengthening of the Organisation de Développement de la Vallée de l'Artibonite (ODVA):** This organization is the meeting point for rice farmers in the area.

The impact of this project shows in the production with the inclusion of new technologies, the infrastructure of production and the improvement in the social and productive organization:

- » 3,418 hectares of rice sown and harvested by 2012
- » 6,190 hectares sown in 2013
- » 15,215 tons of paddy rice harvested by 2012
- » Over 12,000 farmers benefitting from the project by 2013
- » Rescue of the *La Crette de Pierrot* (CAP) rice variety, and production of 4,190 tons of seeds.

- » Close to 268 km of irrigation channels and 235 km of drainage channels repaired and refurbished
- » Lifting of 1.3 km of riverbeds for hydraulic protection in the Timonette sector for the productive activation of 350 hectares
- » Construction and equipping of 10 Community Milling Centers (CCM)
- » Creation of 5 Irrigation Committees
- » Creation of 7 Community Milling Center Management Committees

Source: PDV Caribe (no date). Project Closure Report (Part One) Rice Production Intensification in the Artibonite Valley Project. Haiti. 2009-2013





Rice Production Intensification in the Artibonite Valle, Phase II

Based on the success of the first phase, the aim is to increase rice production in a sustainable manner in the Artibonite Valley, promoting the social productive capacities of producers in the areas under influence of the CCM (Community Milling Centers), in order to contribute 25,000 metric tons per year to Haitian national production.

The budget for this phase was increased to USD 14.7 million. Its components were reformulated according to the achievements of Phase I:

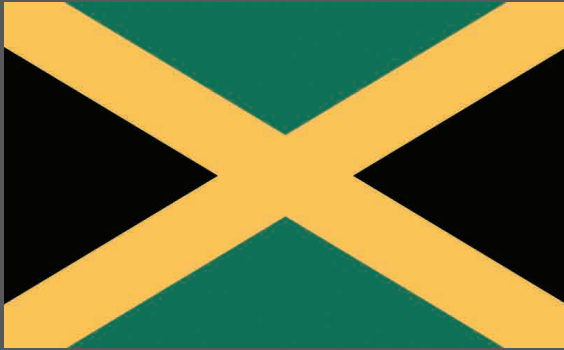
- » **Consolidation of Community Milling Centers (CCM):** Focused on rendering organizational results, helping optimize production processes, and achieving the equipment and improvement of the infrastructure.
- » **Primary Production Component:** Focused on synchronizing the planning of training processes with the planning of the technical support processes for the fulfillment of the goals on the field.

- » **Promotion and support to Sustainable Family Farming:** Focused on guaranteeing the entitlement to food at a family, school and community level; and on generating surplus foods that can be forwarded to the local market.
- » **Marketing of rice production processed by the CCM:** Focused on guaranteeing sufficient revenues to allow sustaining production and financing its procedures.
- » **Strengthening of the capacities of stakeholders involved in the rice production process in the Artibonite Valley:** Implementation of training programs to allow the transmission of traditional knowledge and the inclusion of new practical elements, as well as their corresponding follow-up, in rice production.

Direct benefits

- » Approximately 7 thousand producers per year with support regarding land preparation, supplies, and technical assistance and monitoring.
- » Production of 12,500 tons of white rice starting from the first year of this second phase.
- » 100 families directly producing through family farming.
- » Approximately 2,500 students in school gardens.
- » More than 350 thousand consumers of rice per year with the total production of the project at its optimal production point.

(Source: PDV Caribe – Social and Social Project Management - (2014) Intensificación de la Producción de Arroz en el Valle de Artibonite. Haití. 2da Fase)



OVERVIEW: The Caribbean Sea island is part of the Greater Antilles, is 240 km long and 80 km at its maximum width, and lies 150 km south of Cuba and 180 km west of Hispaniola.

Capital: Kingston

Prime Minister: Portia Lucretia Simpson-Miller

Language: English and Jamaican Patois

Area: 10,991 km²

Estimated population: 2,813,000 inhabitants (2013)

Population density: 255.93 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features: The island is formed mainly by mountain surrounded by a narrow coastal plain. Cities have been settled in such coastal plain. Although it is in the hurricane belt of the Caribbean Sea, it is not hit by hurricanes as frequently as the nearby islands, as its mountain ranges deviate them.

GDP (at current prices): USD 14.27 billion (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 6.8%; Industry 17.2%; Services: 76% (2013)

HDI: 0.715 (world rank 96)*

Underfeeding: 8.1%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2005 (Founder)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (CELAC 2011-2013 Platform)





Jamaica

Jamaica

Although tourism is the main income source for Jamaica, both bauxite mining and the agricultural sector contribute importantly to the economy. Sugar is the main agricultural export, followed by bananas, coffee, citrus fruits and pepper.

With FAO support, several projects are in course in Jamaica. One of them is the study to link agriculture and the tourism market, to thus determine effective ways in which small farmers can access the profitable hotel sector. Petrocaribe has become a fundamental element in Jamaican economy, as it has allowed achieving stability through investment. Economic development has made it possible to encourage programs related to infrastructure, education, energy, housing and roads, among others.

As mentioned by the Oil Minister Phillip Paulwell, in his recent visit to Venezuela in June 2015, "Petrocaribe has allowed the development of a large number of projects that have brought benefits to the people. It is a source of development and diversification for our nation. "

The Government of Jamaica is developing projects with resources from the oil bill through the PetroCaribe Development Fund (PDF).

Petrocaribe Development Fund of Jamaica (PDF)

By the end of 2006, Jamaica established the Petrocaribe Development Fund of Jamaica (PDF), to manage the proceeds which accrue to the Government of Jamaica under the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.

The PDF works through two mechanisms, the Grants Fund and Project Financing.

Grants Fund

The PDF Administration Council set up a Grants Fund to support and finance social-economic projects to directly improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable members of society according to the Vision 2030 goals, the National Development Plan of Jamaica.

The Donations Fund has three main targets:

» **Basic Infrastructure:** most of the investment has focused on sanitation facilities for communities and schools that lack such infrastructure or the existing units that are unfit for human use, as well as water supply systems and roads.

» **Support Services:** these are the services that strengthen organizations or individuals by developing their capacity to improve their quality of life and their environment.

» **Small Grants / Special Projects:** grant funds to directly help grassroots organizations to optimize their organizational capacity.

Project Financing

PDF provides funding to the Ministry of Finance and Planning and Public Organizations to implement critical development projects. These loans are intended to support the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Government and promote those of the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement for social transformation and economic development.

To date, seven social projects have been financed with Petrocaribe funds through the Grants Fund. Two of such projects are directly related to the fight against hunger and poverty.



School Sanitation

Upon request of the Ministry of Education, and through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011, the PDF commissioned in 2012 the Social Investment Fund of Jamaica (JSIF) to replace pit latrines in schools with modern sanitary facilities. These old toilets had existed for a long time in schools and were a disagreeable situation both for students and teachers. The project allowed the construction of sanitary blocks equipped with septic tanks, toilets, urinals and ramps to facilitate accessibility for people with physical disabilities, as well as separate modules for girls and boys. The units were built considering the environmentally proper final disposal of wastewater.

Currently, JSIF is implementing an extensive sanitation campaign that involves education regarding hygiene and maintenance to the units.

Results

To date, the School Sanitation Project has benefited some 3,287 students of 28 schools throughout the Island.

The impact of this program on education and health is significant, as it prevents serious diseases among the youngest who, not just due to their age and size find it hard to access sinks for handwashing, but because latrines themselves are a threat.



Jamaica 50 Scholarship and Merit Programme

In homage to the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica, in 2012, PDF launched the Jamaica 50 Scholarship and Merit Programme, aimed at supporting the education of students at secondary and tertiary levels. Scholarships were awarded based on academic merit, financial need and leadership skills. Medicine, entertainment and cultural business management, pure and applied sciences, engineering, forensic science, sports psychology, marine biology and terrestrial ecosystems, chemistry and nutrition and food health, are among the areas of study required for the development of Jamaica. Upon completion of their studies, the tertiary level scholarship awardees will be required to work in Jamaica for a period of up to five years.

Other Projects

Rise Life Management Services – Solar Energy Project
 Construction of Falmouth Pier
 Wind Power Use System



OVERVIEW: The biggest country in Central America, it borders Honduras and Costa Rica to the South. It has coasts on the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

Capital: Managua

President: Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Language: Spanish

Area: 130,373.4 km²

Estimated Population: 6,236,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population Density: 47.83 inhabitants/km²

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features: Nicaragua is a volcanic and tropical country. It has two big lakes within its borders: the Lake Managua (known by Nicaraguans by the indigenous name of Xolotlán) and the Big Lake of Nicaragua (also known as Cocibolca or Lake Nicaragua), which is the only one in the world with sharks.

GDP (at current prices): USD 11.256 billion (2013)

GDP Composition per Sector: Agriculture: 16.9%; Manufacturing: 28.3%; Services: 54.8% (2013)

HDI: 0.614 (Rank 132)*

Underfeeding: 16.6%**

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2007

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (FAO – Regional Overview of Food Insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean 2015)



A group of children are seated at a wooden table, eating a meal of rice and beans. In the foreground, a young girl with a purple vest and white shirt looks towards the camera while holding a spoon. Next to her, another girl in a white shirt looks on with interest. In the background, other children in school uniforms are eating. The text 'Republic of Nicaragua' is overlaid in white on the upper right portion of the image.

Republic of Nicaragua

Republic of Nicaragua

Five priority areas have been defined by FAO and the Government of Nicaragua, within the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2013–2017: a) Governance and investments for food and nutrition security and sovereignty; b) Productivity and adjustment of family agriculture to climate change; c) School meals and nutritional education; d) Productive transformation with food security and sovereignty in the Caribbean Coast; and e) Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishery policies focused on adjustment to climate change*.

In June 2013, during the 38th FAO Conference, Nicaragua, along with other 18 countries (five of which are signatories of the Petrocaribe Agreement), received an award for having achieved in advance the targets both of the Millennium Development Goal One (MDG-1) as the more demanding target of the World Food Summit (WFS).

On January 11, 2007, Nicaragua signed the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, thus starting an unprecedented experience of South–South Cooperation with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Within this context, social–productive projects have been developed

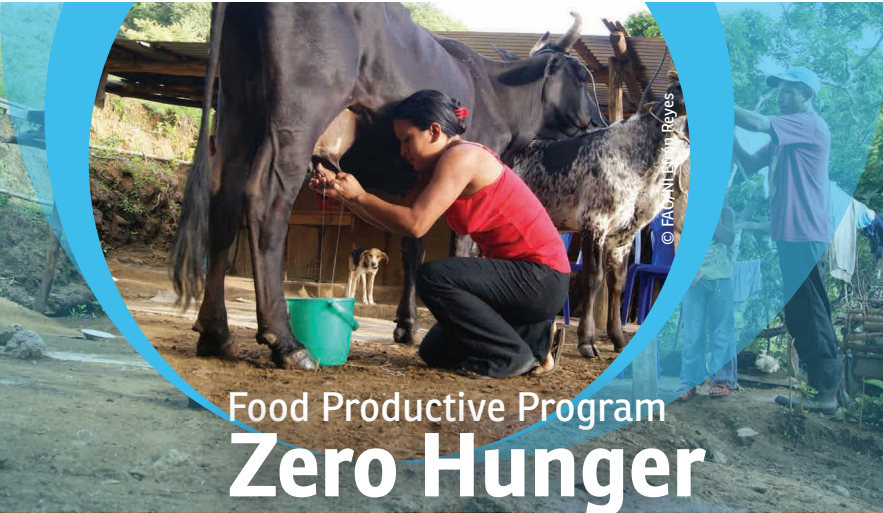
and supported thanks to the commercial compensation mechanism, which has boosted the agriculture and livestock sectors and the national exports.

Nicaraguan government defines food security and sovereignty as the development of local capacities for production, storage and distribution at fair prices, both at internal level as well as for exports to Central American markets, and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and Petrocaribe.

In Nicaragua, the resources from the Long Term Bill are managed by the mixed–capitals company Albanisa and other State institutions for the development of social and social–productive projects. Between 2007 and 2014, 16 social–productive projects, with an investment of USD 665.36 million and 26 social projects for USD 1.342 billion, have been totally or partially financed through this mechanism

The following describes the features of thirteen of the most notable social and social–productive projects, which are combined with the so–called two–way strategy to fight hunger and poverty.

* FAO Nicaragua Priorities - <http://www.fao.org/nicaragua/es/>



Food Productive Program Zero Hunger

This program is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Community, Cooperative and Associative Family Economy and consists on the delivery of pregnant cows and sows, poultry, as well as seeds and vegetable material to women in farmer families. It focuses on family units and gives women the role of partner and owner of the assets of the productive bonus. The program contributes to set sustainable grounds for food security and sovereignty in the country. Between 2007 and 2014, 26,108 women joined the program with an investment of USD 15.5 million.

Objetivos:

1. To transfer production assets to impoverished families so that, using their potential, they can generate income to overcome poverty.
2. To strengthen food production for self-consumption among Nicaraguan rural families by granting a Food Production Bonus (FPB).
3. To market the surplus in the national market and, at the same time, to encourage agro-industrial production chains to add value to the assets produced or reproduced in the production units.

Between 2007 and 2014, this program boosted the income-generation capacity of 26,108 women.

Impacts of the Program

Food Security and Sovereignty: the delivery of pregnant cows and sows, poultry, as well as seeds and vegetable material, makes this program an important support for the backyard family production with the breeding of small livestock (sources of proteins), production of corn, beans or sorghum in land plots, as well as the production of agricultural products for export (coffee, sesame, among others).

Economic Investment: It is an important investment in food security and sovereignty, which includes USD 15.4 million invested as of June 2014, the land of farmers and the value of the work of participants in the program (with an estimate of two persons per).

Livestock Repopulation: animals delivered to the farmer families make the Food Productive Program in general, and the bonus in particular, the greatest cattle, pig, and poultry farming repopulation program, as well as the greatest program for livestock reproduction.

Productive Employment: with the delivery of agricultural and livestock goods to 26,000 Nicaraguan farmer families, along with agricultural practices intended to increase their production by improving their yield, the program is creating the capacity to generate permanent and direct jobs.

People's Organization: beneficiary families participate in awareness, organization, participation, cooperativism, mobilization, civic education and citizen management.

Women Leadership: the attention to women who are household heads, who receive the bonus and organize themselves to manage it, becomes the greatest women cooperativism and leadership program in the countryside of Nicaragua.



Zero Usury

With its own resources and resources from Petrocaribe oil bill, Nicaragua created in 2007 the microloan program called Zero Usury, which allows working women in extreme poverty to have access to the financial system and increase their income. The program is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Development, Industries and Commerce.

Zero Usury consists on the granting of microloans -which go from USD 137 to 367, with low interest rates- to single mothers who totally depend on income from their small businesses. The loans are granted to women solidarity groups that must prove their responsibility and commitment to the program and its partners, as well as their participation in the training and multiplication of knowledge and experiences in the financial and social area.

With an investment of USD 30.96 million between 2007 and 2014, 66,786 women have benefitted from the program (protagonists).

“Christian, Socialist and Solidary” Special Plan for the Production of Basic Grains (CRISSOL)

Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Family, Community, Cooperative and Associative Economy, CRISSOL is carried out with the same methodology of the Zero Usury Program, but benefitting small producers of basic grains at a national level, allowing them to ensure the planting of their land plots through the low-interest-rate loans and technical assistance. Currently, producers receive funding between USD 150 and 200 for every 0.7 hectare of land, to be repaid with basic grains from their harvests to Empresa Nicaragüense de Alimentos Básicos (ENABAS) or with cash.

During 2007-2014, 107,795 loans were granted to a total of 80,612 families, 55,749 of which considered men as those responsible for repaying the loan, and 24,863 of which considered women in that same role. The total investment was USD 36.07 million. Recently, cooperatives and civil associations have also received financing.

Children Development Centers

Building and remodeling of Children Development Centers that have benefitted some 4,100 preschool-age children, as well as 3,500 mothers who now have a place to leave their children while they work. In these centers,

children participate in recreational learning activities while, at the same time, have medical and nutritional check-ups by specialized staff.



Christian, Socialist and Solidary Bonus

Monthly cash contribution to support the family economy of State workers with wages lower than USD 210, especially since the cash supplements food at home or is used for transportation.

In 2010, the bonus amounted to USD 19.6 and currently it is equivalent to USD 27.6. During the first years of the bonus, 8,000 seniors were also beneficiaries.

Between 2007 and 2014, 173,484 individuals were beneficiaries, with an investment of USD 224.73 million.



Cylinders and stoves for the people

The delivery of 72,984 gas stoves with their corresponding cylinders to the neediest popular sectors has helped significantly reduce lung and heart illnesses caused by the use of firewood for cooking, while also resulting in positive environmental effects.

Food Program for the People

(Basic Product Distribution Network)

A program under the responsibility of ENABAS, which seeks to guarantee access to basic foods such as corn, beans, rice, sugar and oil at fair prices, for poor and vulnerable families. The supply is done through a network of 3,817 urban and rural distribution points in 103 municipalities of the country, guaranteeing a basic basket with 26 basic products.

Between 2007 and 2014, 236,842 individuals were beneficiaries, with an investment of USD 120.89 million.

Fertilizer for the People

The Fertilizer for the People Program allows Nicaragua to receive shipments of high-quality urea to be delivered to producers at lower than market prices, increasing the yield for every 0.7 hectare of fertilized land and contributing to restore eroded soils.

As of June 2014, 70,310 families of small producers have been beneficiaries, and 75,000 jobs have been created.



Reproducer Retainment Program

Financed small and medium producers receive USD 250 per womb retained, to deter them from prematurely selling their heifers, and thus managing to keep between 15 and 30 heads per producer. The goal of this financing is to allow small farmers to improve the breed and amount of their cattle.

As of June 2014, this program had granted loans to 2,557 small and medium stockbreeders in the entire country, allowing the maintenance or creation of 3,344 jobs.



Streets for the People Program

It consists on the paving of over 1,200 streets in 105 municipalities of the country, which has also allowed, in areas such as the Caribbean Coast, the installation of drinking and waste water pipelines. The plan for Managua, currently in execution, envisages repairing 82 out of the 300 kilometers of streets of the capital city.

In rural areas, these roads have helped facilitate transportation in general and, in particular, the transport of agricultural products to the market. In urban areas, it has allowed the improvement of drinking and waste water services.

Refurbishment of Storage Plants and Storage Silos

Given the limited existing grain storage and drying capacity in Nicaragua, this program was created under the responsibility of ENABAS. It consists on refurbishing storage plants and storage silos mainly for the benefit of small producers. This way, they can store part of their production, not having to sell all of it in every cycle, allowing them to face speculation in the commercial sector during low harvest seasons.

Fourteen storage plants and 40 storage silos have been refurbished, thus benefitting 300,000 small producers who have access to drying and storage services at preferential prices.

Land Ownership

Thousands of farmers have received ownership titles over the last three years. The ALBA Solidaria Socialist Program supports the government work in land titles for farmers. As of March 2014, 1,165 lots of land had been surveyed, considering approximately 69.59 km² within the program.

Impact on the Restoration of Rights of the Caribbean Coast

Different projects are carried out focused on improving the social-economic conditions of this depressed region of Nicaragua.

Los programas son los siguientes:

- » **Forest Development:** it supports the community forestry production by 57 indigenous communities of the autonomous region of the North Atlantic for the use of 10.7 million tabular feet in the areas affected by Hurricane Felix.
- » **Support to Small-Scale Fishing** which consists on loans for purchase of engines, pangas (small motorboats) and fishnets.

Compensation. Social and Social-Productive Projects

In the case of Nicaragua, the compensation involves the subscription of purchase and sale agreements (Albalinisa-Nicaraguan suppliers) to meet the foreign demand with which purchase agreements had been previously signed. The impact of the production from these areas has been significant to promote purchases at fair prices from 166,000 small and medium producers, activating the productive mechanism of the agro-industrial sector and creating approximately 44,000 indirect jobs.

In 2013, Venezuela received 650,217 MT of products (Meat, beans, black beans, UHT milk, refined oil, crude oil, heifers, coffee, young bulls and sugar).



OVERVIEW:

It is located in the Caribbean Sea between Jamaica (to the west) and Puerto Rico (to the east); it covers two thirds of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Republic of Haiti. Among the Greater Antilles, it is the second largest country of the Caribbean, after Cuba, and is on the path of the main air and sea international communication routes.

Capital: Santo Domingo

President: Danilo Medina Sánchez

Language: Spanish

Area: 48,670 km²

Estimated population: 10,539,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population Density: 216.54 inhab/km²

Climate: Predominantly tropical, with high rainfall rates

Geographical features: There are many small offshore islands and cays that are part of the Dominican territory. The two largest islands near shore are Saona, in the southeast, and Beata, in the southwest. The Cabritos, Catalina, Catalinita and Alto Velo islands are also within its territory. The Dominican Republic has coastal plains and several mountain ranges, the highest point of which is Pico Duarte, at 3,087 meters above sea level.

GDP (current prices): USD 61.162 billion (2013)

GDP composition by sector: Agriculture: 6.3%; Manufacturing: 26.9%; Services: 66.8% (2013)

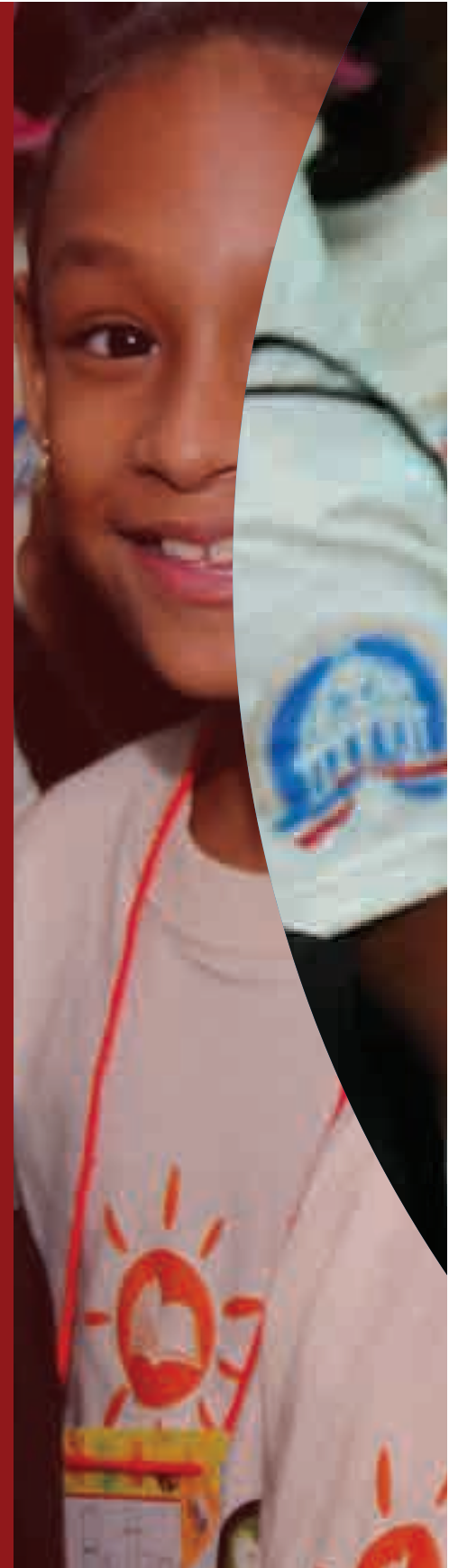
HDI: 0.700 (global rank 102)*

Underfeeding: 12.3%**

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2005

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015





Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic

The economy of the Dominican Republic, formerly organized around sugar-related agricultural production, has now become a tourism-based economy. Communications and infrastructure recorded a remarkable progress over the last few decades.

The Country Programming Framework (CPF) was jointly developed by the Dominican Government and FAO (2013-2016), as a planning and management instrument that identifies the priorities of the Dominican Government regarding the mandate of FAO and supplements its actions with the 2012-2030 National Development Strategy, the 2010-2020 Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan, and the Multi-Annual and Operational Plans of the sector, as well as the 2012-2016 United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF), the Millennium Development Goals, and other actions carried out by different institutions regarding development in the country, with three priority areas: a) Food and nutrition security and reduction of poverty; b) Family agriculture and integrated watershed management, efficient use of natural resources; and c) Climate change and risk management.

The Dominican Republic has reached the hunger goal of the MDG 1 and has received from FAO, in 2013 and 2015, recognition for such achievement. FAO estimates of the State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2015, point out that the Dominican Republic has also achieved the more demanding goal established by the World Food Summit in 1996 (WFS).

The signing of the energy cooperation agreement between the Dominican Republic and Petrocaribe took place in 2005, and from that moment onwards important infrastructure works, programs to fight against poverty, as well as financing programs in the electric subsector, have been carried out.



Progressing with Solidarity Program (PROSOLI)

A merger in 2012 of the *Progresando* (Progressing) program (of the Social Protection Network of the Dominican Government) and *Solidaridad* (Solidarity) program (developed by the Central Government of the Dominican Republic and Petrocaribe), PROSOLI is today the main strategy to fight poverty and inequality in the Dominican Republic, directly contributing to the Millennium Development Goal N° 1.

The program, which covers all 32 provinces, supports families living in poverty in their process of **integral development**. Its purpose is to promote the development of skills and the exercise of rights to promote compliance of co-responsibilities related to a system of conditional transfers that favour food and nutrition security for its members. It also includes a family social-educational support component, the promotion of productive

capability creation and the encouragement of actions for the economic and social development of beneficiary families to improve their chances for food purchases.

The program runs through 11,265 Volunteer Liaisons, each one visiting a monthly average of 50 beneficiary families, both to follow up on them and to inform them on different matters. Additionally, the program has signed agreements with 3,687 grassroots organizations, including 1,413 neighborhood associations, 554 community or neighbourhood organizations, 269 farmer, producers and cooperative organizations, and community action for their implementation.

The program intervention structure consists of seven areas to address the issues that hinder development, such as: Identification, Education, Health, Nutrition, Food Security and Income Generation, Human Education and Citizen Awareness, Access to ICT, as well as Habitability and Environmental Protection.

Impacts

PROSOLI has had an important impact on the agricultural and stockbreeding, industrial and commercial sectors, in regards to employment and entrepreneurship.

- » **The number of children younger than 5 years old with chronic malnutrition has been reduced by 5.2%.**
- » **85,828 children attend weight and height consultations to ensure normal development and growth.**
- » **Middle school dropout rate has been reduced by 3.8%.**
- » **Teen pregnancies have been reduced by 19% in beneficiary families.**
- » 248,911 persons have been trained, with 18,420 of them starting their own business and 9,956 getting jobs (67% of them, women)
- » Conditional Transfers and Family Social-Educational Follow-up directly reach 741,774 families, which is equivalent to 2,599,280 individuals.
- » Non-Conditional Targeted Subsidies are granted to 885,793 families which is equivalent to 2,880,491 individuals receiving monthly economic support for the purchase of cooking gas (LPG).

Commercial Compensation

This mechanism is a huge step-forward in matters of cooperation, strengthens intra-regional agricultural food trade and has an important impact on Food Security and Sovereignty. The main items used in the compensation have been beans, fructose syrup, pastas and animal feed.





OVERVIEW:

Twin islands in the eastern Caribbean Sea, St. Kitts and Nevis are part of the Lesser Antilles. They are south of Saint Martin, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Saint Barthelemy, and west of Antigua and Barbuda, at approximately one third of the distance between Puerto Rico and Trinidad and Tobago.

Capital: Basseterre

Prime Minister: Timothy Harris

Language: English

Area: Total: 261 km² (St. Kitts 168 km²; Nevis 93 km²)

Estimated population: 55,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 210 inhabitants / km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical Features:

The two Antillean islands are separated by a shallow channel called “The Narrows”, less than 3 km wide. Both are volcanic islands, with seep peaks inland. The highest peak, Mount Liamuiga, 1,156 m.a.s.l., is in St. Kitts. By contrast, the terrain completely flattens out in coastal zones.

GDP (at current prices): USD 766 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 1.7%; Industry: 23.6%; Services: 74.7% (2013)

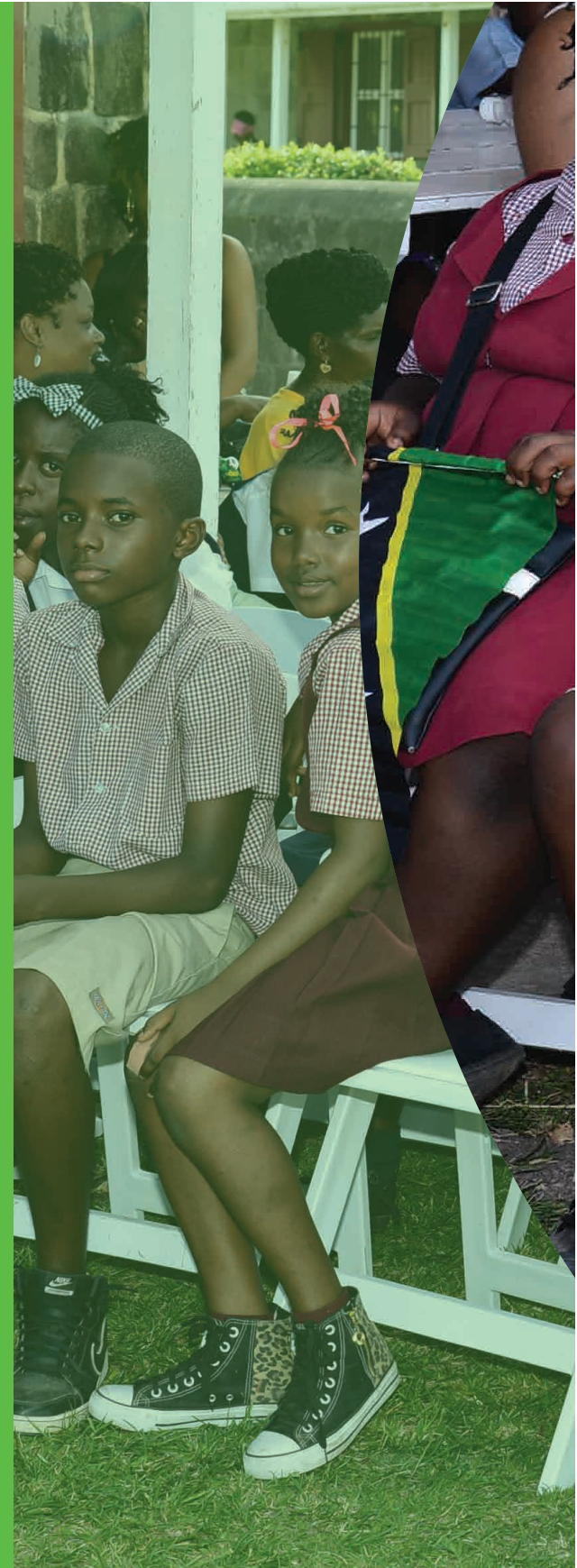
HDI: 0.750 (world rank 73)*

Underfeeding: 10.2%**

Joined Petrocaribe: 2005

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (CELAC 2011–2013 Platform)





ST. KITTS AND Nevis

St. Kitts and Nevis

The economy of St. Kitts and Nevis depends on tourism, a sector that replaced sugar as primary source of income. In 2005, the sugar industry, with 300 years of history, came to an end after several decades of losses. To compensate for the job loss, the Government has begun a program to diversify the agricultural sector and, at the same time, stimulate other sectors of the economy such as export-oriented manufacturing and offshore banking. Like other countries in the Caribbean, St. Kitts and Nevis is vulnerable to natural disasters, a vulnerability that affects tourism development.

St. Kitts and Nevis joined the Petrocaribe Agreement on June 29, 2005, and since then has developed various projects and initiatives, with financial support from Petrocaribe as well as from ALBA -TCP, which it joined in December 2014.

Through Petrocaribe, St. Kitts and Nevis implemented social protection and development programs.



School Food Programme

Improvement to school meals including a greater amount of fruits and vegetables in the daily menu, as a contribution to the healthy nutrition of 800 children. Training for personnel preparing school lunches in regards to the purchase, handling and preparation of food.

Likewise, small farmers produced 20 metric tons of food in 2014 for the school food programme. The development of school vegetable gardens is encouraged, to teach children about the importance of fruits and vegetables, planting some of them themselves.

ALBA Foods Fund

This program was designed in response to the crisis caused by high food prices. Resources received as budget subsidies were used to facilitate the purchase of supplies, such as seeds, fertilizers, medicine and agricultural and fishing equipment, at significantly reduced prices*.

Projects implemented and in progress to date are basically focused on supporting farming (including fishing and school vegetable gardens).

These projects are focused on the fight against hunger and poverty, and are aligned with the country policy in which agriculture is fundamental. Therefore, each of them strives to guarantee food security, maintain international trade and strengthen a sustainable livelihood for farmers.

1. Access to agricultural supplies

Provision of agricultural supplies to farmers, with a 50% discount on chemicals, plastic mulch, and drip irrigation.

2. Support to agricultural land preparation tasks

Provision of agricultural machinery, in addition to provision of a tractor with its accessories (harrows, harvesters) to the Department of Agriculture of Nevis.

3. Aid to farmers in the defense against damages to crops caused by roaming animals

Protection of crops from damages caused by the entry of animals (wild pigs), which implies the purchase of barbed wire to help farmers set up fences and prevent crop losses.

4. Aid to small farmers

Provision of aid to help recover agricultural farms and build pens to protect animals at night. Sale of broiler chickens, as well as of poultry food and medicine at subsidized prices.

5. Delivery of fishing supplies for fishermen

Supply of materials such as lines, buoys and ropes.

6. Support for technical assistance tasks in the exploitation of rural areas

Technical attention in productive units through the purchase of vehicles to improve mobility of staff in charge.

7. Support to training activities for farmers and fishermen

Construction of a conference center for meetings and training sessions for the farming community on agricultural practices.

ALBA CARIBE Fund

Construction, extension and repairing of housing units

Improvement of the life conditions of the vulnerable population through three housing projects, among which 431 units are granted to former workers of the disappeared sugar industry, victims of hurricanes and low income people.

* ST.CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS 2011 BUDGET ADDRESS: http://mof.gov.kn/sites/mof.gov.kn/files/documents/2011_Budget_Address_20101214.pdf



OVERVIEW:

Located in the Eastern Caribbean, west of Barbados, south of St. Lucia and north of Grenade, the volcanic island of St. Vincent represents almost 90% of the national territory. The Grenadines are a chain of about 32 islands and islets with a total area of 27 km² distributed throughout 96 km between St. Vincent and Grenade.

Capital: Kingstown

Prime Minister: Ralph Gonsalves

Language: English

Area: 389 km².

Estimated population: 109,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 280.20 inhabitants/km².

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: The landscape is covered by mountains with lush vegetation, crossed by short rivers. The eruptions of Mount Soufriere, a volcano located in the northern part of the island, at an altitude of 1,234 m above sea level, have caused major damage in 1812, 1902 and 1979. St. Vincent shares many geophysical features with the Grenadines, in particular its white sandy beaches and coral reefs.

GDP (current prices): USD 709 million (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 7%; Manufacturing: 13.6 %; Services: 79,4% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.719 (rank 91)*

Underfeeding: 6.2 %**

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2005 (Founding member).

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (FAO-Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015)



A photograph of a banana plantation. The plants are arranged in rows, and each bunch of bananas is covered with a blue plastic bag. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and debris. The text "St. Vincent & The Grenadines" is overlaid in the center of the image.

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

St. Vincent & The Grenadines

The Economy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been supported mainly and historically by banana and root exports. With the progress of globalization, the country lost the preferential treatment their bananas had in the markets of Britain and the European Union, which caused a fall in export revenues and the loss of markets and, consequently, jobs for their farmers.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are very vulnerable to natural disasters; strong tropical storms wiped out substantial portions of crops in 1994, 1995 and 2002. They have also suffered drought (2008–2009) and was one of the countries in the region most affected by the floods during the last week of December 2013; damages to roads, bridges, houses and public buildings have required significant resources for reconstruction. It has been estimated that the natural disasters that have hit the country in the past five years have implied a loss of approximately USD 222 million, which is one third of its GDP.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, like the other countries in the Caribbean region, depends greatly on tourism; it has a high median income as compared to Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In June 2013, at the 38th FAO Conference, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was among the 18 countries acknowledged for having achieved, in advance, the Millennium Development Goal number one (MDG-1) and the more demanding goal of the World Food Summit (WFS).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was one of 14 signatories to the creation of Petrocaribe, finalized during the First Energy Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean held in the city of Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela, in June 2005.

In December of that same year, St. Vincent and the Grenadines received the first shipment of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The shipment of 7,200 pressurized containers (cylinders) of 10 kilograms each, arrived at the Port of Campden Park, on the island of St. Vincent, on board of the Venezuelan Navy ship ARBV-T64. The construction of a fuel storage and distribution plant, considered the most important in the eastern Caribbean, started in August 2007 and was inaugurated in April 2015, with the name "Hugo Chavez".



FARMERS SUPPORT COMPANY LTD. (FSC)

FSC begins as an initiative to reactivate the agricultural economy after the decline of exports to Great Britain and Europe. It was incorporated in November 2013 and began granting loans in March 2015. It is managed by a Board of Directors composed of farmers, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Petrocaribe, and is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. Its team consists of about a dozen people from the Ministry of Agriculture specialized in Microfinances and Cooperative Development.

It is the largest agriculture program in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, covering all agricultural zones in the country. It grants loans to small farmers at an interest rate of 2%, for the acquisition of supplies and payment of farm labour for the land production. A total of 6,500 farmers were registered as of the end of 2014. The funded production includes from plantains, bananas, arrowroot, cassava, sweet potato and hot peppers, to even cattle and goats, which constitutes an important support to the effort for the replacement of food imports made by the country. Part of

the production is destined to meals for children at school. The FSC also purchases bananas for export and funds agro-processing initiatives for products such as bananas for added value.

Its main purpose is to contribute to the fulfilment of Goal 1 of the National Social and Economic Development Plan by increasing employment and reducing poverty; and Goal 3 of the Zero Hunger National Action Plan.

Investment Made:

According to data provided by the FSC, the rolling fund currently amounts to USD 4.44 million, having favored approximately 2,118 applicants.

General impacts

The project has completed its first year in the farming community of San Vicente and the Grenadines and has significantly helped farmers in their efforts to recover from the effects of drought. It has also led to a significant

increase in agricultural production. Most of the loans granted by the company have been provided for mixed production: yams, dasheen -taro-, plantains, bananas and other vegetables. This shows that most farmers are diversifying their crops.

Financed items

- » Livestock
- » Root crops including arrowroot
- » Fruits and vegetables
- » Banana
- » Tree planting, broadleaf plantain, cocoa, etc.
- » Beekeeping.
- » Fishing
- » Horticulture
- » Condiments and spices (vanilla).

Social impact

Since its inception, the FSC has granted loans to 968 applicants, has supported agriculture through labour and materials and has also supplied equipment and other tools used in its activity to the agro-sellers.

Currently there are **313 women and 49 youngsters, aged between 18 and 35**, as beneficiaries of the loan program.

Other Impacts

- » Expansion of the production of crops and livestock.
- » Diversification of production through new types of crops such as beekeeping and horticulture.
- » Increase in the export of products and livestock due to the relationship developed among traders and farmers facilitated by the FSC, promoting more funding for loans and the repayment of loans.
- » Increase in household income through farming.

Community Routes for Lauders Farms.

Starting date: March 2007

Completion date: September 2009

Financing source: Alba Caribbean Fund

Financing Amount: \$ 92,884.00, non-returnable

Investment Sector: Agriculture and food. Agricultural infrastructure.

Purpose: To increase the commercial capacity of Lauders farmers through the improvement of access roads to farms. In particular, the paving of 610 meters of routes that allow access to agricultural farms in Lauders.

Affected population: 600 individuals



"HUGO CHAVEZ"

Fuel Storage and Distribution Plant of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

Inaugurated in April 2015, it has a storage capacity of 34 thousand barrels of fuel and two LPG tanks with a capacity of one thousand barrels. These tanks will allow the mass distribution of household gas at low cost to the population of the island.

Other cooperation projects

Project	Impacted population	Source of Funding
Projects for the development of irrigation systems	N/A	Funded by Alba Alimentos
Strengthening of the storage, processing and handling of fishery products	N/A	Funded by Alba Alimentos
Construction of rural roads	10 100	Funded by Alba Caribe -
Provision of rural water supply systems	7 156	Funded by Alba Caribe -
Sugar cane Museum in Lashum/ Richmond	N/A	Funded by Alba Caribe -



OVERVIEW:

Suriname is located along the northeast coast of South America. It borders Guyana to the west, French Guiana to the east and Brazil to the south. The inland area of Suriname is mainly a rainforest which covers approximately 80 % of the territory. The south consists of a savanna belt that runs along the border with Brazil. It is the smallest country in South America, and its population density is one of the lowest in the world. Most of its inhabitants live in the narrow strip of the northern coastal plain.

Capital: Paramaribo

President: Desiré “Dési” Delano Bouterse

Language: Dutch

Area: 163,820 km²

Population estimate: 548,000 inhabitants (2015)

Population density: 3.35 inhab/km²

Climate: Tropical

Geographical features: the territory is a low-lying plateau sloping towards the Atlantic and covered with forest. The coastal zone is narrow and swampy. The lowest point remains unnamed and is located 2 meters below sea level in the coastal zone. The highest point is the Juliana Top to 1,230 meters above sea level.

GDP (current prices): USD 5.299 billion (2013)

GDP composition per sector: Agriculture: 8.9%;
Manufacturing: 32.8%; Services: 58.3% (2013)

HDI (2013): 0.705 (rank 100)*

Underfeeding: 8.0 % **

JOINED PETROCARIBE: 2005 (Founding member)

* <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

** (FAO-Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015)



A young woman with dark hair, wearing an orange short-sleeved shirt and a patterned skirt, is sitting on a wooden structure. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a large, cylindrical water tank supported by a metal frame, and a wooden ladder or structure. The setting appears to be outdoors, possibly in a rural or semi-rural area.

Republic of **Suriname**

Republic of **Suriname**

Suriname revenues mainly depend on the mining and export of bauxite and its processing into alumina and aluminum, representing 70% of exports.

Rice is a strategic category for exports. Guyana and Suriname are the largest producers in the Caribbean region.

The fishery products also represent an important category for the Surinamese economy. In 2012, the fisheries and agricultural sector amounted for 20% of exports. However, fishing industry exports were seriously affected by a decision of the European Economic Community in 2012 which set regulations on fish imports. With that, the need to establish alternatives came up, and one of them was the high-tech smoked fish, not just for exports but also for the local market.

In June 2013, at the 38th FAO Conference, Suriname was among the 18 countries acknowledged for having achieved, in advance, both the Millennium Development Goal number one (MDG-1) and the more demanding goal of the World Food Summit (WFS).

Suriname joined Petrocaribe the same year of the creation of the Agreement (2005), but only in February 2010 did it join the ALBA-TCP, making progress in the integration process.

There are two initiatives in the fight against hunger that Suriname has developed with financing from the Petrocaribe cooperation.



Fish Smokehouse Plants

The Alba Food Fund made its contributions to Suriname –which are managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries– for the construction of four high-tech fish smokehouse plants, in Commewijne, Nickerie, Houttuin and Boskamp (Dept. of Saramacca), with the purpose of exporting the product to the international market.

- » The construction of the Commewijne smokehouse plant has been already completed.
- » The Nickerie plant should be completed and should start operating.

Benefits

- » Reactivation of fish exports to the international market.
- » Support to fishermen through the construction and equipping of smokehouse plants that enable them to process fish in modern facilities and to market it at better prices.
- » Development of a new agro industrial activity associated with fishing, creating added value to traditional fishing.
- » Agro industrial job creation.




Rice-for-oil compensation

Complying with the purposes of the Agreement, Petrocaribe contributes both to the energy security of Suriname, as well as to its social and economic development.

Benefits

- » It favors small and medium producers.
- » It strengthens rice production by opening a new market.
- » It realizes regional integration.

A map of Latin America and the Caribbean region is shown, with a hand pointing at Venezuela. The map is partially obscured by a blue circular graphic on the left. The text is overlaid on the map. The map shows countries like Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. The text is in bold blue font.

I think it is absolutely vital to give the strictest compliance to two major social commitments (...) I speak of the Latin American and Caribbean Program for Literacy and the Latin American and Caribbean Program for eradicating hunger.

Hugo Chavez Frias

Fragment of the letter of President Hugo Chavez, sent to the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC (Santiago, Chile. January 2013)



**ACTION PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF
HUNGER AND POVERTY
COMMANDER
HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS**



Action Plan for the eradication of
HUNGER AND POVERTY
Comandante,
HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS

July 2013:
Memorandum of
Understanding signed
by Petrocaribe-Fao

**September 2013: XI
Petrocaribe Ministerial
Council (Haiti).
The countries declare
the will to work
in a Plan for the
Eradication of Hunger
and Poverty.**



**December 2013: II
Extraordinary Summit.
The decision is made to
go ahead in an Action
Plan presented by FAO.**



**April 2014: First Meeting
for the development of
the Action Plan that will
be called "Comandante
Hugo Chavez".**



**May 2014: FAO
Regional Conference:
a meeting is held
with Ministers of
Agriculture.**

The Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty “Commander Hugo Chavez Frias” represents an effort of regional integration and multi-lateral cooperation. Its application shows the political will and maturity of the countries to solve fundamental issues focused on the development of the peoples, allowing them to reach unprecedented levels of social justice. The Governments of the Petrocaribe Economic Zone (PEZ) reaffirm their political commitments in favour of the eradication of hunger and poverty. For that, they prioritize efforts in the development of new regional strategies, plans and projects, focused on Nutrition and Food Security and Sovereignty (SAN). In this part, we will review the proposals and background information that gave birth to the plan and we will know its fundamental principles and mechanisms.

The political statements, action plans and projects approved within the framework of the new regional integration instances, such as CELAC, UNASUR, MERCOSUR, ALBA and Petrocaribe show the high political commitment existing in the region. This commitment is particularly observed in the Caracas Action Plan (CELAC) and the Hugo Chavez Plan (Petrocaribe), through which political actions, specific actions and projects are expected to cause a direct impact on the eradication of hunger and poverty in the region. The Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty of the Member States of the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, sets its bases and guidelines in the Action Plan of Public Policies in Social Matters of CELAC –Caracas, July 2013 -, acknowledging the effort of the Ministers in the creation of a regional perspective for the subject. (See Annex 2)

The Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, particularly, represents an opportunity for the promotion of sustainable social development. Jointly with a series of policies focused on the eradication of hunger and poverty, it regulates the sale of the energy resource under special conditions, and transforms it into the main driver for development.

The Plan has the purpose of eradicating hunger and guaranteeing the human right to food. Through the development of initiatives that strengthen the SAN of the Petrocaribe states, the Plan focuses the creation, implementation, monitoring, assessment and systematization of regional and national projects that will be financed through a joint mechanism. This mechanism considers contributions from the resources of the long term bill, as well as the special contribution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, for the follow-up and technical assistance of FAO in the preparation, monitoring, assessment and systematization of it.

In June 2013, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro Moros travelled to Rome, to participate in the 38th Conference of FAO, where he confirmed his commitment to guarantee food security and sovereignty in his country, setting the bases for a cooperation agreement between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and FAO, focused on making progress in joint actions to allow eradicating hunger in the region.

This agenda was discussed in September 2013 in the 11th Petrocaribe Ministerial Council, held in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which, through a resolution, declares the will to work on a Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.

Such will took shape in the II Summit of the ALBA-TCP/ Petrocaribe, held in December 2013, in which the Heads of State and Government approved the Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone, a plan designed with technical support from FAO. Delegations of member states agreed specific actions. The established goal is to achieve “Zero Hunger” within a five-year period. The Plan allows directing resources to finance projects in the region during the established period, from the use of the financed portion of the oil bill, known in the Petrocaribe Agreement as the Long Term Bill (LTB). Likewise, the Summit decided to carry out a work meeting between Petrocaribe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to go ahead with the plan.



June 2014: XIII Ministerial Council: approval of projection plan for financial contributions.

September 2014: The FAO-VENEZUELA Cooperation Program (SANA) comes into force.



November 2014: The XIV Ministerial Council approves the work timetable.

December 2014: Approval of resources for FAO technical assistance through the FAO-Venezuela Cooperation Programme (SANA).



April 2015: Phase I of the information tour of the Technical Commission took place.

May 2015: Member states file the profiles of projects to be included in the Plan.

May 2015: II Petrocaribe Technical Meetings: sample of progresses and reminder of commitments assumed in the Plan.



June 2015: The Monitoring and Assessment Workshop for the Plan is carried out in Nicaragua.



June 2015: XVI Ministerial Council signs the Memorandum of Understanding among member states.



August 2015: Phase II of the Information Tour of the Technical Commission begins.

September 2015: The Technological Platform for the Monitoring, Follow-up and Assessment of the Plan starts functioning.

In April 2014, the First Petrocaribe-FAO meeting was held for the development of this Action Plan, which approved the methodology to create projects/initiatives, the methodology for monitoring, follow-up and assessment. This meeting unanimously decided to call the Plan “Commander Hugo Chavez Frias”. The resolution was based on the invaluable legacy of the Eternal Commander Hugo Chavez for the integral development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean under the principles of humanism, solidarity, complementarity, and with the purpose of guaranteeing to our peoples the highest possible level of happiness. In the meeting, the countries presented an initial prioritization of projects.

The XIII Petrocaribe Ministerial Council, held in June 2014, approved the financial mechanism that supports the plan, with the contribution of Venezuela for the Venezuela-FAO Triangular Cooperation Programme on Food and Nutritional Security and Sovereignty and the Reduction of Poverty; likewise, it established the contribution quotas of each country to the Plan, as shown as follows. It also proposed coordination in the national entity managing the resources, the project executors, and the Technical Commission (FAO, Petrocaribe Executive Secretariat and PDV Caribe) for the financial and technical follow-up of projects. Signatory countries will contribute a percentage of

Financial Mechanism

The resources from the financed bill to promote their social development according to what is established in the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement. Contributions are made taking into consideration the existing asymmetries.

GROUP A (0,3%)	GROUP B (0,6%)
Antigua & Barbuda	Dominican Republic
Dominica	Jamaica
Haiti	Nicaragua
Grenada	Guiana
St. Kitts & Nevis	Belize
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Suriname
St. Lucia	El Salvador
	Cuba



PETROCARIBE
A portion of the resources from the financed bill contributed by the countries for their own development.
Differential contributions



VENEZUELA – FAO
SANA REGIONAL PROGRAMME
Contribution from Venezuela to the countries in the process of creation, monitoring and assessment of the projects.



ACTION PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND POVERTY "COMMANDER HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS"

GUIDELINES OF THE "PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND HUNGER IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE PETROCARIBE ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT"

The Action Plan "Hugo Chavez" for Hunger Eradication and Poverty encourages ZEP and ALBA countries to formulate projects to strengthen family farming, enhance industrialization of agriculture and develop productive chains for the equitable distribution of food, encouraging the creation of comprehensive policies and plans for the eradication of hunger and poverty.

(i) The food and nutrition security and sovereignty of the Petrocaribe member countries;

- a) Support productive projects in agriculture, livestock and fishing within sustainable schemes, and responding to the agrifood needs of each country, from the analysis of territorial potentials and the environment of each community, with the goal of achieving food security and sovereignty in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone;
- b) Support rural and urban infrastructure projects that foster rural development and sustainable food production, ensuring the availability, access, exchange and equitable distribution of agricultural and fishery foods in the PEZ;

(ii) Agro industrialization, domestic supply, adoption of consensual policies designed to ensure the availability, access and equitable distribution of food in a stable manner and develop production chains with small farmers enabling the fair trade of their products in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone.

- a) Provide technical assistance, training and technology transfer in projects for the agro-industrialization of

products from family farming in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone.

- b) Support projects that facilitate access to safe and healthy food by vulnerable populations in the member countries of the PEZ;
- c) Promote and generate suitable structures for the development of production chains with small farmers, enabling the marketing of their products among the member countries of the PEZ;
- d) Promote studies on the behaviour of food markets, trade and complementarity opportunities in member countries of Petrocaribe Economic Zone;
- e) Develop an information platform on the supply (availability) and demand (use) of food between countries of the PEZ to have relevant and timely information for the planning of agricultural and food sectors.

(iii) Technical assistance to strategies for consensual regional public policies, plans and projects, based on the exchange of experiences at the level of food policies for the eradication of poverty, and especially extreme poverty;

- a) Technical assistance to strategies for consensual regional public policies, plans and projects, based on the exchange of experiences at the level of food policies for the eradication of poverty, and especially extreme poverty.
- b) Support projects that improve nutritional and health aspects of the population in the PEZ, offering opportunities for the exchange of experience between Member States in the implementation of social policies;
- c) Support projects which seek the creation or expansion of the countries' social protection systems, with special attention on strengthening Conditional Transfers and School Feeding policies, as initiatives for the eradication of poverty and hunger;
- d) Support projects that promote access to food, in accordance with national policies, with emphasis on School Feeding, as efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty

- e) Support projects aimed at increasing employment for the most vulnerable populations of the Petrocaribe member countries, especially in the Eastern Caribbean;
- f) Promote public policies that drive integrated and sustainable rural development and sustainable food production.
- g) Support for timely response in the case of socio-natural disasters that may affect food production (Latin American food supply programme in case of socio-natural disasters and regional early warning information system).

(iv) Technical assistance to national and regional projects for the eradication of poverty and hunger.

- a) Technical assistance to national and regional projects for the eradication of poverty and hunger, which must be approved in the framework of the instances of Petrocaribe.

(v) Strengthening family farming and small local producers, consolidating food identity, respecting the particularities and specificities of countries in the region, and the protection of natural resources, in order to eradicate poverty and hunger and ensure the human right to food.

- a) Support projects that promote increased production, driving forward schemes for productive coordination between member countries, prioritizing family farming schemes in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone;
- b) Support projects that generate risk management capabilities and technology transfer to ensure the increased production of family farming in the Petrocaribe Economic Zone;
- c) Support projects aimed at strengthening family farming in relation to: building credit lines and solidarity agricultural insurance, strengthening and consolidating the system of comprehensive rural support, and promotion of agro-industrialization;
- d) Support projects that promote the building or strengthening of national and regional networks of

solidarity trade and marketing ("short routes"), as well as public procurement systems to prioritize family farming.

(vi) Systematization and reporting on cooperation in the framework of the Action Plan for the Eradication of Poverty and Hunger in the Countries of the PEZ.

- a) Support the data collection, systematization and reporting on cooperation in the framework of the Action Plan for the Eradication of Poverty and Hunger in the Countries of the PEZ.

PLAN MANAGEMENT

For the implementation of the Plan, following actors and responsibilities are established:

Petrocaribe Executive Secretariat:

- » To ensure the implementation and follow up the Plan;
- » Coordinate and monitor activities under the Plan;
- » To accompany the technical assistance to the countries of the PEZ, in the process of adjusting the design, implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan.
- » Mechanisms to ensure the continued involvement of the countries and designated focal points to promote the Plan.
- » Coordinate communication strategy with countries to operationalize the actions foreseen in the Hugo Chavez Plan.
- » Manage, with PDV Caribe and FAO, the monitoring and evaluation system to inform countries about the progress of the Hugo Chavez Plan manner.

PDV Caribe:

- » Attending and negotiate with countries the mechanism by which projects will be financed;
- » Accompanying the formulation of projects, evaluating their financial feasibility and contribution to social development according to the provisions of Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.
- » Review and evaluate cooperation based on the executed by countries in the field of social projects, especially those aimed at the eradication of hunger and poverty;
- » Managing the monitoring and evaluation of the projects developed by the countries, consolidating a strategy of effective systematization.

FAO:

- » Provide technical assistance to countries in the formulation of projects under the Hugo Chavez Plan, considering its technical feasibility and alignment with

the guidelines of the CELAC and the Plan itself, also considering its incorporation into national strategies for SAN ;

- » Accompanying the implementation process of the projects to the country level, contributing in an effective monitoring and evaluation process;
- » Generate tools to monitor and evaluate the projects according to the requirements of the Executive Secretariat of Petrocaribe, PDV Caribe and the participating countries, to contribute to the provisions of the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.
- » Systematize, considering the agreed criteria, experiences and good practices in implementing of the Hugo Chavez Plan under the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSAL INVOLVES:

- » Common strategies aimed to eradicating hunger and poverty, as part of multilateral mechanisms of integration and cooperation from the Petrocaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement.
- » Standardized mechanisms and comparable indicators to the diagnostic of the SAN status in the countries.
- » Common formats for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of submitted and approved projects.
- » Joining a project management system with technical support and expertise of FAO.
- » Transfer of technical and methodological knowledge to institutional bodies SAN responsible of each country.
- » Fair trade in the goods and services obtained from productive projects funded under the Plan.

POLITICAL GUIDELINES AND GENERAL STRATEGIES FOR THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER. REGIONAL LOOK - COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)

Goal 1 - To strengthen nutrition and food security in the region, along four pillars: availability, access, use and stability, on a two-way basis:

i) Food security strategies coordinated through the creation and direction of national and regional public policies to face the challenges to food security, focused on gender and including the human rights approach, particularly the Human Right to Food;

Specific Actions for implementation:

» To agree the regional priorities regarding food needs through the survey of protocols in the food distribution and delivery chain, to implement guidelines that allow eradicating hunger.

» To promote the exchange of successful experiences and legal frameworks, that allow complementarity and solidarity in the exchange of food among CELAC member states.

» To promote public policies promoting rural development and sustainable food production, focused on farmer family agriculture;

» To promote regional policies encouraging breastfeeding, as first act of food security.

ii) Timely and sustainable access to safe, appropriate sufficient and nutritional foods for all persons, particularly those most vulnerable, with cultural pertinence, to promote development and full command of mental and physical abilities;

Specific Actions for implementation:

» To foment, as applicable, government purchases of foods produced in family agriculture to meet the demand of food programs at schools, attention centers for particularly vulnerable populations, among others.

» To guarantee, through common public policies, access to drinking water as a right, for human consumption, agriculture and agroecological uses, as to guarantee food security, land sustainability and preservation of biodiversity.

iii) Strengthening of the development of “Family Agriculture”, creating capacities for risk management and the adoption of improved technologies that allow increasing stockbreeding and agricultural production of food in the whole region. Nutritional wellbeing and securing of nutrients, respecting the diversity of food habits, for all groups in vulnerable situation;

Specific Actions for implementation:

» To create a regional school feeding program that considers the inclusion of nutritional supplements in schools and regular controls to nutrition levels.

» To build national and regional frames of reference on nutrition and food education, as well as the support networks to implement them.

» To promote food protection programs and networks for groups in vulnerable situations as spaces for the distribution of raw or prepared foods, targeted towards population in extreme poverty and social vulnerability situations, with support from organizations and communities.

iv) Stable production and timely attention upon social-natural disasters that might affect food availability.

Specific Actions for implementation:

» o To create, study and implement a Latin American and Caribbean Program for food supply upon social-natural disasters, based on the experiences and existing capacities in the region, to include protection

to small producers, with special emphasis on the specific vulnerability of small island countries.

» To implement risk prevention and management programs, and disaster management programs, that might affect food availability.

» To set up a regional information system that supplements the current sub-regional early warning systems in case of social-natural disasters that can affect food availability.

Goal 2 - Universalization of Health:

i) To promote universal access to health, with a gender approach, in the areas of attention, promotion, prevention and education in sexual and reproductive health, as well as healthy life habits focused on the prevention of non-transmissible chronic illnesses and malnutrition, fully respecting the diversity existing in America Latina and the Caribbean;

ii) To strengthen the regional capacity of sanitary control and epidemiological surveillance to face public health events, within the framework of the International Health Regulations, of regional and international relevance, creating the suitable and favourable conditions to guarantee access to medications, vaccines, diagnostic methods and supplies.

Goal 3 - Universalization of Education:

i) To encourage the performance of cooperation policies and programs in educational matters to achieve the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean from the process of universalization of education.

ANNEX 1 PETROCARIBE PROJECTS AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY 2005-2015

	PAIS	PROJECTS
1	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Support for the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre in its program to promote the industry of agricultural produce processing
2	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Subsidy Program for the Elderly People
3	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	PBP People's Benefit Programme
4	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Subsidy on liquefied petroleum cooking gas (LPG) to Barbuda
5	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Relief supplies after Hurricane Omar (includes delivery of portable stoves)
6	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Rehabilitation of the Crabbes desalination plants
7	BELIZE	Increased food production for self-sufficiency and export
8	BELIZE	Expansion of the rural water system
9	BELIZE	Street paving and construction of drainage systems
10	BELIZE	Health Reform Program
11	BELIZE	Public banking
12	DOMINICA	Poultry, pork, and fishing project
13	DOMINICA	Program for the development of the Kalinago Carib Territory
14	DOMINICA	Housing revolution
15	DOMINICA	Waitukubuli Plant for Fuel Storage and Distribution, and LPG filling
16	EL SALVADOR	Alba Foods of El Salvador " Socio-productive Company "
17	EL SALVADOR	Support for the Family Agriculture Plan (FAP)
18	EL SALVADOR	Repair, renovation and rehabilitation of infrastructure of over 115 schools
19	EL SALVADOR	Operation Miracle
20	GRENADA	Support for Work on Farms
21	GRENADA	Support for the agricultural sector
22	GRENADA	Nutrition Program / Food Basket Program for low-income people
23	GRENADA	Roving Caregivers Programme (RCP) Care for children up to 3 years of age in extreme poverty
24	GRENADA	School scholarship program
25	GRENADA	Multiple projects for the elderly / Multiple projects for the disabled
26	GRENADA	Support program for education, employment and development / Training and employment program for Grenada
27	GRENADA	Special projects
28	GRENADA	School Feeding Program (SFP)
29	GRENADA	Sustainable Livelihood Project
30	GRENADA	Programme for small economies
31	GRENADA	Promotion of rice growing through the compensation mechanism
32	GUYANA	Quota of fertilizers (prilled urea) for rice growing
33	GUYANA	Improvement of the cold chain for dairy and non-traditional sectors
34	GUYANA	Support for agricultural mechanization
35	HAITI	Integral development of L'île - A - Vache . Support for agricultural and fishery recovery.
36	HAITI	Bet Distribisyon Pou Elv Aj: Distribution of livestock for raising
37	HAITI	Support for the farmers. Distribution of seeds and fertilizers (urea) at prices subsidized Nationwide

ANNEX 1 PETROCARIBE PROJECTS AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY 2005-2015 (CONTINUED)

	PAIS	PROJECTS
38	HAITI	Intensification of rice production in the Artibonite Valley
39	HAITI	Intensification of rice production in the Artibonite Valley. Second Phase
40	HAITI	Kore Peyisan (delivery of seeds, tools, and small livestock)
41	HAITI	Kredi Fanm Lakay (Credit for women farmers)
42	HAITI	Regauging and drainage of the Chenal Salee Floodway south 4 kms (Artibonite Department)
43	HAITI	Rehabilitation of drainage infrastructure in Rouyonne / Leogane (West Department)
44	HAITI	Rehabilitation of the irrigation system in Latannerie (Phase I) Technical Study
45	HAITI	Rehabilitation of the irrigation system of the Cul de Sac plain (West Department)
46	HAITI	Rehabilitation of the irrigation system of Latannerie. Technical Study (North department)
47	HAITI	Panye Solidarite (Delivery of food to people in extreme poverty)
48	HAITI	Kantin Mobil (Delivery of hot meals to people in extreme poverty and emergency situations)
49	HAITI	You Granmoun Kore (Bonus for senior citizens)
50	HAITI	Cantine scolaire (Free school meals)
51	HAITI	Kore Etidyan. (Monthly contribution to afford the expenses of university education).
52	HAITI	Restoran Kominotè (Solidarity restaurants)
53	HAITI	Kore Moun Andikape (Monthly contribution for people with limited mobility)
54	HAITI	Rest Pep (Hot meals sold at subsidized prices)
55	HAITI	Ti Manman Cheri (Monthly contribution for mothers with children in school age)
56	HAITI	Bon Djan Solidarité (Economic aid to families affected by disasters)
57	HAITI	Watershed protection in the West department (drain control) Petit Gouve, Rouyonne etc / rehabilitation of drainage infrastructure Rouyonne / Leogane
58	HAITI	Programme De scolarisation Universelle Et Gratuite Obligatoire (PSUGO) Universal Free, Compulsory Schooling Program
59	HAITI	Literacy program
60	HAITI	Acquisition of agricultural supplies and tools, fertilizers and seeds
61	JAMAICA	Replacing latrines in schools for modern sanitary facilities
62	JAMAICA	Jamaica 50 Merit Scholarship Program
63	JAMAICA	Grain storage and marketing
64	NICARAGUA	Promotion of agricultural and Crissol production
65	NICARAGUA	Fertilizer for the people - Urea
66	NICARAGUA	Womb Retention
67	NICARAGUA	Promotion of livestock production
68	NICARAGUA	“Zero Hunger” Program (Women)
69	NICARAGUA	Food for the People
70	NICARAGUA	Rehabilitation and conditioning of Silos, Warehouses and equipment ENABAS
71	NICARAGUA	Commercial rice production
72	NICARAGUA	Promotion of Mipyme
73	NICARAGUA	Managua aqueduct improvement and construction of rural wells
74	NICARAGUA	Agroindustrial infrastructure and rehabilitation
75	NICARAGUA	Zero Usury program

ANNEX 1 PETROCARIBE PROJECTS AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY 2005-2015 (CONTINUED)

	PAIS	PROJECTS
76	NICARAGUA	Christian, socialist and solidary bonus
77	NICARAGUA	Costa Caribe differentiated subsidy project
78	NICARAGUA	Humanitarian assistance to those affected by socio natural phenomena Phases I and II (Hurricane Felix)
79	NICARAGUA	Dredging of Rio San Juan / San Juan River Dredging
80	NICARAGUA	In the name of God (loans to small businesses affected by the Managua market fire)
81	NICARAGUA	Modernization of urban transport (collective and selective)
82	NICARAGUA	A Better Home
83	NICARAGUA	Houses for the people
84	NICARAGUA	Cylinders and stoves for the people
85	NICARAGUA	Reconstruction of Child Development Centers (CDI)
86	NICARAGUA	Streets for The People (streets, roads and paths)
87	NICARAGUA	Housing Construction for war widows Hugo Chavez Community
88	NICARAGUA	Transitability of the Atlantic Coast road next rainy season
89	NICARAGUA	Health (Infrastructure, medications, surgery, scholarships for medical specialization) /
90		Equipment for health centers and mobile service units
	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Agrobusiness promotion for the compensation mechanism
91	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	PROSOLI "Progressing with Solidarity" Program
92	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Access to agricultural supplies
93	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Supporting the works of preparation of farming land
94	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Aid for farmers to defend their crops against damages by stray animals
95	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Help for small cattle breeders
96	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Delivery of fishing supplies for fishermen
97	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Support of technical assistance in exploitation in rural areas
98	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Support for training of farmers and fishermen
99	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	School feeding program
100	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Construction, expansion and repair of housing
101	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	Cancellation of the deficit in the compensation package to former sugar workers
102	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	FARMERS SUPPORT COMPANY LTD. (FSC)
103	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Community roads for agricultural farms in Lauders.
104	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Development of projects for Irrigation Systems
105	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Strengthening of systems for the storage, processing and handling of fishery products
106	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Provision of rural products / Supply of potable water for poor households
107	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	"Hugo Chavez" Fuel Storage and Distribution Plant
108	SURINAME	Smoked fish plants
109	SURINAME	Rice growing promotion through the compensation mechanism

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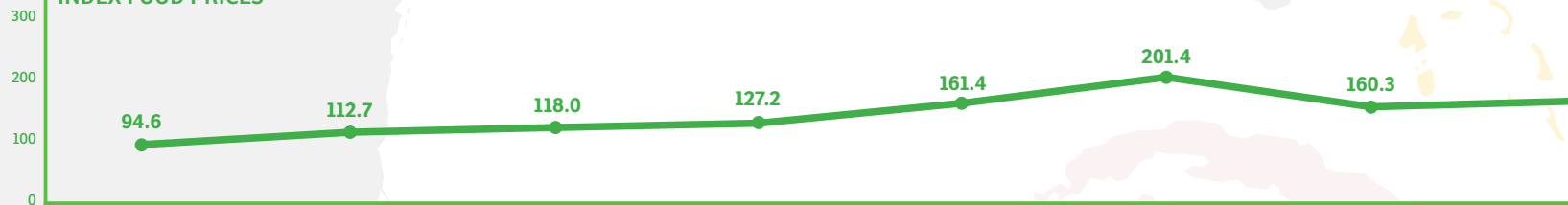
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Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe 2015: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4636s.pdf>

Plataforma CELAC: <http://plataformacelac.org/>

Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe
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INDEX FOOD PRICES



NATURAL DISASTERS

SEP - Hurricane Ivan hits the island of Grenada. 50% of the population was left homeless.

OCT - Nicaragua was affected by Hurricane Beta /// OCT - El Salvador was affected by Tropical Storm Stan and the eruption of the Illamatepec volcano /// OCT - Guatemala was severely hit by Tropical Storm Stan. /// DEC - Guiana experienced floods in the coastal region of Georgetown and Albion

AUG-SEP - Haiti was hit by 3 hurricanes (Gustav, Hanna & Ike) and Tropical Storm Fay, resulting in 793 deaths, 310 missing persons, and 135,377 homeless families.

SEP - Nicaragua was hit by Hurricane Felix, with 200,000 persons affected.

RELEVANT MEASURES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY

President Hugo Chávez presents the idea of ALBA as an integration proposal.

The founding protocols were signed establishing the integration and union of Latin America and the Caribbean on the base of the cooperation, the mutual respect and the solidarity.

PDV Caribe is created to take care of the operational aspects, and signatory countries are encouraged to create mixed-ownership companies.

The Alba Caribe Fund and the LTB are created as funding mechanisms.

Instruments of solidary and complementary exchange between the countries.

The Council of Ministers of Agriculture is created as the top permanent entity of Petrocaribe for food production.

The Agreement for the Implementation of Cooperation Programs in matters of Food Security and Sovereignty is signed.

The fundamental principles are defined to rule the Trade Treaty of the Peoples (TCP) of ALBA. It will be based on the principles of complementarity, solidarity and cooperation.

Signature of the Agreement on Food Security and Sovereignty of the Petrocaribe and ALBA countries. ALBA FOODS.

PETROCARIBE BENCHMARKS

DEC 11,12 - VENEZUELA III Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Association of Caribbean States

DEC 14 - VENEZUELA and Cuba sign the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

JUN 29 - VENEZUELA -The Petrocaribe Energy Agreement is signed.

APR 04 - EL SALVADOR The mixed-ownership company Alba Petroleos El Salvador is created.

29 APR - CUBA Upon joining ALBA, Bolivia proposes the Trade Agreement of the Peoples.

JUL 13 - NICARAGUA The mixed-ownership energy company Alba Nicaragua (ALBANISA) is created.

APR 23 - VENEZUELA I Extraordinary ALBA-TCP Summit.

JUL 13 - VENEZUELA V Summit of Heads of State and Government.

30 JUL - HONDURAS I Meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers. At the end of 2008, the company Alba Alimentos de Nicaragua (ALBALINISA) was created.

FEB 02 - VENEZUELA IV Extraordinary ALBA-Petrocaribe Summit

OCT 17 - BOLIVIA VII ALBA Summit.

2001

2004

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

TIMELINE OF 10 YEARS OF STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNGER IN PETROCARIBE

188.0

229.9

213.3

209.8

201.8

198.8

JAN – Haiti earthquake. Close to 1.5 million persons affected (15% of the national population). /// OCT – A cholera epidemic in Haiti results in 8,000 deaths.

AUG – Tropical Storm Isaac cause 19 deaths and the destruction of 2,350 homes in Haiti, which in October is affected by Hurricane Sandy.

DEC – Heavy floods in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The agreement was reached to emphasize the importance of the right of Caribbean countries to receive a fair and differential treatment, taking into account the small scale of their economies, the specific vulnerabilities, features, their productive and exporting base, the effects of climate change and, particularly, the hurricanes that usually affect them.

The extension of the Alba Caribbean Fund is supported.

Progresses in social and cultural matters in PEZ, particularly in regards to the creation of a University Common Area and the implementation of the "Hugo Chavez" Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, were celebrated.

The program is set to last 5 years, with technical support from FAO, and each country will contribute part of the funding for the Plan, according to its size and possibilities. The unanimous decision was to name the plan "Hugo Chavez".

03 APRIL – VENEZUELA I Petrocaribe –FAO Meeting - Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.

DEC 14 - CUBA XIII ALBA-TCP Summit.

MAR 06 - Extraordinary Summit of Petrocaribe Heads of State and Government.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Petrocaribe Executive Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for cooperation in matters of the struggle against hunger within the scope of Petrocaribe.

The Executive Secretariat of Petrocaribe, with support from FAO, is commissioned to provide technical assistance and support to PEZ and ALBA countries, in the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, according to the reality and needs of each country.

The president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, expressed the need to make progress in a program for the eradication of hunger in the Petrocaribe area.

JUN 23 - NICARAGUA VIII Petrocaribe Summit.

DEC 17 - VENEZUELA II Extraordinary ALBA-TCP / Petrocaribe Summit.

JUN 30 - NICARAGUA VIII Petrocaribe Summit.

JUL 23 - VENEZUELA Memorandum of Understanding between Petrocaribe and FAO is signed.

The compensation manual of the energy bill, as well as a prilled urea supply mechanism for signatory countries, proposed by Venezuela, are approved.

President Hugo Chávez announced the exemption of the debt of Haiti with Petrocaribe.

JAN 25 -VENEZUELA Meeting of ALBA ministers of Foreign Affairs

NOV 24,25 - NICARAGUA VII Petrocaribe Ministerial Council

FEB 16 -The company Alba Alimentos EL Salvador is created.

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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