

## Salvador Valdés Mesa checks agri-food production in Holguín province

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The vice-president of the Republic of Cuba, Salvador Valdés Mesa, checks this September 24 in Holguín the development of the agricultural production aimed at achieving food sovereignty and self-sufficiency of each municipality of this province.

Ernesto Santiesteban Velázquez, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in the province, the governor Julio César Estupiñán Rodríguez, the mayors of each municipality, directors of the Ministry of Agriculture and representatives of the Business Group of Commerce and other organizations and institutions are also participating in this meeting.

The analysis of the indicators related to the modifications in the work strategies in agriculture, marked the initial assessments, which include the implementation of the 63 measures in the sector and the task of economic organization, applied in Cuba as from January 1, 2021.

The results of the spring campaign and the projections for the cold season, which will run from this September to next February, were also evaluated.

In this regard, Vladimir Ricardo Estrada, provincial delegate of that

branch, explains the state of planting in the current cold season, a stage in which some 29,246 hectares should be reached, of which 1,815 have been achieved so far in September, an aspect that shows a delay in the plan.

It was reported that the province has not been able to comply with the planting plan, mainly due to the persistent drought and the low fuel supply.

Valdés Mesa emphasized the need to increase the production of animal proteins to guarantee the five kilograms foreseen in the offers to the population.

In this meeting, the agricultural results of the province and its municipalities are highlighted, with their ups and downs.

Valdés Mesa, who emphasized the importance of continually updating the sowing plans, was interested in territorial self-sufficiency.

Likewise, the increase of the livestock mass as part of the food plan, which must be observed in order to grow in animal protein, in addition to vegetables.

The Vice President emphasized the need to generate productions which, in addition to continuing with the supply of agricultural products to the population, would attract foreign currency to support this productive sector and the country's economy, especially in view of the intensification of the blockade.

Valdés Mesa recalls the tense situation with fuel, which affects agricultural production, but the strategy is to plant more areas and never decrease in the delivery of per capita pounds, and to prioritize foodstuffs as an important item; among them, plantain and cassava.

This root acquires greater importance not only for its direct consumption, but also for its impact on other productions of the food industry.

It is recognized that Holguin, Antilla and Moa will need shipments from municipalities such as Cueto and Calixto Garcia, which should become high producers given their economy linked to the land.

Representatives from Cueto and Calixto Garcia municipality are given the floor to give their report.

Following Cueto's report, Valdés Mesa indicated that there should be a greater linkage with the university and other experts to jointly seek

solutions to problems such as soil exploitation in the face of climate change.

Likewise, a greater use of animal traction to plough the land, the contribution of mini-industries and the supply to industry, population and tourism.

The representative of Cueto explains her system for checking the work of producers.

In this regard, Valdés Mesa comments that she cannot explain how an agricultural municipality such as Cueto is not offering the 30 pounds per capita, and making greater contributions to the market and the industry.

He also refers to the increase in the livestock mass as part of the food plan, which must be observed in order to grow in animal protein, in addition to vegetables.

For his part, the mayor of the municipality of Calixto García reports on achievements and failures of this municipality in western Holguín.

In this meeting, which is also attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Ydael Izquierdo Brito, and other senior leaders, Valdés Mesa stressed the importance of continuously updating the planting plans, while he was interested in the territorial self-sufficiency plan.

Valdés Mesa recalled the tense situation with fuel, which affects agricultural production, but the strategy is to plant more areas and never decrease in the delivery of per capita pounds, and to prioritize food as an important item; among them, plantain and yucca.

This root becomes more important not only for its direct consumption, but also for its impact on other food industry productions. The representative of Cueto explains her system for checking the work of the producers.

In this regard, Valdés Mesa commented that it is hard to explain why an agricultural municipality such as Cueto is not offering the 30 pounds per capita.

This meeting continues with explanations about Cueto's agricultural results. Valdés Mesa indicated that there should be a greater link with the university and other experts to jointly seek solutions to problems such as soil exploitation in the face of climate change.

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The mayor of Calixto García reports on the achievements and failures of this municipality in Holguín.

Valdés Mesa also highlighted the need to make greater use of animal traction to plough the land and other agricultural activities,

Also the contribution of mini-industries and the supply of milk and meat to the industry, and stressed the importance of shipments for the population and tourism, the latter branch where you can export within the border.

For this reason, the Vice President of the Republic of Cuba stressed the need to generate productions that, in addition to continuing with the supply of agricultural products to the population, would attract foreign currency to support this productive sector and the country's economy, especially with the tightening of the U.S. blockade against our country.