

Recent official statements propose family self-sufficiency as a way to alleviate the crisis.

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During the first ordinary session of the tenth legislature of the National Assembly of People's Power (ANPP), which took place at the end of last July, Jorge Luis Tapia Fonseca, Deputy Prime Minister of Cuba, publicly [stated](#) that one of the solutions to the existing hunger in Cuba is local and family aquaculture. A fact that, according to him, had already been successfully implemented during the Special Period.

The Deputy Prime Minister's intervention comes after, a month ago, Midalys Naranjo, Deputy Minister of Food Industry, acknowledged that, despite Cuba being an island, its waters do not cover the volume of fish demanded by the population. Previously, at the end of 2022, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, in a televised intervention of the ANPP, alleged that, although there is a Fishing Law in the Island, there is no fish.

According to data from the national state press, in 2022 only 438 grams of animal protein arrived out of the 5 kilograms per capita per month that should be. This figure, so far in 2023, has dropped to 347 grams per capita. This decrease, according to Tapia, is due, among other factors, to "the lack of speed in the construction of livestock modules, the provision of basic mass of the different species and the production of animal feed".

Tapia Fonseca also called for a census of palms by municipality to determine how many tons of palmiche could be obtained and the possible creation of brigades to collect it, although he did not specify the use to which it would be put. He added that the popular planting of rice in backyards and plots should be resumed.

However, the experience gained during the Special Period showed that this type of self-sufficiency that the Government is demanding from the people is impossible to achieve, especially in densely populated and urban areas, where not only do the hygienic-sanitary conditions for it not exist, but neither does the necessary infrastructure. In addition, in the case of local and family fish farming for consumption, the lack of water in many areas of the country, the absence of feed for aquaculture and the lack of technical information to carry it out.

From Food Monitor Program we denounce the government's disinterest in solving the problem of hunger in Cuba by leaving the solutions in the hands of the population, while there are growing investments in the hotel industry and the food industry is tacitly forgotten. Statements of this type, which place the responsibility on the vulnerable sector and lack of resources in the face of a disinterested State, are another example of the fallacy of a Food Security Law without a realistic approach to the conditions suffered by Cubans.

We also warned about the possible basic diseases associated with a deficient and unbalanced diet. Cubans still suffer the after-effects of the epidemic of neuropathies due to malnutrition during the years of the Special Period. We also warned about plagues and diseases caused by the lack of hygienic-sanitary conditions necessary for aquaculture, such as dengue fever, among others.

On the other hand, we demand that the Cuban authorities be transparent about the use of donations received from various international organizations for the development of agriculture and the food industry on the island.