

Trinidad and Tobago to Strengthen Agricultural Ties With Cuba

23/03/2018



Ambassador to Cuba Lancelot Cowie spoke to Prensa Latina about the increasing relations between the both Caribbean nations.

Trinidad and Tobago and **Cuba** are set to deepen ties and engage in knowledge sharing in the area of **food production** and **sustainable agriculture**. The news comes from Trinidad and Tobago's Ambassador to Cuba, **Lancelot Cowie**, who said that they are interested in strengthening food industry relations with their Caribbean counterpart, a "very experienced country on the matter."

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Cowie commented on the development while praising Cuba's achievements in urban and suburban agriculture at the 21st International Food and Agriculture Fair (Fiagrop 2018) in **Havana, Cuba**. Cowie pointed to Cuba's advancement in the use of natural fertilizers and other organic products as an area of particular interest.

In the past, Cuba has sent experts in vegetable production and other agricultural

branches to Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean countries, and Cowie told Prensa Latina that the two-island nation hopes to expand that partnership to cacao production.

An entrepreneurs delegation from Trinidad and Tobago visited Cuba in 2017 to promote **bi-lateral partnerships** in a number of areas including paint production and other petrochemical areas.

Cowie thinks that the new flight routes between both countries will also contribute to greater trade, as well as cultural exchange and tourism.

Fiagrop is a Cuban annual fair that intends to promote foreign investment in Cuban fields, business ideas, livestock and agricultural farming, and rodeo as a sport for ranchers.

The fair is taking place from March 17 to 25 in the **Rancho Boyeros Fair Venue** at Havana.

This year the Fiagrop has **226 exhibits**, including exhibitors from Spain, Germany, Mexico, Panama, Netherlands, Brazil, Argentine, Slovakia, Colombia, Uruguay, Guatemala, Costa Rica, the United States of America, Ghana, Antigua and Barbuda, Nigeria and New Zealand, besides exhibitors from all Cuban provinces.

The participation amounts to a **131 percent** growth since 2017's edition according to Aroche Rodriguez, director of the fair.

The fair is hosting conferences on cattle breeding, feeding and the production of organic products.

Besides agricultural projects and businesses, the fair also includes the **National Rodeo Championship**, with participants from the Villa Clara, Ciego de Avila and Santi Spiritus provinces, followed by an international rodeo competition with participants from Colombia, the U.S., Costa Rica and Cuba.

The closing ceremony on **March 25** will feature a showcase from the rodeo champions.
