Vietnam receives 2,000 hectares in Artemisa for soybean and vegetable cultivation



The agreement provides for the management of fallow land in Alquízar, San Antonio de los Baños, and San Cristóbal (source: <u>ElArtemiseño</u>).

Cuba and Vietnam are expanding their agricultural cooperation. According to local media reports, the Cuban province of Artemisa has signed a far-reaching agreement with the Vietnamese company Viet Royal to cultivate 2,000 hectares of fallow land.

The memorandum between the state-owned *Grupo Empresarial Agroforestal de Artemisa* (GEAF) and the *Empresa de Alimentos Internacionales Viet Royal* was <u>signed</u> last Friday by Nguyen Khac Hoang, general director of the Vietnamese company, and Miguel Sánchez García, president of the Cuban group.

The project comprises several development phases and focuses on three municipalities: Alquízar, San Antonio de los Baños, and San Cristóbal. The selected crops are soybeans, green beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, malanga, and potatoes, which will be combined with cashew trees.

Division of tasks between the partners

Under the agreements, GEAF will provide land, factories, warehouses, fuel for machinery, and agricultural labor, as well as managing the operational processes. Viet Royal will be responsible for supplying machinery, basic equipment such as seeds and fertilizers, technical personnel, and the necessary working capital for the project's implementation.

The end products will be marketed jointly by both partners. Soybeans and peanuts are intended for vegetable oil production, which will be used both for domestic consumption and

for the manufacture of animal feed. Green beans and cashew nuts, on the other hand, are aimed at international markets.

Nguyen Khac Hoang stated after preliminary studies that the selected areas meet several important requirements, including soil vitality, climate, and "excellent human quality." Sánchez García reaffirmed his desire for the cooperation to become a "prosperous business" for both nations and assured his willingness to adhere to the project's implementation deadlines.

Vietnam expands cooperation with Cuba

The agreement builds on existing trade relations between Artemisa and the Vietnamese province of Binh Duong. Nguyen Khac Hoang suggested the possibility of establishing links with other areas of his country in order to develop other important sectors such as livestock farming.

Vietnam has already leased land for rice cultivation in the province of Pinar del Río, and according to both sides, the results so far have been very satisfactory (<u>Cubaheute reported</u>). Since the project began at the start of the year, yields per hectare have <u>quadrupled</u> to 6.75 tons. The current 1,000 hectares in Pinar del Río can be expanded to 5,000 hectares in the coming years.

Parallel to its business activities, Vietnam carried out a solidarity campaign called "65 Years of Solidarity between Vietnam and Cuba," which, according to <u>Vietnamese media reports</u>, raised \$12.1 million—almost 400 percent more than the original goal of \$2.6 million. (Cubaheute)