

## Tapia Fonseca affirmed that potatoes will be grown again in Isla de la Juventud

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The cold planting campaign (from September to February) includes the reintroduction of potato cultivation, said the Cuban Deputy Prime Minister, Jorge Luis Tapia Fonseca, today on Isla de la Juventud, during the review of the food production program.

The also member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba specified that in the special municipality three quadrants of solanaceous will be planted, for which it is necessary to resort to experienced producers and technicians, as well as to select the best soils, in order to achieve high yields.

In order to guarantee this purpose, 20 hectares of imported seed of the renowned queen of viands will be sown, with the security of a technological package and tools, including a fertilizer furrower, a sprinkler machine and a harvester, he reported.

Frank Castañeda Santalla, president of the Higher Organization of Agricultural Business Management (OSDE).

The agronomist Francisco Hernández Rodríguez, an experienced producer, previously told the ACN that at the beginning of 1993 or 1994, 1,728 quintals of that food were collected in the special municipality, a record figure due to the poor quality of the soils. of this territory. Currently this usufructuary farmer produces quality Creole seed with his own resources, which grow in germinators from which he will then take advantage of the tuber-seed, the juvenile and lateral cuttings- in order to achieve the accelerated growth of the crop- and flower, whose fruits contain the plant seeds.

Regarding the cold season -extended from September to February-,

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~~Castañeda Santalla emphasized the urge to shorten the delay in~~  
watering the seedbeds, due to Hurricane Ida, category one on the Saffir-Simpson scale, which crossed the municipality special last August 27.

It was known that for the period, when 60 to 70 percent of the productive volumes of the coming year are assured, 21 electrified irrigation machines will be incorporated, including the two affected by the passage of the hydrometeorological event, as well as the citrus growing houses and fruit trees, of which only two will remain to ensure the development of sour.

The president of the OSDE Agrícola pointed out that the decision is due to the presence of the Huanglongbing disease, caused by the Diaphorina citri insect, therefore, the current plantations will be demolished and instead they will sow guava interspersed with pineapple, the rest of the houses will be will be used to promote other fruit trees, vegetables and greens.

In order to ensure that the second Cuban island gets self-sufficient in rice, the locals will have to produce four thousand tons of that food, a program conceived in its industrial processing of drying and milling, but the agricultural area requires water security, an investment that is too long for the integral construction company, said Tapia Fonseca.

The deputy prime minister evaluated the results and management of the urban farm in the second Cuban island as deficient, acknowledged that there are advances in the realization of the livestock modules and appreciated as a handicap to development the ignorance of the producers of the 63 measures to enhance production of food in Cuba.



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