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Plan proposed for Prosperity and National Health Plan Through Organics and Agricultural Biofuels

A non-profit think tank perceives a tremendous opportunity for Uruguay to achieve a renewed state of prosperity and a national health program through a nationwide campaign to produce biofuels and organically grown foods.

/24-7PressRelease/ - November 11, 2006 - The following proposal is offered with great respect to the people of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. It has been previously provided to the honorable ministers, senators and representatives.

Opportunity

As an agricultural nation, Uruguay has an extraordinary, and timely opportunity to profit from the rising global biofuel and organics market. Organics sales worldwide are skyrocketing; a fact which has created a drive toward organic farming across Latin America. Sales in the U.S. alone have more than doubled in the last five years while some products are close to doubling sales annually. In Europe, the ban against genetically modified foods has increased the high demand for organics, which could be supplied by Uruguayan farmers.

At the same time, the United States and Europe have placed a priority on finding new sources for non-petroleum fuels and are looking to South America for biofuels. Ford, Chrysler and G.M. are now expanding to diesel and flex-fuel vehicles anticipating the biofuel evolution.

We have reached that rare moment in time when small nations and family farmers can jump into the energy business as it transitions from petroleum to biofuels.

Benefits

Supplying the demand for biofuels and organic produce will expand jobs in agriculture and energy, and in turn:

- increase national energy availability
- reduce expenditures for imported fuel and fertilizers
- rejuvenate rural communities
- reduce carcinogenic toxins in food via organics
- lessen the toxic run off entering waterways
- regenerate soils threatened by desertification
- attract eco-tourism
- reduce global warming (caused by petro-fertilizers and fuels)

An increased flow of agricultural products from farms to ports would rejuvenate railways and encourage biofuel-based transportation systems resulting in:

- improved air quality
- energy self-sufficiency
- non-polluting, freight and passenger transportation

Increased employment and a renewed optimism among Uruguay's youth will reduce poverty-related despair leading to drug abuse such as the use of Pasta Base.

Development Choices

The production of biofuels is a road to energy and economic independence if certain criteria are met:

- Small farmers are major participants and share in the economic opportunity.
- Production is free of oppressive and future-compromising, political and financial obligations. (Most high quality biodiesel fuels can be created inexpensively, with small portable biofuel plants. Ethanol however is more effective in larger facilities, such as the current project planned in Artigas, Uruguay.)
- Standard infrastructure is handled by ANCAP
- A significant portion of profits would be dedicated to improving basic societal and health care services.

National Health Care Program

This plan would provide:

- health care for all Uruguayans
- well-equipped, modern facilities and improved medical salaries
- an effective rehabilitation program, including job training for drug abusers
- public health education programs

Conclusion

Agro-energy and organics are viable paths to prosperity and health. However, the opportunity for participation by small farmers and businesses may not last, and a national health plan may be lost.

To secure this opportunity for the benefit of all Uruguayans please contact your local and regional representatives and request prompt attention to this matter.

To view this entire article please visit:

<http://ahimsainternational.org/programs/prosperidadysaluduruguay/>

This plan has been created by the NGO Ahimsa International and Visage Consulting.

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About AHIMSA International

AHIMSA International is a non-profit organization which offers dynamic strategies and programs supporting biodiversity conservation and management, scientific research, education, rehabilitation and sustainable development.