

A Closer Look at the Economic Ideas of Fidel Castro on Agriculture, during the 1959-1965 Period

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Abstract

Context: the transformations taking place as part of the update of the Cuban Social and Economic Model evidence the need to systematize the economic ideas and the work of Fidel Castro, in relation to the transformations made by Cuban agriculture during the first six years (1959-1965).

Aim: to systematize the economic ideas and work of Fidel Castro Ruz, in relation to the transformations made in Cuban agriculture during the first six years of the revolution.

Methods: Overall, fifty speeches of Fidel Castro delivered in the 1959-1965 period were compiled, as part of the review performed; the documents with a contribution to this topic were chosen. The historic-logical method, and analysis and synthesis made systematization possible.

Results: The article selection process allowed the authors to work on fourteen speeches, where the universal thoughts of Fidel Castro were confirmed, along with the significance of his studies as referent to social and economic progress of many underdeveloped locations through a strong political will.

Conclusions: The greatest transformation was centered on the eradication of monopolist landowning following the implementation of the agrarian reform, and its repercussion on the elimination of unemployment, a depressed domestic market, and poor industrial development of the country, together with a pressing need to train skilled personnel, invest in technology for agriculture, and lay the foundations for scientific research. Economically-driven agricultural planning has a particular significance, with the inclusion of incentives, and the labor of women in the fields.

Key words: Fidel Castro, economic ideas, agrarian transformations.

Introduction

The study of the existing economic outlook of the mid twentieth century until now, and the analysis of this issue in Latin America, have demonstrated the relevance of Fidel Castro's conceptions.

The objectiveness of his analyses and his recommendations support the assertion that Fidel Castro's ideas in the first six-year period of the revolution in terms of the economic type of development to assume, are viable to Latin American nations, despite changes in the historic and social conditions of the region. The economic situation of these countries is similar to the one Cuba faced by 1959, among other causes, to the concentration of the population in rural areas, the property of lands in private hands (not the government), poor industrial development, and consequently, the ever-increasing adverse situation of a broad portion of the population.

However, the literature reviewed showed a dispersion in the treatment of his conceptions, in relation to agriculture, along with insufficient systematization of the topic. Hence, the aim of this paper is to systematize the economic ideas of Fidel Castro, as part of the transformations made in the domestic agriculture, during the first six years of the revolution.

To achieve that aim, the related literature was reviewed, including an article written by Gutiérrez (1959), on opinions in relation to the implementation of the First Law of the Agrarian Reform, through a survey presented to Cubans. The review also included the book written by author Frei Betto (1985), an interview to Cuban leader Fidel Castro about general aspects of his life; and a Selection of Topics (Castro, 1983), which published some addresses made by Fidel Castro between January 1959 and April 1961, including TV presentations. Another similar book compiled by Suárez (2016) refers to Fidel Castro's

reflections on the crises that have historically struck Latin America, and their possible solutions.

Moreover, a publication named Group of Studies of Fidel Castro's Ideas, by the Institute of Cuban History, the Topic Selection 1959-2012 (Guerra, Martínez & Cabrera, 2017), which offers a compilation of fragments of some of his public addresses. Additionally, the edition of coordinators Vasapollo & Labañino (2017) about the political and economic thoughts of the Cuban personality, as well as several reports submitted by the Cuban leader in the Twelfth Session of CEPAL (Castro, 1979), and the opening session of the First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), in 1975, as first secretary of the organization.

In addition to the previous, several doctorate theses and papers published in the social media, referring to the economic ideas of the period, in general, or Fidel Castro's, in particular, were examined. They offered a contribution to the indisputability of the ideas stated by the authors.

The study of Fidel Castro's speeches or addresses has been fundamental to offer a systematized treatment to the economic thought that characterized his political leadership and actuation in the first six years following the triumph of the revolution. Accordingly, fourteen speeches delivered between 1959-1965 were studied; they contributed to his economic conceptions associated to the topic, and demonstrated that "...he took from universal knowledge and made it into political action, expressed through his oratory capacity." (Guerra, et al., 2017, p. 5).

Materials

Original sources of speeches given by Fidel Castro Ruz in the first six years of the revolution were included in the study. The speeches related to land use, Cuban farmers, adopted laws that effected on that social class, and the social policies that derived into economic and socio-cultural changes, were analyzed. Then the main transformations were abridged, obeying their chronological order to achieve the systematization expected in the aim.

Methods

Document review with particular emphasis on speeches given by Fidel Castro between 1959 and 1965, was the main method used. Overall, fourteen speeches related to the object of study, contributing to economic conceptions of the topic dealt with made possible to later synthesize the fundamental transformations, according to the authors. Analysis-synthesis was the essential method to fulfill the aim of systematizing information and document review.

The historic-logical method enabled a closer glimpse of the measures taken during the period studied, which became precedents in Cuban agriculture, and helped understand the need of each of them,

according to their priority, of the historic moment, depending on the national and international scenarios.

Results and discussion

By 1959, Cuba faced a hard social and economic situation: 24% of the available work force was unemployed (600 000 able people), without alternatives for personal and family survival; 85% of workers paid rent, but were under permanent threat of eviction from their lands, and 200 000 rural families did not have their own lands. The electric service was only available to 56% of the population, only in the urban areas, whereas 37.5 % of the inhabitants were illiterate.

Furthermore, the American monopolies owned large properties in the country, including public services, oil refineries, the most important industries, the telephone and electric companies, a large share of banks, imports, sugar production, and the most fertile lands. Between 1950 and 1960, the balance of payments was favorable to the United States (1000 million US dollars) (Castro, 1960).

The troublesome 1950s were not a Cuban particular case, but a replica of other countries in Latin America, which needed stable and dedicated governments with the political will to transform the situation into a more favorable scenario to peoples. However, this reality was also linked to underdevelopment. Accordingly, the Commander in Chief said publicly in 1959, in a Latin American meeting:

"It's been said here that one of the causes of underdevelopment is political instability, and perhaps the first truth to consider as crystal clear is that the political instability of governments and the peoples of Latin America today is not the cause of underdevelopment, but the consequence of underdevelopment.

It is one of the fundamental truths to be said, it is not a question of digging through the roots of our history, a very complex history with a different course from the history of the north colonies; to discover the truth of contemporary world in a score of underdeveloped countries, where the cause of underdevelopment cannot be found in instability, at all."(Castro, 1959a).

Fidel Castro analyzed the recommendations of structuralism and developmentalism that, since the beginning of the 1950s, the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) is recommending for Latin America, in order to embrace economic development. In that sense, an examination of the historic scenario of the continent stated its views on the three variants recommended to access capital, by saving, with public funding, or private investment, which would facilitate development in the region, including Cuba:

First variant: saving, if possible selling freely, without restrictions and limitations set by the most powerful countries in the region, namely, the United States, Canada, especially the former. It would allow developing countries to access funds to promote domestic development. With his usual objectivity in the analysis of processes and phenomena, Fidel perceived this theory as a utopia. He added that to achieve it, a change in the economic structure of the strongest nations would be necessary, but they were not really interested to do so.

Second variant: using public funds. To make it possible, trade between the nations of Latin America and the United States would be required, thus increasing the development of the countries in the region. This idea could be feasible if the local natural resources were exploited rationally, with a domestic market in each country and a common Latin American market. According to Fidel Castro, the US might well offer those funds, and then after reaching some level of development, the loans could be paid back with interests by the countries benefitted. To develop an active foreign market, he encouraged Latin America to build an enormous common market, though he was aware this aspiration would become real after a long period of time.

Third variant: using private funds from domestic or foreign investors, a repeated alternative stated by others. However, Fidel foresaw social stability due to the demands of investors. It would be applicable essentially in countries with no social conflicts; usually less lag nations. If these recommendations took place in countries scourged by social revolts between the foreign and domestic investors, the solution would be very complex without a doubt. It would depend on the attitude taken by investors. On the other hand, these private investments would be placed in areas that could guarantee safe productions, usually working alongside government funds that nations cannot spare. (Castro, 1959a)

The second variant continues to be the one that grants full economic independence, it aims to foster trade among the countries in the region, free from foreign pressure, and with reciprocal and similar interests. The positive results of ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Latin America) corroborate the above. This body was founded in December 2004 as an alternative to the enslaving Free Trade Agreement promoted by the US. ALBA has gone beyond trade, as it relies on complementary economic relations and cooperation.

In the Cuban scenario, the initial guidelines, about a possible development strategy can be found in **History will Absolve Me**, a powerful self-defense plea performed by Fidel in 1953, which he was able to turn into an accusation, during the last period of struggle of the Cuban people. In it, Fidel explained a

six-item program already conceived in 1951 (Frei Betto, 1985) that comprised the most pressing problems of the time that Cuba had to solve, including landowning.

Even though that program was not conceived with socialist ideas, showed that Fidel had already a “growing Marxist culture” (Rodríguez, 2016), and it revealed the roots of Fidel’s thoughts in terms of agriculture (James, 2017).

The Cuban report to the Twelfth Session of the Economic Council for Latin America (CEPAL) held in Venezuela in May 1967, referred to the above mentioned document:

“In the Moncada Program, that we clearly presented before the court that tried us, was the core of all the further development of the revolution.” (Castro, 1979).

Economist José Luis Rodríguez said “[...] Fidel Castro said in 1953, during the trial over Fidel’s organized attack on the Moncada barracks, a thorough developing vision of the economic and social components [...]” (Rodríguez, 2016).

Although during the initial years of the revolution in power, the economic ideas of the Commander in Chief were far-reaching, he focused on cardinal aspects that needed urgent solution.

When he took office as Prime Minister of the revolutionary government, on February 16, 1959, he sort of laid out the program of economic development of the revolution. Although no economic development strategy was presented as such, the economic policy of the Cuban revolution in that period was based on his plea known as **History will Absolve Me**, which contributed to the fulfillment of the Moncada Program, in October 1960.

The four-year development plan (1962-1965) mostly emphasized on the actions for speedy industrialization of the country, despite the lack of real conditions for implementation. This plan was made considering the just ideas of Fidel throughout the revolutionary process. The futuristic vision of Fidel, together with his sense of justice in 1953, not only made him lash at the accumulation of large extensions of land in few hands, but also to proclaim the Law of Agrarian Reform, as an essential measure for social improvement.

In his address on February 3, 1959, in Guantanamo, he said,

“It isn’t fair there are men with 13 420 and 26 840 ha of lands, in the same place where several peasants and their seven-children families are living without a portion of land of at least four square feet, big enough to bury them”.(APPLAUSE).

“Here we talk a lot about the homeland, and the homeland, our homeland, we, the Cubans, and the homeland. But now I have to ask. Whose homeland? A homeland for whom?”

Oh! Can those who have 26 840 ha of land talk about their homeland? Well, all the homeland is theirs, right? Now. Can the peasant talk about homeland? He who has not a single square meter to be buried in? (EXCLAMATIONS: NO!)

[...]Those who don’t even have a single inch of land can’t talk about homeland. This is the homeland where he starves, and his family starves, his children starve. This man has no home, nothing, but he wants to work, and he gets no opportunity, this man is dying of starvation.” (Castro, 1959b)

The government would offer little to eradicate monopolist landowning, with just 536 800 of the 3 623 400 ha of the country, only accounting for 5.4%. These lands had been seized by monopolist landowners and geophages, whereas 3% represented the large farmers (having more than 500 ha), with 46.9% of the lands. Changing the agrarian structure was an imperative (Rodríguez & Sosa, 2018).

To guarantee a piece of land to those who deserved it, it was necessary to take the land from those who had stolen it one way or another. It was one of the ideas implemented by Fidel Castro in all the liberated areas before the triumph of the revolution¹, which later spread throughout the country after seizing political power, and the enactment of the First Law of Agrarian Reform, in May 1959. Its implementation led to confrontations with the national oligarchy and the American imperialism (Main Report. First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, 1975). The legislation continued to support the revolution until the expected results were accomplished. In 1963, a second Law was required and it was decreed. The Law of Agrarian Reform.

The Agrarian Reform was most widely spread in Camagüey, where lots of lands belonged to monopolists and remained idle. Approximately 85.20% of the population was in favor of the implementation of the law, the highest per cent of a provincial inhabitants of the country (Gutiérrez, 1959) ². In this jurisdiction, Fidel Castro sentenced

¹ This law (No. 3) was passed in Sierra Maestra on October 10, 1958. It made legal the distribution of land to the farmers who actually worked on them, of up to 67.1 ha of land as leasers, sharecroppers, and precarious workers. It was widely spread in freed locations of Sierra Maestra, Frank Pais Segundo Frente Oriental, and in areas where the westward invading columns led by Camilo Cienfuegos and Che Guevara in Las Villas, waged their campaigns, benefitting several peasants.

² Nationwide, 89.22% of the population totally agreed with the new law, whereas in the province of Camagüey, both indicators

the large cattle owners engaged in fattening, with over 1 342 ha. He would have this law start on their properties, as a response to their attempt to block the course of the revolution in power, and destroy it; they refused to buy animals from small and mid-sized cattle breeders.

To celebrate the historic attack on the Moncada barracks, more than ten thousand titles of land property were given to former peasants, on July 26, 1960, making them the true owners of the land they worked previously for the benefit of extortionists and monopolist landowners.

Fidel recommended to follow national guidelines and develop local ideas in terms of agricultural policy. The positive consequences were seen in immediate results: in the history of mankind, the agrarian reform implemented in Cuba was the only one that was started by increasing production.

The land would not be distributed among farmers without proper order, neither the state could afford to neglect the land. Accordingly, cooperatives were founded, which apart from solving social problems, provided better production conditions, based on more advanced techniques, and the elimination of all the existing large capitalist landowners. Fidel stated that equal distribution of land, and further socialization would allow the country to rescue these lands, avoid desertification, and increase productivity.

It was a bold step not to split large private land extensions into smaller plots, to organize production, two systems were implemented: cooperatives and the people’s farms. Out of the private sugar cane lands, more than 600 sugar cane cooperatives were founded, whereas in the cattle land extensions and virgin lands, more than 300 people’s farms were founded. (Castro, 1962a). When contrasting the two systems, Fidel Castro Ruz said,

“the cooperative is a collective center different from the people’s farms; the people’s farm is like a factory; the farmer is like a worker in a factory, the cooperative worker is like a group of workers who work on their own, not for the nation.

It is understandable why the accounting systems of the two are different [...]

The true cooperative cannot emerge from the proletariat. The true cooperative would be like a setback for a proletariat, but progress for a small farmer” (Castro, 1962a).

The embracement to the Leninist principles on the process of cooperatives were present during the implementation of the Law of Agrarian Reform, which called for respect to the voluntary will of

(totally agree with the Agrarian Reform and totally agree with some exceptions) reached 90.33% of the total population.

farmers, based on the criterion that they would never be pressed to join their lands and create larger farms, with better use of machinery and combines. This transformation would come gradually, with material support from the state.

Ignacio Agramonte rice cooperative, in the municipality of Florida was founded on April 12, 1959. It was the first of its kind in that region. It was created in the property of former senator Guillermo Rivera, and it was the site of the first major investment related to the agrarian reform in Cuba, with funds reaching 1 150 MM pesos (Castro, 1959c). Fidel mentions the event on the same day the cooperative was created, in a speech delivered at Finlay Park, as part of the Provincial Farmer Congress celebrated.

Unemployment, which scourged the country, would be eradicated, but it required the elimination of large monopolist property of the land. It threatened the creation of new job opportunities within the rooted and spread feudal system of land property in pre-revolutionary Cuba, another rein to industrial development.

Fidel warned about the incapacity to solve the problem radically, using the public works, and the need to acknowledge that nothing would be solved by giving the jobless population unproductive jobs. He added that it was important to provide everyone with a job, especially in Las Villas, Camagüey, and Oriente³, because by eradicating unemployment in those regions, this scourge would be ended in all the country, considering the extent of the problem and the extension of fertile lands there. However, to put an end to this problem, first, new factories would be built; therefore, to reach industrial development, the large monopolist property over the lands had to be eliminated. Consequently, this would guarantee buyers of goods manufactured by the national industry, which would grow qualitative and quantitatively into national development.

Moreover, there is an opportunity for the markets to grow, with the best possible prices for items sold to the farmers. The goods would also make it to the city to meet the needs of the general population, at the lowest prices. He also conceived that the more diverse the economy was, like the country's markets, the stronger and freer the economy would be.

His projection included the distribution of lands to those who worked it, it was not only an act of social justice, but also a basic link of economic progress in 1950 Cuba. The agrarian reform made possible to provide the rural population (almost half the country's population), with stable income to stimulate purchases, and activate the depressed domestic market. This process would also stimulate

industrial advancement, a source of jobs to the existing unemployed people. Concerning that topic, in May 1959, during the Sixth Plenary Session of the meeting of the 21, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he said,

“That is why, in Cuba, the solution of the current problem is based on two principles: the agrarian reform and industrial development [...] We have come to the conclusion that the agrarian reform is essential to our industrial development, and we also think that the extraordinary number of unemployed people will only decrease if many of them work in the industries, and some of the industrial workers are placed in the fields. It is technically known as increase in productivity and agricultural production... [...] Instead of the technical term, we must name this process The Agrarian Reform.”

Fidel's line of thought shows that it was not enough to distribute the land among the true owners, the traditional workers who possessed nothing. Then he said that the eradication of monopolist property over the land, besides providing job opportunities and personal satisfaction of the needs of peasants and their families, had to contribute to the development of the domestic market and the national industry: the interconnection is self-explanatory.

The ban on monopolist property over the land started the solution to the problems of Cuban agriculture. It was important then to engage in technology and increased yields, especially in sugar production, as the fundamental role of the sugar producing industry in Cuba (Ramos, 2004). According to the criterion of the Cuban leader, “1 *caballeria*”, (Cuban measure unit 1 *caballeria* = 13.42 ha) of sugar cane without the application of proper techniques, must produce 690 000-920 000 kg of sugar, but under all technical applications, the land must produce between 1 725 000 and 2 875 000 kg of sugar. His struggle to increase sugar yields was constant, and the country implemented several alternatives to achieve that goal (Fuentes, 2012), though total effectiveness has not been accomplished due to various factors.

The Cuban leader believed in the skills and knowledge acquired by the labor force as a guarantee to achieve higher quality results. To meet that goal, he encouraged the formation of skilled personnel in agriculture, and by mid-1959, the number of students of technical sciences and agronomy at the University of Havana had grown from 500 to 2 000. In 1965, an excess was produced in the labor force, in relation to certain positions. He encouraged the authorities to adjust the number of new workers to the real needs, without firing anyone. He suggested offering new courses to the exceeding force, who would receive

³ It refers to the Cuban provinces in 1959

payment for studying. It would be a better investment than letting them idle.

Since the initial years of the revolution, in his speeches, he implicitly referred to the need to implement production according to a set plan, and called for actions in that sense, in order to avoid an excess in the supply, over the demand, which would help organize agriculture. Planning was given an extremely relevant place, based on realistic plans, and a positive mindset toward the tasks to carry out.

He used to make emphasis on the main direction of agricultural production, as the ultimate effort to make. And he cleared up that it was not just one direction, they were the important ones, remarking on their significance, since they were directed to the best economic possibilities of the country (Castro, 1962b). Although he recognized the basic role of the sugar industry, he stressed that the socialist economy is not one of sectors. It is a whole, and it must include the interests of all the people (Castro, 1963a)

It was important to reinstate the already existing bodies that were supposed to be in charge of this endeavor, besides creating another entity to ensure the application of techniques and technology in the sector, later called the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA).

He remarked:

“And in agriculture we have to think using an economic outlook. And all the development of the national economy has to be set on economic bases, realistic bases, not on just hopes. And it has to include, mainly, the problem of costs”. (Castro, 1962b).

According to his criterion, the only justification to be out of these economic principles is a situation of force majeure, like a military confrontation, a strategic situation, or a blockade that makes impossible to produce certain products.

He warned about a future where the country would not only depend on sugar production, but on other items with greater value than sugar, and he pointed at prices:

“In the future there will be a policy to follow in terms of rationing and price policies. That is to say, there must be some items [...] Some items that will be like a luxury”. (Castro, 1965).

Convinced that the lack of funds in the hands of farmers, even after receiving new lands as their own, he thought of establishing lines of soft credits as a major aspect in that direction. So he foresaw the pressing need to concert economically favorable ways for the state to have the loaning resources required.

Granting those credits is not tied with the application of taxes, of which he was an advocate, as a way to

finance social and economic projects. However, he remarked that such taxes would put higher levies to the greatest producers, not the other way around, as the international practice dictates. These had to be fair, but necessary fiscal systems for national development, and he urged people not to steal the public wealth, and encouraged the leaders to be honest and loyal.

Fidel denounced the negative effects of intermediaries, as they increased the prices of the products harvested by farmers. And he fought against these plague since the first year of the revolutionary government.

After three years of the first Law of Agrarian Reform, the benefits of its application were seen, and referred to by Castro (1963b):

“[...], the Law of Agrarian Reform meant the disappearance of fear by the farmers. From that moment on, all farmers felt secure of the land they owned, with no fears of being evicted from it.

[...] It was not only that, it was a new policy with farmers in all the areas: public health, guaranteed fair prices for their products, the disappearance of exploiting intermediaries, the contribution of state credits for harvest, refurbishment and investment credits. Before, the bank refurbished part, but claimed a series of documents, land property titles, without which they could not access credit, and the interests were high. Likewise, the other farmers were refurbished by warehouse clerks, because the intermediaries paid little for their items, and sold the goods at very high prices.”

During the fourth year of the revolution in power, several difficulties emerged in term of management of the economy and employment. The workers as holders of the political power, did not perform the required economic management, and the labor force faced unemployment; the opening of new job opportunities was insufficient for the little agricultural production. Fidel deals with this situation, and arguments the need to face new obstacles, overcome the lack of organization, deficiencies, and implement appropriate management and production. Once more, he spoke of his confidence and the possibility of realization:

“[...] the workers [...] were born in the new society with the historic predestination of becoming managers of the wealth of the nation one day. They have to learn, they have to know, and they have to overcome the difficulties caused by their inexperience, and their lack of habits as organizers. And no one doubt that the predestined ones by history to fulfill this

endeavor will do it much better than the overseers of the past, than the owners of the past” (Castro, 1963a).

“And the problem of productivity, the discipline of work, the organization of work, are problems to be addressed, because the individuals who waste their time, who remain idle, are robbing from the people” (Castro, 1963b).

He spoke for developing scientific research in agriculture, hire the best technicians in the world to foster research, consider the environmental conditions of crops, especially sugar cane, and the use of equipment, since this crop guaranteed the basic production of the country in those years. So, by 1965, a number of 500 combines were used for the first time to harvest sugar cane, along with thousands of cranes, and the techniques applied in the collection centers, which was regarded as “historical a event”, and a “revolutionary landmark” in the application of techniques in agriculture. (Castro, 1965)

He said,

“[...] machinery is the great liberator of men in the conditions of socialism, [...]

And even in the socialist conditions, man demands machines, they are going to set free thousands of workers in this hard job; this you'll have a completely different and true concept of man freedom” (Castro, 1963a).

Although he insisted on the importance of moral incentives to workers, he was in favor of granting the most outstanding producers, especially in sugar cane harvest, significant material resources, which was produced at a larger scale in 1965, and was relevant for the 1960s. Along with that practice, he fostered a population policy to improve the living conditions in the provinces outside the capital city, which included real control of each of the new jobs created. It favored the conditions in the countryside, including agriculture. And it contributed to more control of rural migration to the cities.

He saw the incorporation of women to production as an important movement, and he valued it so, during the organization of the first detachment of women in the country, born in the national capital, to carry out agricultural work, and he said, “a new very promising thing has emerged, which is the incorporation of women to several tasks of agriculture, which they can do” (Castro, 1965).

The limitations of Cuba in terms of the electric grid, was also of Fidel's interest. The electrification of rural areas was also part of his speeches since the very first moments, but it was important to create the conditions for its completion. In 1960, a factory of light bulbs was designed to extend lighting from

Sierra Maestra to Cienaga de Zapata, which would contribute to the beginning of the eradication of the so called areas of silence in the country.

Conclusions

At the triumph of the revolution in Cuba, in the late 1950s, the existing conditions made the agrarian issue a pressing problem to be addressed, calling for urgent changes, which under the conceptions of Fidel Castro, were implemented between 1959 and 1965.

His ideas were centered on the elimination of monopolist property over the land and the application of the agrarian reform, with an orderly distribution of the land and an agricultural policy based on national guidelines, its favorable repercussion on the elimination of unemployment, the development of the domestic market, and the industrialization of the country, together with timely preparation of skilled personnel, use of technology and the application of scientific research in agriculture was outstanding. Also important was realistic planning, and the presence of economic-financial criteria, along with his reflections on the implementation of moral and material incentives, the participation of women in agrarian activities, and the electrification of rural areas, which made possible to systematize the economic ideas of Fidel Castro Ruz in relation to the transformations in agriculture, during the first six years of the Cuban revolution. These changes also led to other important transformations in the social and economic sectors of the country.

His arguments went through the national frame and spread through the continent in the form of concepts to be implemented, considering the specificities of each nation. That way, his study and analysis has become a referent to further advancement of different regions, especially in the underdeveloped world, sustained by the political will of those who have the power.

Recommendations

To continue this research, including other periods: 1966-1989; 1990- 2006; 2007- 2016.

Author contribution

Beatriz Emérita Henry Milanés: research planning, analysis of results, manuscript redaction, final review.

Ana Lidia Torres Armenteros: research planning, analysis of results, manuscript redaction, final review.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest

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