

New tariff cuts for farmers



The tariff exemptions are intended to boost food production (source: [Radio Reloj](#), AI-scaled)

In the fight against the ongoing economic crisis, the Cuban Ministry of Finance has approved new customs exemptions to boost food production. With immediate effect, import duties will be waived for fertilizers, animal feed, veterinary products, and pesticides, [reports the](#) party newspaper *Granma*.

Finance Minister Vladimir Regueiro Ale explained that the new regulation is a continuation of the measures taken at the beginning of the year, when customs duties for these products were already reduced by 50 percent. Now, for the first time, they will be completely eliminated. The measure was [published in the law gazette](#) on November 21 and will initially be in force until December 31, 2025.

“By reducing import costs, both state and non-state economic actors will find better conditions for importing these goods and participating in productive projects,” said the minister.

The aim of the measure is also to reduce consumer food prices by lowering production costs. The step can therefore also be seen in the context of the fight against inflation, which is bearing its first fruit this year: according to [data from the statistics agency ONE](#), officially recorded inflation fell below the 30 percent threshold for the first time in years in September.

According to the minister, the customs revenue lost under the previous regulation amounts to around 25 million pesos (about 1 million euros at the official exchange rate). He said that private economic actors in particular had taken advantage of the relief. With the new Decree 329, special approval from the Ministry of Finance will no longer be required; the relevant products are now “automatically” exempt from customs duties upon import due to their categorization.

The step was well received by readers and economists. Even though significantly more extensive structural reforms would be needed to boost agriculture (such as the state paying on time and more open distribution structures), the exemption from customs duties can still help to allow larger quantities of input goods into the country at economically reasonable prices, beyond the scarce state funding.

Cuba currently has to import around 80 percent of the food consumed in the country from abroad. Paying for imports has become increasingly difficult in recent years due to the lack of foreign currency. ([Cubaheute](#))