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Danilo Medina explains in Rome how he was able to reduce rural poverty by half in the Dominican Republic in five years

Rome - President Danilo Medina laid out in Rome the strategies that have enabled the Dominican Republic to reduce rural poverty by half in the last five years.

In his address to the 42nd session of the Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Dominican Head of State explained how rural poverty has gone from 51% in 2013, to 25.6% by the end of 2018.

In the same period, extreme rural poverty went from 14.5% to 4.1%, according to the President.

In a meeting dedicated to “Innovations and business initiatives in the rural world”, Danilo Medina explained how important it has been for the Dominican Republic to advance in 4 axes simultaneously:

- Associative capacity of small producers.
- Access to credit.
- Improvement of infrastructures.
- Access to land ownership through the issuing of titles.

These combined strategies have made thousands of farmers go from having a subsistence economy to being true agriculture entrepreneurs.

Food sovereignty

At the same time, they have made it possible for the Dominican Republic to produce 85% of the food it consumes, thus becoming one of the countries that are closest to achieving food sovereignty in the entire continent.

“The Dominican Republic is among the only four countries in Latin America where hunger has been reduced consecutively in the last three years, according to FAO data”, said the President, “and that is possible thanks to the fact that our land increases its production year after year”.

The President explained that it was always a priority to support the farmers in the countryside, because it was there where inequality presented itself most crudely, as it happens in most countries of the continent.

“The truth is that, in Latin America, the only valid and sustainable strategy against hunger and poverty is the revitalization of the countryside, beginning with the strengthening of the most vulnerable people and guaranteeing their insertion into the agri-food value chains”.

He also assured that in countries such as the Dominican Republic “an innovative model can be achieved that substantially improves the living conditions of the people, with actions that are within the reach of both the government and producers”.

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