



## Food Sovereignty: Views from Cuba

Lindsay Naylor, University of Delaware  
Ibrahim Ali, Gardening the Community  
Paul Massey, Regenerations Garden Community

Mary Mathison, Mary's Place  
Alyshia M. Silva, Food First  
Paul Wasserman, New York

### Suggested Learning Objectives

- Examine the role of sustainable agricultural practices in community development.
- Examine the relationship between the availability and use of natural resources with its political-economic context.
- Examine how the physical geography of Cuba influences farming practices.
- Explore different systems of agricultural production.
- Compare the Cuban system of agricultural production to other countries.

### Suggested Unit Pairing

- Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes
- Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes

### Discussion Questions

- What is "food sovereignty"? Why was it important that Cuba was able to grow its own food?
- How does society change as agricultural practices change?
- According to the text, what do sustainable farming practices look like?
- How does "food sovereignty" fit into a larger history of revolution, economic upheaval, and international diplomacy in Cuba?
- What kind of political and cultural changes and technological advances have impacted the way people in Cuba grow and consume food?
- How is Cuba's system of agricultural production related to the global food supply chain?

### Further Reading

"Food sovereignty." *La Via Campesina*. <https://viacampesina.org/en/food-sovereignty/>

Martínez-Torres, M.E. and P.M. Rosset. "La Vía Campesina: The Birth and Evolution of a Transnational Social Movement." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 37, no. 1 (January 2010): 149-75. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150903498804>

"Cuba, a Model of Sustainable Agriculture Towards Global Security." Council on Hemispheric Affairs. <http://www.coha.org/cuba-a-model-of-sustainable-agriculture-towards-global-food-security/>

Rosset, Peter M. "Cuba: A Successful Case Study of Sustainable Agriculture." *Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food, and the Environment*, ed. Fred Magdoff, John Bellamy Foster and Frederick H. Buttel (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000). [https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/Cuba\\_A\\_Successful\\_Case\\_Study\\_of\\_Sustainable\\_Ag.htm](https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/Cuba_A_Successful_Case_Study_of_Sustainable_Ag.htm)