

The “Los Árabos” Project

Manchester CSC has supported projects in Matanzas province, Cuba since 2000. In 2006 the community and health centre project we supported in Matanzas city was completed so in consultation with colleagues in Cuba we adopted a new project - **the Los Árabos Project**

The project will establish a sheltered plant house and nursery to grow trees (both fruit trees and those grown for timber), and other garden plants and vegetables, from seed. It will be carried out by the “Jose Marti” Agricultural Production Co-operative (named after the Cuban national hero) in the municipality of Los Árabos. The young trees will be sold to other agricultural enterprises in the locality, and will be used for the reforestation of the area. Garden produce will also be supplied for local consumption, and to the existing food preservation plant. The project is expected to take twelve months to set up, and will aim to produce 800,000 young trees per annum.

The Co-operative

The co-operative was set up in 1981 and has 125 members of whom 98 are men and 27 are women (27%). Of the membership, 18 are under 30 yrs. (14.4%).

The co-op's offices are based in Los Sáez, a community of 253 people (92 men, 82 women, 45 children, including 34 elderly people). The community has 79 houses and coop members

live in 75 of them. The centre for preserving products is also based there.

The project will build a sheltered area for the cultivation of vegetables using organic material as the main source of nutrients. This will enable reliable production of these products both for local fresh consumption and for processing. Produce will be marketed through Matanzas province as well as in neighbouring provinces.

The centre for preserving foodstuffs has already increased production from 12.74 tonnes in 2003 to an estimated 65 tonnes in 2006, contributing to Cuba's food security. The project will also increase production of fruiting and timber bearing trees in the nursery of the co-op both for reforestation in the co-op's lands and those of other co-operatives and enterprises. With the construction of the sheltered nursery a further 15 women will be taken on to work for the co-operative.

With the development of this project the coop intends to:

1. Establish a protected nursery that permits the production of vegetables both for fresh consumption and local processing.
2. Obtain the resources necessary for the efficient working of the tree nursery.
3. Increase the number of jobs for women by 15.
4. Produce 800,000 fruit and timber tree saplings annually, including rare and endangered tree species.

You can help !

The total estimated cost of the project was initially equivalent to approximately £16,000 with £5,000 in hard currency for purchases of building materials, fuel, tools and equipment, office supplies, to be raised by Manchester Cuba Solidarity. The project will be self-financing once established.

To make this project a reality, we need regular contributions. A Standing Order form is on the reverse.

OR Donate safely online using this link to our Paypal page: <http://tinyurl.com/27f7dl>



Thanks!

We have now sent donations of £6,000 to the Co-operative. This is approaching the revised figure of £6,600 needed to complete the project. The change is dues largely to the fall in the pound.

It will be fantastic if we can complete the project in 2009, fiftieth anniversary year of the Cuban revolution.

Cuba Solidarity Campaign Manchester

0161 881 6887 / csc.mcr@poptel.org /
www.cubasol-manch.org.uk

Manchester Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Material Aid Donation

All funds will be used to support environmental and community development projects in Cuba

Standing Order Mandate

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Your Bank:

Bank Address:

Postcode:

Account Name:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

Please pay to the Co-operative Bank,

for the credit of *Manchester Cuba Solidarity Campaign*,

Account Number: 65007776

Sort Code : 08 92 99

The sum of:

Payment frequency*: Monthly / Quarterly / Annually

First Payment to be made on: Date:

Final Payment to be made on*: Date: / until further notice

Signature:

Date:

(*Delete as appropriate)

Please complete and return this form to:

**Manchester C. S. C.
37 Chandos Road South, Chorlton,
Manchester M21 0TH**