

Growing Food = – Food Security in Cuba

What do you do when the food security of your country is put at risk by international political and economic events? That's the question the Cuban churches were faced with in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the ongoing U.S. economic blockade in the early 1990s. An enormous challenge for the Cuban government and people, it also proved an important opportunity for the Cuban churches when the government encouraged the churches to look at ways of using their land and human resources to grow and provide food to their communities.

What emerged at the ecumenical level – with support from PWRDF and others – was the Sustainable Development Program (SDP) of the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC). Among other initiatives, the SDP set about training church and community volunteers in food production and conservation (canning). Those trained volunteers returned to their parishes and communities to develop food production and conservation projects, funded and supported by the SDP.



Two decades later, a PWRDF delegation to Cuba in March 2015 encountered people of faith engaged in and passionate about “the care of creation and community” through their rural and urban food growing initiatives. As CCC president, the Rev. Joel Ortega stated, “Worship time encompasses all of life, not just church on Sundays.”

To support the ongoing food security training work of the Cuban Council of Churches’

Sustainable Development Program, make your donation payable to PWRDF and earmarked for “Food Security in Cuba.”

Photo: Parishioner of Abundant Life Pentecostal Parish in Palmira, Cuba offers PWRDF delegation members a sample of the parish tomato harvest.