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**U.S. Blockade Damages Cuban Food and Agricultural Industries**

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Havana, Aug 26 (Prensa Latina) The food and agricultural industries are today two of the most affected sectors in Cuba due to the U.S. economic blockade on the island, lasting almost six decades, revealed a report by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

In the most recent analysis of the financial hits caused by the Washington policy, it is detailed that during the period of April, 2017 to March, 2018, the losses represented four billion 321.2 million USD, an increase of 66 million 195 thousand 100 dollars compared to the previous period.

The greatest damage, says the report, is the prohibition to put national products in the U.S. market.

In the case of rum, the Havana Club considered one of the most prestigious worldwide in the elaboration of spirits, a loss estimated in 90 million 930 thousand USD is inflicted by the ban to access the U.S. market.

Other brands like rum Santiago de Cuba, Isla del Tesoro and Cubay, with an exporting potential to the U.S. market of no less than 200 thousand boxes a year, cannot put their products in that market, despite the interest expressed by the

main distributors of that country.

The revenues which the island could not Access would have allowed the reinvestment and the creation of a solid infrastructure in the food industry, adds the report.

The Cuban government had to make great efforts to achieve the results obtained in food security which, despite the damages caused by the blockade, are recognized by specialized agencies of the United Nations System, elaborates the document.

According to recently published data by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), Cuba is considered as the only

country in Latin America and the Caribbean free of severe infant malnutrition.

Cuba presents sincwe 1992 a resolution project demading the end of the U.S. blockade before the U.N. General Assembly, will again present it for the 27th time next October 31.

During the voting last year, it had the support of 191 of the 193 member countries, with the sole opposition of the United States and Israel.

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