

Peruvian farmers demand the government to halt rice importation

Agraria.pe, 29 March 2019



Mrs. Fabiola Muñoz Dodero, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru rejected the demand of farmers who asked to temporarily stop importing rice from abroad to help increasing domestic rice sales volume. Instead, she offered alternatives to increase the demand of Peruvian rice in the market, such as reducing production costs, quality development, and increasing channels for farmers to access good quality rice seeds of the National Agricultural Innovation Institute (INIA).

On 28 March 2019, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru attended a meeting with farmers in the southern part of the country to listen to the problems and demands of farmers in the area, namely imports of rice from abroad, production costs reduction, sales of rice to social projects in the state, and improvement of competitive ability.

The Minister answered to the demands of the farmers saying that she will hold a technical meeting to find solutions to the problems and advised the farmers to work together and establish a local farmers association to create a joint trade strategy in order to add value to the product.

However, Mrs. Fabiola denied the request to stop importing rice from abroad, saying that the country cannot close the door to the product from abroad and should seek other solutions. For example, increasing rice quality in order to compete with imported rice, reducing production costs, and increasing access to good quality rice seeds of the National Agricultural Innovation Institute (INIA).

In addition, the Minister of Agriculture also pledged to continue to develop rice plans to organize rice cultivation in the country by not allowing the areas that are not suitable to produce rice to compete with the suitable areas in both climate and soil conditions.

Source: <http://agraria.pe/noticias/ministra-fabiola-munoz-a-los-productores-no-se-puede-impedir-18708>