

Brazil's Lula Calls on US and EU to Finance Production and Then Buy Biodiesel

Contributed by Carolina Pimentel
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In his weekly radio broadcast, this Monday, February 13, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke of the Progressive Governance Summit that he attended in South Africa on the last stop of his five-day trip to Africa last week.

Lula used the summit to once again call for reduced farm subsidies in rich nations, which would permit poorer nations to export their agricultural produce.

Heads of state from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sweden and South Korea, along with the head of the World Trade Organization, Pascoal Lamy, and the EU trade negotiator, Peter Mendelson, participated in the summit.

Lula also suggested that biodiesel could stimulate growth in poor nations. He said rich nations could finance its production and then buy the product, creating a mutually beneficial rich-poor nation relationship.

Lula added that it is becoming more obvious to all that poor nations can contribute to world trade, as well as science and technology. He said Brazil was willing to assist the less favored.

The radio program this week was recorded on the presidential aircraft as it returned to Brazil Sunday night, February 12. During his stay in Africa, Lula visited Algeria, Benin, Botswana and South Africa.

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