

**Addendum to Chapter 2**  
**From the Constitution of the *Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela***

**Article 305:** The State shall promote **sustainable** agriculture as the strategic basis for overall rural development, and consequently shall guarantee the population a secure food supply, defined as the **sufficient and stable availability of food within the national sphere** and timely and uninterrupted access to the same for consumers. A secure food supply must be achieved by developing and prioritizing **internal agricultural and livestock production**, understood as production deriving from the activities of agriculture, livestock, fishing and aquaculture. Food production is in the national interest and is fundamental to the economic and social development of the Nation. To this end, the State shall promulgate such financial, commercial, technological transfer, **land tenancy**, infrastructure, manpower training and other measures as may be necessary to achieve strategic levels of **self-sufficiency**. In addition, it shall promote actions in the national and international economic context to compensate for the disadvantages inherent to agricultural activity.  
[bold font added]

This involves

- Confiscation of land from richer farmers and giving them to the poor
- Subsidizing small farms and cooperative agricultural enterprises
- Discouragement of some modern agricultural technologies
- Reducing trade with other countries
- Promoting a diverse, often urban agriculture

From an interview I conducted of a sociologist describing why many Venezuelans support the revolution of Hugo Chavez

*And she told us the story of many other people that we had heard that you know for...she had grown up very poor. Had not even had the opportunity to finish elementary school and had become a mother over time. Became a grandmother and was just kind of struggling to get by and to support her family. And then the revolution came and there are uh...they're called educational missions. And so she went through the first mission, which uh was the elementary school level. Went through the next one, which was high school. Then started going for some of the others, which were university level. Had the opportunity to do a program in Cuba, where she became uh an agro-ecology uh specialist with a specialization in bio-control. And she eventually became the technician of this laboratory, and she was in her—I think—later 70s. And uh so it's...it's just things like this that's this kind of...this mold...this still seeing remnants of a very exclusive past and seeing how that's being transformed um is uh...has been very eye-opening.*

## **Why Venezuela is having trouble feeding its citizens**

1. Engineering
2. Specialization and trade
3. Property rights and flexible markets
4. Decentralized decision-making
5. Respect for honest profit-making
6. A sincere sense of humanity
7. Protection of natural resources