

**Answers to written questions members Islandcouncil for the Executive Council/ Government Commissioners.**  
(art.159, lid 1 WolBES/ art. 46 RvO Islandcouncil)

Issue	: Made in Statia-Agricultural
Date question	: 11 <sup>th</sup> of March 2021
Sender	: K. Sneek
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**QUESTIONS:**

Today I have visited the project Made in Statia. I have been informed about the developments there and have left with mixed feelings. I did not get the impression that the project is functioning as some want us to believe. Listening to management I could here disappointment and a level of frustration about their situation and a perceived lack of interest or understanding from the part of government.

The above has me seriously concerned. The uncertain long-term future of the oil terminal makes it extremely urgent that our economy will become more diverse. Next to the development of tourism, agriculture is one of the few areas with potential as long as it gets the right attention.

I therefore have the following questions.

1. Can government explain who is/are the legal owners of the property in use by Made in Statia?
2. Whose initiative was it to grant this particular parcel of land to be used by Made in Statia?
3. Is it correct that there is no lease or rental agreement between Made in Statia and the owners?
4. Does government agree that without a formal right under a rental or lease agreement to the use of the property it is basically impossible to set out a mid- or long-term plan to make the project sustainable?
5. The main challenge for the agricultural sector is the structural availability of water. What are the short and long term plans to guarantee sufficient water for the sector?
6. A source of water is the well close by Made in Statia. Due to excessive use also by other parties, this water is whether not available or brackish and therefore not suitable for agricultural purposes. Can government explain what are the short-term alternatives?
7. One of the results for agriculture according to the multiple annual budget 2021-2024 is to catch and store rainwater to be used in agriculture. Does this include the construction of a cistern on the property used by Made in Statia? If so when will this project be carried out?
8. Another result mentioned in the budget is making farm machinery available. I saw an almost brand-new tractor on the premises of the slaughterhouse. Management of Made in Statia claims the lack of cooperation from the relevant government department when he wants to make use of this tractor. Sometimes it takes up to 4 weeks to honor a request to use the tractor. Is government aware of this situation and what are the reasons behind this?

9. Across the street from Made in Statia is the former "proeftuin". The construction of a hydroponics project was realized there some years ago with financing of the Dutch government. I noticed this project is not in operation now. Why is this project not in operation?
10. What are the results of this government funded project since its inception? How did it contribute to the improvement of the agricultural sector?
11. Does government agree with me that innovated forms of agriculture are the way to go forward and therefore need to be stimulated and in the case of the hydroponics project should not stand
12. I understood from a recent presentation by the director of that the main goal of government is food security above a sustainable sector. What concrete plans does government have to increase production by the agricultural sector and which innovative methods are you looking at?

**ANSWERS:**

Ad 1: The legal owner of the property in use by Made belongs to the Public Entity of SInt Eustatius.

Ad 2: By the Island Executive Counselors in the year 2011.

Ad 3: The Island Executive Counselors signed the decree to lease/rent it to Made.

Ad 4: Yes

Ad 5 and following questions: see attachments.

**Attachment:** presentation