Sader and Semarnat has organized a coordination group to protect pollinators

We are considering to create a national strategy, which evaluates the real problems and provide solutions in the short term.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) and Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat) formalized the setup of the Coordination Group for the Preservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

This measure considers the creation of a national strategy in conjunction with government, academic and business institutions with a view to get a real diagnosis of the causes for the reduction in the pollinators' population, whose gradual loss affects the production of food of animal and vegetal origin.

There was a meeting at the Center for the Integration of Biodiversity, which was led by the assistant secretary of Agriculture, Miguel García Winder, who pointed out the fact that this kind of joint efforts sends a new message to areas involved and to citizens in order to improve awareness on the subject.

"We want to bring experts in order to get answers. This should be a process in which science and innovation go together. The issue that concerns all of us, affects the ecological wealth of Mexico".

Agriculture depends to a great extent on the existence of pollinators, since almost 80% - 85% of arable products in Mexico are generated thanks to pollinators, so the impact would be serious, considered the secretary.

He mentioned that agriculture has also an impact on the existence of pollinators due to deforestation; traditional farming systems; insertion of rare species and use of chemical substances for crops.

Therefore, he urged academic institutions to participate into the Coordination Group to promote new researches in order to find new alternatives for the protection of these species, as well as to find innovative production systems more eco-friendly. These institutions are: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Universidad Autónoma de Chapingo (UACh) and Colegio de Postgraduados (Colpos), among others.

The general director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), Amada Vélez, said that the organism has an early diagnosis of the pollinators' conditions, which was made available to the Coordination Group, so it could be discussed during working sessions.

In regards to the pollinators' conditions in Mexico, she said that here the situation is different from other countries and regions which have made evident the decrease of pollinators in their territories, such as the United States and the European Union.

In this respect, the general director of Animal Health of the Senasica, Juan Gay Gutiérrez, make a statement to gather information about the parts involved, and then, establish a critical way to become deeply familiar with the situation in Mexico.

Representatives of the following commissions also attended the meeting: Mexican Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Conabio); National Forestry Commission (Conafor); Mexican Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Conanp); and National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (Inifap).

The Coordination Group stablished that *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* or GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation) will be the organism responsible for facilitate the implementation of strategies and development process. This decision was made due to the corporation acts as consultant for the Mexican Government in projects related to environment since several years ago.

Additionally, participants agreed a work schedule that establishes regular meetings and the organization of two workshops between August and November in order to define the general strategy, which will be summited in March of 2020.

We must remember that pollination depends on the reproduction of around 90% of flowering plants all over the world. These flowering plants may disappear if their corresponding pollinators do not “visit” them.

During this process, animals recollect the pollen produced by plants and carry it to another flower, they fertilize the ovules giving rise to the production of seeds and fruits. In Mexico, more than 80% of flowering plants reproduce by means of pollination, such as bean, chili, green tomato, calabaza tomato, plum, mango, apple, guava and coffee plant.