

Sader-Senasica reaffirm their commitment to contribute to pollinator protection

Pollination has been affected by human activities. To counteract this reality, Sader and Semarnat work to develop a National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.



At the opening of the “Invisible links: pollinators and biodiversity” exhibition at the Universum Science Museum, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader), by means of National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen its scientific guidance to contribute on the pollinator protection in Mexico.

“We fulfill our duty in the field of agricultural production. We have modified our regulations and we are trying to use eco-friendlier methods in agricultural production, aiming to turn the economic cost more efficient,” said chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga.

In the precinct of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), he emphasized that Mexico has millions of hectares of agricultural products that are pollinated; consequently, Sader and Senasica officials are the first “eyes attesting to the tangible value of pollination.”

He highlighted that currently the Secretariat of Agriculture is more sensitive to environmental topics, since there is a transversal sustainability policy, according to what was continually emphasized by the head of such agency, Víctor Villalobos.

On her part, the general director of Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector, Sol Ortiz García, highlighted that the development of a National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators is in process.

“We have started this process, which seeks to integrate advances in knowledge and diagnosis of the pollinator situation in order to design and implement compelling and meaningful actions for its management and conservation.”

She emphasized that in this joint effort between Sader and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat), Senasica and academic institutions such as UNAM, Center for Research and Advanced Studies (Cinvestav) and Ecology Institute will also be integrated.

She stated that this strategy is based on recognizing that many pollinator species have been affected by human activities, such as: loss and degradation of their habitats, change of land use for transformation for agricultural purposes, use of pesticides, introduction of invasive exotic species and global climate change.

Meanwhile, the general director of UNAM Science Outreach, César Domínguez Pérez Tejada, explained that about 80 percent of wild plants and about 70 percent of crops for human consumption depend on pollination for seed and fruit production.

He indicated that the most recent estimate that the annual global economic value of pollination is 217 billion dollars, and in the specific case of Mexico, more than five million hectares of agricultural crops depend on pollination.

He also said that in Mexico there are approximately 316 species of cultivated plants, of which 236 are used in human food and the rest in medicinal, ornamental, textile or foraging industries.

The head of UNAM’S Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics, Francisco Suárez Güemes, emphasized that this exhibition seeks to convey the public that pollination is a transcendental process for biodiversity maintenance and that there is a global crisis related to pollinator survival.

The exhibition will be open until September of this year and its objective is to create collective awareness about the care and protection of pollinators; the loss of which affects food production and, if not properly addressed, could make an impact on food safety and biodiversity conservation.