

Sader works on opening 38 new export markets for fruit and vegetable products

The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) is agreeing with its counterparts on the phytosanitary requirements that Mexican products must meet to enter countries on four continents.



The Government of Mexico is working on opening 38 new export markets in America, Asia, Africa and European Union (EU) to market more than 90 products of plant origin, which would directly benefit Mexican producers and ratify the country as one of the most competitive at international level.

Therefore, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) works with the Ministries of Agriculture of the concerned countries in order to agree on protocols establishing phytosanitary requirements that Mexican products must meet to enter those markets.

In America, it seeks to close agreements with 16 countries, including Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela, which are intended to export mainly avocado, coffee, Persian lime, mango, coconut, peach, prickly pear, table grape, flour, grains and seeds.

One of the most advanced protocols is that of beans from Durango, Chihuahua and Zacatecas to Brazil, since the first shipment of 30 thousand tons is expected to leave Mexico next July; this is why Senasica and the Agency of Services for Marketing and Development of Agricultural Markets (Aserca) are providing guidance to producers interested in exporting legumes.

Regarding Asia, the commercialization of fruit and vegetable products is expected in 15 countries or destinations, including: China, South Korea, Hong Kong, India and Japan.

Agreements with China are sought to export avocado, alfalfa, cranberry, squash, asparagus, Persian lime, wheat and sorghum, the latter being the product with the greatest progress at the negotiation.

It should be remembered that last May the head of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader), Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, and the chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, made a working tour in China, where an export protocol for Mexican bananas was signed, and its first shipment will depart from Manzanillo port within one month, as reported.

Negotiations concluded on May 13 after producers demonstrated to Chinese health authorities the quality and health of Mexican bananas. In addition, both governments are about to ratify the sorghum protocol.

Another important market for Mexico is the one intended to be opened with South Korea, mainly to export table grapes. In this regard, during the last week of May, technical personnel of the Animal and Plant Health Quarantine Agency of Korea visited production and packaging areas in Sonora, where they paid particular attention to monitoring systems for fruit flies.

A draft of quarantine requirements for table grapes' export from Mexico to Korea was prepared from the meeting, which will be submitted for consideration by the phytosanitary authority of that Asian country and, once approved by its National Plant Protection Organization, it will be sent to the General Directorate of Plant Health of Senasica for acceptance and, where appropriate, signature thereof.

Regarding the European market, the agency of Sader is holding talks with Poland for shipping rooted raspberry plants. Likewise, guacamole is planned to be exported to EU member countries.

Finally, in Africa, Senasica is working on entering into agreements with Egypt, Morocco, South Africa, Tanzania, and Tunisia to export in vitro coffee, wheat, raspberry, blackberry and corn, among other vegetable products.