

Mexico and the United Arab Emirates prepare an Intention Agreement to increase the food and agriculture technological and commercial relation.

The Chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock National Board (CNA), Bosco de la Vega, emphasized the coordinated work performed in the sector in matter of innovation, investment, and food and agriculture trade, as well as the actions to guarantee the country's food safety.



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, and the Minister of Food Safety of the United Arab Emirates, Mariam bint Mohammed, held a high level meeting aimed to strengthen technological cooperation for innovation and commercial cooperation by subscribing an Intention Agreement that facilitates the health, safety, certification, and air and sea logistics processes.

During the bilateral meeting, they showed mutual interest in the diversification of agriculture and livestock, and fisheries markets, from Mexico's part, and the opportunity of the Arab country to increase its commercial clients, therefore they committed to intensify the works to extend the offer of halal certification products.

They agreed that agriculture is a "win-win" subject, so they agreed to the integration of a work group to follow-up the food and agriculture productivity, health, and logistics processes, in order to extend trade and cooperation between both countries.

The Head of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) stated that the ability to connect markets is important, so the logistics and transport issue in this strategic work group integrated to overcome barriers and processes aimed to cooperation and commercial exchange between Mexico and the United Arab Emirates will be an agreement point.

Minister Mariam bint Mohammed, said that “it is important for us to talk to our partners, to show confidence and interest, as well as to work to integrate and establish, from country to country, port to port, a business model to drive markets development.”

The Head of the Economic and Global Intelligence Unit of the Ministry of Economy, Sergio Silva Castañeda, mentioned the importance of these meetings that reinforce the commercial relation of Mexico with the world.

On behalf of the Ministry of Economy, Graciela Márquez Colín, Silva Castañeda emphasized that the Middle East is an opportunity for the national agricultural sector and, on that objective, “in coordination with producers, agriculture industries, and authorities, we will join efforts to create the conditions that allow a wider commercial relation, as well as to promote innovation and inclusion of the rural sector into development.”

She highlighted that, as a country, “we are serious with these agreements, because in this government we work together, directly, to identify opportunities and meet the commitments established, in this case with the participation of Agriculture, Economy and Foreign Affairs.

The Chairman of the Agriculture and Livestock National Board (CNA), Bosco de la Vega, thanked the invitation to this meeting to show the coordinated work between public and private sector in matter of innovation, investment, and food and agriculture trade, as well as the actions to guarantee the country’s food safety.

He explained that the CNA has 300 general partners (producers and agricultural industries) specialized in grains, fruits, vegetables, processed products, canned foods, cattle, beef and poultry meat, as well as fisheries and aquaculture production; their membership represents 75% of the national production and food and agriculture exports in Mexico.

It is a co-responsible work, producers and authorities have built a halal certification scheme in 70 plants of 60 beef, poultry and lamb meet, dates, chia, strawberries, avocado, corn tortilla, tuna and candies products companies.

The Head Director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, said that Mexico has the ability to be active in international markets, with certain status and prestige in the production of healthy and safe food, which allows it to export into the most demanding countries of the world.

In this context, he stated that we “guarantee the best responses to their expectations and with these agreements and recommendations we should develop a work scheme that includes all the requirements in health and safety matter of food and agriculture products of Mexico.”

During the event, which took place at the Secretariat of Agriculture, some of the technological contributions were covered, such as pasture species tolerant to

salinity; dates palm and agriculture technologies in arid zones, among others, with the companionship of research centers from both countries.

Participants tasted Mexican products with halal certification, including coconut dessert with dragon fruit and star fruit sauce, date kiss, jicama and shrimp tacos, apple cold cream, avocado, and mint lime, as well as a red fruits mini tartlet with chocolate from Oaxaca.