

**The Senasica evaluates its fast response systems in case of sanitary emergencies.**

Countries perform simulation exercises to guarantee a fast, coordinated, and effective response in case exotic diseases sources are observed.



In order to reinforce the actions of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) to keep a country free of African Swine Fever (ASF), the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) organizes a Field Mega Drill, with the participation of over 500 people.

The ASF Mega Drill in Mexico is to evaluate the fast response systems in case of sanitary emergencies, and for all people involved to know the precision with which they must act, as well as the actions they must take to quickly control and eradicate the disease in national territory.

The goal is to promote coordination and information exchange among actors related to a sanitary emergency, as well as to evaluate the human resources and materials to improve the response capacity before emergency situations due to ASF sources appearance in the country.

Eight field drills will be performed at the same time between September 24 and 26, in eight pork producing regions, with the participation of over 500 people, among scholars, researchers, technicians, and sanitary inspection officers of the Senasica, staff of the Sader, of the Agriculture and Livestock Development Ministries of the participant states, the State Livestock Promotion and Protection Committee and national security entities.

To the drill exercise that will simultaneously occur in Chiapas, Guanajuato, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, and Yucatán, the productive sector, journalists, and technicians from the United States, Canada,

and the Regional International Agriculture and Livestock Body will also be summoned as observers.

During the exercise, the crisis center will be activated, at the Sanitary Intelligence Unit of the Senasica, led by the Chief Director of the Sader, the General Director of Animal Health, and the Director of the Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Exotic Diseases in animals (CPA).

The National Animal Health Emergency Device (Dinesa) will be tested; the protocols established nationwide for response to ASF sources will be reviewed and improved, and counter-epidemic actions will be exercised which must be applied for the control and eradication of the disease, adapted to different scenarios.

Technicians must delimit the affected zone, operate search and removal systems of swine corpses, try the surveillance systems and take actions to reinforce the biosafety of production units, as well as the movement restrictions of pork products and byproducts.

During the Mega Drill, the productive sector and the veterinary physicians will be made aware of the importance to immediately notify, as a key piece for the emergency operative to be activated timely and eradicate the disease quickly.

Likewise, the internal communication mechanisms will be activated, with state authorities, with the productive sector and the society, as well as the promotion of the relation and coordination between all the involved sectors.

The ASF supposes an important risk for the national swine production; therefore, the drills are necessary to guarantee a fast, coordinated, and effective response to the possibility of a source of this exotic disease appearing in Mexico.