

## **Agriculture agrees with producers of the region of lagoons to use biological control against yellow plant louse.**

The Senasica will fund the breeding of lacewings to reduce the use of pesticides that affect pollinators as bees.



The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) agreed with agricultural and beekeeping producers in the region of lagoons on the creation of a biological control comprehensive program against yellow plant louse, which allows to reduce the use of pesticides, thus protecting pollinators.

The body of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) will fund the breeding of lacewings, natural enemies of the yellow plant louse, pest that affects crops like corn and sorghum, two of the most important agricultural products in the region.

Additionally, the sanitary authority will monitor the several types of pesticides that are currently used, in order to verify they meet the regulations in force and that they are applied during the schedules set by the law.

The Chief Director of the Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, participated in the Sanitary Planning for Pollinators Conservation Forum: Honey Bees, at which he spoke with producers, scientists, and scholars about the need to establish local measures besides those already operating by the federal government to develop an eco-friendly agriculture.

“The phenomenon is on plain sight, a decrease in bee hives has been documented. The reason of being here is to end the discussion that has only lead us to generic conclusions. The best scenario is to balance the interests of farmers and the protection of pollinators,” he said.

He highlighted that the Head of the Sader, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, ordered to attend and solve all the demands that involve the protection of pollinators. “It is the most important matter for the Minister. I was instructed to dialog with the parties involved and to analyze the contribution that can be made from the Ministry of Agriculture.”

He said he will summon two specialists in biological control matter to start the program: the Researcher of the National Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research Institute (INIFAP), Isabel López Arroyo, and the Deputy Director of Biological Control of the Sader, Hugo Arredondo Bernal.

He detailed that the region of lagoons is pioneer in biological control, thus it has the facilities to start the first lacewings breeding.

“We have the resources necessary to start a breeding enough for next year, Senasica has the funds to cover the operative cost,” he said.

The federal official celebrated there is a consensus among farmers and beekeepers to protect pollinators and highlighted that no producer may not meet the regulations about pesticides: they will be benefited in the biological control area.

It is worth remembering that biological control is a sustainable and friendly alternative with the environment to fight agricultural pests from live organisms that are natural enemies of pests.

The chairman of the Beekeeping Product System of the Region of Lagoons, María Guadalupe García Rosas, said that this first agreement between producers and federal authorities sets the conditions for farmers and beekeepers to develop their activity in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Stated that fighting yellow plant louse with biological control will reduce the number of pesticides applications in very important agricultural crops in the region of lagoons, like corn and sorghum, which cover over 55 thousand hectares of sowing.

Agricultural producers agreed that there is a lack of awareness in most production units about the benefits of biological control, including the financial one, since at a medium and long-term their use will be cheaper, compared to the one of pesticides.

During the forum representatives of the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo (UACH), the State Science and Technology Board of Coahuila (Coecyt) and the Plan Health Local Boards of Coahuila and Durango also participated.