

The agricultural and livestock health actions to insert Chiapas producers in national and international markets show signs of progress

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The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and the state's producers work to improve the sanitary conditions of their production units to promote their insertion to better national and international markets for the agriculture, livestock and fisheries producers of Chiapas.

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) met with members of the Plant, Aquaculture and Livestock Health state committees to review the progress of the productive schemes.

At the meeting, headed by Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, Head of SENASICA, the Plant Health State Committee reported having provided phytosanitary services to around 30 thousand fruit, vegetable, grass and palm producers.

He underlined the productivity recovery of coffee rust thanks to actions against coffee blight. Currently 900 kg of parchment coffee are harvested per hectare.

The sanitary actions against the citrus Huanglongbing disease have kept the Soconusco region free of that pest, he emphasized.

The Acaetahua area of Chiapas is a candidate to be declared free of banana Moko disease, which would allow the producers to be candidates to export to China.

The State Committee of Livestock Promotion and Protection of Chiapas stated that the livestock breeders of the state are currently working to homologate the brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis sanitary statuses in all the municipalities of Chiapas.

They indicated that 60 municipalities have an accredited preparatory status by which they are authorized to export live animals to the United States by testing the lot of export breeding cows and calves for tuberculin.

There is work done to increase the coverage of vaccination against bovine paralytic rabies and make progress in the control of varroosis.

There are also epidemiological surveillance activities to maintain the status of free of diseases such as the classical swine fever and the Aujeszky disease.

The Management of the Aquaculture Health Committee of Chiapas reported that with 206 technical production units, Chiapas is a major player in the production of Tilapia. Moreover, there are 36 shrimp production units distributed in 35 municipalities.

Currently there are 42 certified production units, which represent almost 60 percent of the state's production and the small producers are being encouraged to adopt Good Practices and other safety programs.

The Head of SENASICA invited avocado producers to take the necessary steps to declare zones free of avocado fruit borers and thus be eligible to export to more than 20 countries.

He mentioned that since Chiapas is a border state, it is necessary to reinforce the epidemiological surveillance programs, especially those associated with sanitary intelligence, which is indispensable at the strategic level to obtain the necessary resources to act preventively against threats such as the *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* (FocR4T) fungus and the African swine fever.

Likewise, Trujillo Arriaga offered the support of the SENASICA laboratories to test the sanitary quality of the water and sample the aquaculture production units.

He underlined that to advance agricultural and livestock health, the collaboration between the federal and state government agencies and producers is essential.

Therefore, he added: "It is necessary to assume the compromise that sanitary matters belong to everyone. This compromise entails joining efforts to comply with the laws and that everyone contributes with resources and works together in favor of the sanitation of the agricultural and livestock production of the state".

It is worth mentioning that the zoosanitary assets of Chiapas consists of more than 81 thousand bovine cattle production units, 70 thousand producers and 1,000,718 cattle heads; 4,584 ovine cattle production units; 8,643 beehives, 41 technical pig farms, with 23,500 bellies; 99 technical avian farms, 78 fattening farms, 15 reproductive farms and 6 breeding farms.