

New export markets for wheat (Tunisia) and table grapes (South Korea and Cuba) are imminent.

The Secretariat of Agriculture acknowledges Sonoran producers for their commitment to agri-food health, since their high status in that respect allows them to trade at better prices and in more countries.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) informed that new export markets for Mexico may open in the short term, since South Korea and Cuba are interested in importing table grapes and Tunisia looks to purchase wheat, both products from the State of Sonora.

The National Service of Food Safety and Agriculture Quality (SENASICA) confirmed to table grape Sonoran producers that the negotiations with South Korea are in their final stage.

Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, Head of SADER, said that the first shipments may start in the next harvests, in early 2020, once the South Korean government publishes in their official gazette the protocol agreed upon with SENASICA.

During a meeting with representatives of the Plant Health Committee of the State of Sonora, he recalled that South Korean technicians visited Sonoran table grape vineyards in past May, upon which they distributed the list of mandatory phytosanitary requirements among the parties interested in exporting. The Mexican government health authority already accepted such requirements and the protocol is ready.

The Head of SENASICA informed that Cuba is also interested in importing Sonoran table grapes.

“It is only required that the fruits come from zones free of the *Anastrepha fraterculus* pest, and that there are assurances about the monitoring and control

of *Frankliniella occidentalis* and *Tetranychus pacificus*. The Sonora producers meet those requirements without issues”, specified Trujillo Arriaga.

Regarding the negotiations to export wheat to Tunisia, he pointed out that the Tunisian National Organization of Phytosanitary Protection requested additional information about wheat production in free zones.

“The SENASICA is working to integrate the information and is expected to meet the requirement in October, and exports could begin in 2020”.

He acknowledged the commitment to sanitation of Sonoran agricultural and livestock producers, which has allowed them to trade at better prices and in a wide variety of markets.

“Sanitation is a culture and is not achieved in one or ten years. Sonora is an example for other states that a reasonable investment in sanitation schemes helps to facilitate exports”.

Trujillo Arteaga stated the above in separate meetings with producers from the Hermosillo, Caborca, San Luis Río Colorado and Valle del Yaqui regions.

He pointed out, before representatives of the Livestock Promotion and Protection Committee of Sonora, that thanks to the good work of the producers to prevent the entry of diseases to their territory, the state is acknowledged as a zone free of brucellosis and soon it may also be declared free of bovine tuberculosis.

Jorge Guzmán Nieves, Head of the Sonoran Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Water Resources, Fisheries and Aquaculture (SAGARHPA), pointed out that producers have worked efficiently before challenging circumstances, such as climate change, with the firm purpose of diversifying their markets and not depend of only one.

Eduardo Coronado Huez, of the SADER in the state, Fabián Sánchez Galicia, Head of the Coordination and Liaison Unit, and Alejandro Flores, representative of SENASICA in the state were also in attendance in the meetings.