

## **Senasica invites Zacatecas producers to join health campaigns to obtain greater value for their products**



Small communities can organize to receive accreditation and gain access to export markets.

National Service of Food Safety and Agricultural Quality (Senasica) invited agricultural producers of Zacatecas to participate in campaigns operated by this agency, since by integrating into their schemes they improve their sanitary status and increase their possibility of obtaining greater value for their goods.

It is an instruction of Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, to support producers with programs and government actions, especially small ones, so that they improve their quality of life and gain access to competitive markets, informed chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga.

The head of Senasica met with representatives of committees of Plant, Livestock and Aquaculture Health of the entity, who said that Senasica will continue to invest in health and safety programs in order to maintain Mexico free from pests and exotic diseases, work that no other national or state agency may replace.

He stressed that the other major responsibility of Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) is to support producers in the control and eradication of pests and diseases established in Mexico, such as fruit flies, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and low pathogenic avian influenza.

In that regard, he said that Senasica is always open to receive and respond to requests from organized producers that seek to improve the status of their regions.

Likewise, Trujillo Arriaga said, Senasica technicians are ready to attend health emergencies that could pose a risk to Mexican food and agriculture production.

Representatives of State Committee for the Promotion and Protection of Livestock (CEFOPP) indicated that the sanitary work in the entity allowed to increase bovine and equine exports to the United States, from 18 thousand to 21 thousand 600 heads in one year.

Regarding bovine tuberculosis, they commented that 47 out of 58 municipalities in Zacatecas are in the eradication phase, with a disease prevalence of 0.10% of total head of stock; therefore, it is expected that these municipalities will increase their status in two years.

Regarding plant health, Committee noted that they have been able to accredit regions as free zones and low prevalence of fruit fly, so they will seek to improve the status in the rest of the state territory by applying phytosanitary campaigns.

Zacatecas is the first Mexican bean producer, with 400 thousand tons per year, equivalent to almost five billion pesos, and the second one of lettuce, with 86 thousand tons.

In addition, it stands out in the production of green tomato, 89 thousand tons, and table grapes, 15 thousand tons, as well as corn and forage oats, onions, green chili and guava, among other foods.