

## Important liaison between Secretariat of Agriculture and universities to protect Mexico from pests and diseases



National Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System (Sinavef) was created 13 years ago, with the support of Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP).

The collaboration of Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) was decisive for the installation of the National Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System (Sinavef) of National Service of Food Safety and Agriculture Quality (Senasica), which has been decisive to prevent the entry of more than 900 exotic pests into Mexican territory.

When giving the keynote lecture “Plant health, connection with science, challenges and perspectives,” the general director of Plant Health of Senasica, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, recognized the UASLP as a strategic ally in the investigation of plants pests and diseases, which has helped to protect Mexican agricultural and food heritage.

The official of Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development recalled that 13 years ago the National Phytosanitary Surveillance System was born, which is the tool that Senasica uses to permanently address pests native to Mexico, to know their fluctuation and make decisions for control.

He explained that the entry of pests is mainly due to mobilization of national and international trade, so Senasica conducts studies to establish measures that mitigate any possibility of scattering.

Regarding exotic pests that threaten the Mexican territory, general director of Plant Health said that one of the most monitored is the Mediterranean fly, mainly in our border with Guatemala, where actions are carried out to keep it confined.

As part of the seventh anniversary celebration of Coordination for Innovation and Application of Science and Technology (Ciacyt) of UASLP, a Scientific Classroom was inaugurated, named after Mr. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, in recognition of his institutional coordination to implement the Sinavef.

The classroom is intended to develop new methodologies and strengthen scientific, technological research activities, and is intended to foster innovation on a training model in Phytosanitary Outreach (FITOHUB).

Secretary of Research and Postgraduate Studies of UASLP, Ricardo Alberto Guirado, stressed that the University is a leader in issues related to climate change, and has facilities, researchers and first-line projects.

He pointed out that the academic weeks represent an unparalleled possibility of dialogue and exchange of experiences that have a positive impact on the strengthening of the institution.

The coordinator of Ciacyt, Hugo Navarro Contreras, stressed that the University promotes the application of science and technology, biomedical sciences, environmental studies, renewable energies and nanotechnology.

It should be noted that the Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System is the operational tool of Senasica, through which the occurrence or absence of pests in a specific area is determined.

The system operates throughout Mexico; it is supported by Senasica technicians and through its operation the phytosanitary situation of regulated pests in the field is recorded.

The event was also attended by general secretary of UASLP, Anuar Abraham Kasis Ariceaga, and general director of San Luis Potosí Board of Science and Technology (Copocyt), Rosalba Medina Rivera.