

Mexico and US will strengthen the Mediterranean Fly Trinational Program

Experts of International Atomic Energy Agency will be conferred with to redefine 2020 work plan.



Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (Sader) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) work to strengthen the Trinational Program against Mediterranean fly, in order to advance in controlling the plague in Guatemala and avoid its dispersion towards free areas of Mexico.

To this end, National Service of Food Safety and Agricultural Quality (Senasica) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will shortly convene specialists from International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to make an evaluation of the program, and its recommendations will be incorporated into the annual work plan 2020.

Both health agencies agreed that, no later than next October, they should approve the reconsideration of the strategic plan to establish more effective actions against the plague.

Moscamed Trinational Program has been operating for more than 30 years with the participation of Mexico, the United States and Guatemala. Its objective is to strengthen the containment barrier of Mediterranean fly in the Central American country and thus avoid the spread and establishment of the pest in the free areas of the other two countries.

It should be noted that since 2010, given the increase in the population of this pest in Guatemala, Mexico started releasing sterile flies in that country, along with that carried out in the border area of Chiapas, where more than 500 million sterile insects are released weekly, so that the plague is established in its territory.

Containment measures have been fruitful, since both Mexico and United States are countries free of this pest and when they have outbreaks from external agents their eradication measures have been effective.

Currently, Senasica operates the National Emergency Device in Manzanillo, Colima, against the Mediterranean fly, which is in the eradication phase.

In this regard, at the working meeting, chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, informed associate deputy administrator of Programs of Action of International Services of APHIS, Rebecca Bech, and regional manager of North American Region Monitoring, Darya Chehrezad, of the advances of this operation.

Both US officials agreed that the outbreak in the urban area of Manzanillo resembles those that occasionally occur in California and considered the actions of Mexican Government to be successful.

This event was also attended by general director of Plant Health, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez; director of the National Fruit Fly Program, Maritza Juárez Durán; director of Moscamed Program in Guatemala, José Luis Quintero Fong, and director of Liaison and Technical Follow-up, José Manuel Gutiérrez Ruelas.