

Mexico, one of the countries with the best agri-food health rates

Mexico has a national health control and monitoring system which allows to perform exports to the most demanding countries regarding food handling, said the head of the Sader.



The secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, pointed out that Mexico has a national health control and monitoring system which allows it to be among five countries in the world with the best agri-food health conditions, and to export to the most demanding markets. This is possible due to the work of authorities in conjunction with veterinary zootechnicians.

During an event to celebrate the Day of the Veterinarian Zootechnicians, the federal official declared that the development of the livestock sector, and its incursion into national and international markets, are possible due to the specialists and scientists' commitment. This entrance in the markets is carried out with high rates of competitiveness worldwide with respect to production, health and safety.

Together with the president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, John Howe; and the president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Melanie Hicks, the head of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) claimed that nowadays the livestock and fish sectors face huge challenges based on knowledge and innovation, as well as an increasing demand of meat products by Asian countries.

He accepted that the national system of health control strengthens the actions related to all actors of the productive chain. This, before the permanent pests and diseases threat, such as African swine fever (ASF), which may affect the swine activities of the continent.

He pointed out that the Mexican Government has different mechanisms established as the *Programa Crédito Ganadero a la Palabra* (Verbal Livestock Loan Program), whose purpose is the genetical improvement and recovery of herds during a first stage, paying attention to small producers.

He emphasized that another developing program is the one of Dairy Basin in the south southeast of Mexico, whose purpose is to encourage the meat and milk production in the Mexican tropics. This will cause an economic and social impact on the region: Tabasco, Veracruz and Chiapas; and will be possible through technical assistance, training and participation of veterinary zootechnicians.

He highlighted that the “Fourth Transformation” movement, in agriculture and livestock and fish issues, is based on three foundations: increase of productivity; a sustainable activity; and inclusion of small producers. This is in order to strength the agricultural, livestock and fisheries production for the welfare of all Mexican people, he said.

The general coordinator of Livestock of the Sader, David Montreal Ávila, emphasized the collaboration of veterinary zootechnicians in one of the most important economic activities of the country: cattle industry. He recognized the efforts and dedication of the professionals, and their contributions to the development of national livestock sector.

He underlined that control and development exist in health matters, by means of a co-responsible work which benefits the bovine, pig and bird meat production, as well as the public health, providing peace of mind to Mexicans.

He claimed that food sovereignty and safety, which is a genuine wish of this government, will be reached by applying public policies differentiated and focused on the livestock sector development to be a lever of action for social sector.

The Verbal Livestock Loan Program will be applied to all the Mexican Republic. At this moment, there are 175 veterinary zootechnicians enrolled in this program, participating in the accompanying, genetic improvement, innovation, technology and best practices.

The chief director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), Javier Trujillo Arriaga, said that since more than 40 years, the Mexican veterinary zootechnicians do their job properly, through an effective cooperation between authorities and the trade union.

This joint work is decisive for the detection and control of sanitary emergencies, with the contribution of more than five thousand veterinary zootechnicians authorized by Senasica. This allows Mexico to be recognized due to its global status and reputation.

Likewise, the president of the *Federación de Colegios y Asociaciones de Médicos Veterinarios Zootecnistas* (Federation of Colleges and Associations of Veterinary Zootechnicians or Fedmvz), Edmundo Jesús Villarreal González,

said that, as a result of the team work and support of the Sader, Mexico is one of the five countries with the best health status.

“We contribute to innocuous, healthy and quality food production for the most demanding markets of the world, under a single approach, because human health would not exist without animal health”, he said.

During the event, the head of the Senasica and the head of the Federation of Colleges and Associations of Veterinary Zootechnicians signed a Collaboration Agreement aimed to educate professionals through the training of 680 veterinary zootechnicians on protection systems regarding health issues and good agricultural practices.

Later, the secretary Víctor Villalobos Arámbula granted the 2019 Veterinary Zootechnician Guild Merit Award to Ricardo Flores Castro, and the Professional Merit Award to Jorge Salvador León Dousset.

In this event participated the deputy secretary of Environmental Promotion and Regulation of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, Julio Trujillo Segura; senator Beatriz Paredes Rangel; congressman José Guadalupe Ambrocio Cacho; the president of the National Confederation of Livestock Organizations (CNOG), Oswaldo Cházaro Montalvo; and the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Francisco Suárez Güemes, among others.