

## **Agriculture designs a plan intended to small producers get a greater value for their crops**

The Senasica wants that producers collectively get health and safety certifications to assess their competitiveness.



With the purpose of supporting small producers to increase their competitiveness and access to better markets, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) suggested a plan so that regions and municipalities get collectively safety certifications.

In this model, the Mexican Government and producers would establish partnerships for campaigns for prevention and control of pests and diseases. The crops would increase their value in the national market and, if they want, the export protocols may be added.

The chief director of the agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, lead a meeting with producers and legislators in the context of the work tables performed by the Mexican Government with people related to the Mexican field.

The head of the Senasica pointed out that this kind of strategy has been put into operation successfully in some Guerrero areas where small mango producers work together per municipality to perform the required actions to obtain the status of “area free of pests and diseases”. This status increases the value of their goods; they can be moved without restriction and have access to competitive markets.

In the livestock sector, farmers are able to join to campaigns against brucellosis and tuberculosis, he added.

He specified that these organization plans also encourage the care among producers of free areas by not allowing risky practices which may affect the region.

Trujillo Arriaga emphasized that legality becomes a protection of status because any contrary act affects all producers.

In Mexico, phyto- and zoosanitary campaigns are coordinated by Senasica. For this purpose, activities such as epidemiologic surveillance; chemical, biological and legal control, among others, are carried out. This contributes to improve the competitiveness for the benefit of the *Sistema Producto* (System-Product).

He explained that Sader makes the works in field against pests of quarantine and economic importance, through Auxiliary Agencies of Plant and Animal Health.

The president of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and Preservation, and Food Self-sufficiency of the Chamber of Deputies, Eraclio Rodríguez Gómez, emphasized that he will work together with the Secretariat of Agriculture and the Senasica to make synergy and protect the investment assigned to agricultural and livestock issues.

He said that agriculture, livestock and fisheries must be a priority when discussing the 2020 Federation Expenses Budget.

In the meeting were also present the executive director and the technical director of the *Asociación Mexicana de Semilleros* (Mexican Association of Seed Producers or Amsac), Mario Puente Raya; the general director of Administration and Information Technology of the Senasica, Francisco Calderón Elizalde; and the representative of the Agency of Services for the Marketing and Development of Agricultural Markets (Aserca), Juvenal Castorena.