

Agriculture and UNAM reinforce collaboration agreement on livestock issues

The agreement anticipates the cooperation for research, updating courses for professionals, and training for producers of different areas of the country.



The National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) confirm their interest to continue with the collaboration agreement between both institutions in order to attend to items such as animal health and welfare; good livestock practices; and reduction of contamination risks in products of animal, aquaculture and fisheries origin, among others.

The chief director of the Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga; and the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Zootechnics (FMVZ) of the UNAM, Francisco Suárez Güemes, agreed with the idea that the general agreement maintained since more than 10 years by both parties, as well as the specific agreements with the College, will continue or even get stronger.

During the meeting, which was carried out in the Technical Committee Room of the FMVZ, the official of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) acknowledge the work of the teachers, researchers and scientists pertaining to the most important university of Mexico, which whom it has been an institutional association. Nowadays, this association is reinforced with the continuity of the agreement for an unlimited period of time.

The federal official pointed out that as part of this agreements, the Senasica and the FMVZ perform researches; give updating courses to veterinary zootechnicians; provide training to producers of different regions; and educate a new era of professionals, among other tasks.

During the meeting, dean Francisco Suárez Güemes, said that these interinstitutional exchanges represent a relationship in which both institutions win: “while academicians develop training plans and projects for veterinary zootechnicians of the Senasica, the Senasica opens its doors to students of the UNAM, so they are able to carry out their social services, professional practices, internship and thesis.” he said.

“The bond between both parties is so successful that in 2013, thanks to a Senasica’s proposal, the FMVZ of the UNAM was accredited by the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) as an OIE Collaborating Centre of Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems”, remembered Suárez Güemes.

The academician informed that the Master’s degree course on Sustainable Animal Production is about to start. This course is to support specially the south-southeast region of the country according to the strategy of the Mexico's president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and it will be taught at the *Escuela Nacional de Estudios Superiores* (National School of Higher Education or ENES) of the UNAM, located in Mérida, Yucatán.

At the end of the meeting, the authorities went over the Microbiology, Immunology, Physiology and Pharmacology Laboratories in the College facilities. They also visited the Equidae Hospital; the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health; and the Department of Ethology, Wild Animals and Laboratory Animals, where the offices of the OIE Collaborating Centre are located.

In the meeting participated, the general director of Animal Health, Juan Gay Gutiérrez; and the general director of Food and Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Safety, Amada Vélez Méndez; both on behalf of the Senasica.

On behalf of the FMVZ, the general secretary, José Ángel Gutiérrez Pabello; the secretary of Continuous Education, Jorge Hernández Espinosa; the secretary of Postgraduate Courses and Research, Carlos Gutiérrez Aguilar; the head of Professional Studies Division, Verónica Caballero Gutiérrez, and the head of the Liaison Department, Gerardo Suzán Aspiri, among others.