

The Secretariat of Agriculture encourages the application of safety systems in food production.

Senasica leads the First National Meeting of Supporting Bodies which contribute to implement safety systems.



With the purpose of implementing safety systems in food production, the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) held the First National Meeting of Supporting Bodies which contribute in safety issues.

Met at the *Universidad Autónoma Chapingo*, members of the Plant Health, Aquaculture and Livestock Committees of the 32 federal entities, received training with regards to Good Practices and Pollution Risk Reduction Systems (SRRC).

During the opening ceremony, the General Director of Food and Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Innocuousness, Amada Vélez Méndez, said that this national meeting is intended to strengthen the safety programs by committees, and encourage producers to adhere to certifications granted by the Senasica.

She reminded that safety certifications are the key that gives food access to more competitive markets, and the producers adhered are beneficiated and bring development to communities.

The work of the state health committees is essential considering that their technicians work directly on field, and are able to verify that foods are produced free of microorganisms and parasites which may affect human health.

The Director of Food Innocuousness, José Luis Lara de la Cruz, specified that the information of the meeting must be replicated into productive regions and among producers, with the purpose of Mexican people demand healthy and safety food.

He made reference to the fact that health committees are extensions of the Senasica, and they are comprised of producers and specialized technicians, who perform tasks in Pollution Risk Reduction Systems.

He said that the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development has the order of encouraging the actions developed by the Senasica in favor of Mexican

consumers, and so they know that health programs are applicable to domestic consumption and export products.

He reminded that Senasica's safety programs have an overall approach, which begins with the use of authorized pesticides and includes the appropriate use of water and management of harvest processes.

The representative of the Secretariat of Agriculture in the State of Mexico, Víctor Manuel Ontiveros, said that he expects that this first national health meeting and the subsequent allow to homogenize and adapt public policies, as well as keep generating opportunities which enable producers to continue producing healthy food.

The Dean of the *Universidad Autónoma Chapingo*, José Solís Ramírez, pointed out that this institution will be always ready to contribute in the performance of activities which help in the development of Mexican farmers.

"The food sovereignty is the most important thing. Providing food safety and availability for people is essential, if we want to finish with nutritional lags," he said.