

It is essential that countries of America operate with the same standard of surveillance and diagnosis of ASF: Senasica

Agriculture Agency hosted the Regional Workshop for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Laboratories and Epidemiologists of ASF.



In order to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of the African Swine Fever (ASF) in America, it is essential that all countries of the continent standardize the disease surveillance and diagnosis standard, said chief director of National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga.

Faced with this global threat, the alliance between veterinary services of the region should prevail, he said when participating in the Regional Workshop for Focal Points of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for Veterinary Laboratories and Epidemiologists of Swine Diseases: ASF-Prepare for action.

Under shelter of OIE, he said, we will all know the same conceptual message, so that the person doing it the best way does not stand out, but rather we all rely on the same methodologies so that the result is what we all want, prevent the entrance of the disease to America.

Trujillo Arriaga celebrated that more than 65 specialists from the continent would meet in Mexico to exchange experiences and knowledge about the ASF virus. He said that the veterinary medical services of the American countries have a high international prestige.

The general director of Animal Health of Senasica, Juan Gay Gutiérrez, explained that four countries in the Americas suffered from the disease between the 70s and 80s (Cuba, Brazil, Dominican Republic and Haiti) and in all cases it was eradicated in less than four years, which demonstrates the efficiency of veterinary health systems.

Regarding the mechanisms of defense against the disease, prevention, timely detection and control actions, he commented that the countries of the continent have done an extraordinary job to prevent the introduction of the disease, so it is now appropriate to collaborate to strengthen the methods of laboratory diagnosis, theme of the workshop organized by the OIE.

He indicated that each of the Focal Points (experts) in the region has an obligation to question and discuss the opinions of their counterparts, which will serve to strengthen diagnostic methods.

OIE regional representative for the Americas, Martín Minassian, stressed that the international organization actively works with all member countries, and keeping America as an ASF-free zone is a priority.

For five days, experts in diagnostic laboratories discussed the molecular and biological composition of the virus, clinical diagnosis of the disease, capacity of laboratories in America, control and eradication measures, contingency plans and simulated outbreaks.

The event was attended by Focal Points of Argentina, Barbados, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, United States, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela, among others.