

The Department of Agriculture promotes scientific link to protect the country from pests and diseases

Agreement between Senasica and UASLP mainly benefits small producers.



The link established by the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality with higher education institutions, such as the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí (UASLP) –with a 13-year relationship– has allowed phytosanitary epidemiological surveillance to be more efficient, mainly for the benefit of small producers.

This was stated by the head director of the agency of the Ministry Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, during a meeting held with representatives of the house of studies to assess the progress of the work carried out jointly by both institutions.

Trujillo Arriaga said that the University has contributed to the creation of scientific and technological tools to permanently address the native pests of Mexico, know their fluctuation and make decisions for their control.

He stressed that Senasica is a government institution that bases its regulations on scientific methods, so that formal collaboration with academic institutions strengthens its work and allows it to position itself within agriculture and livestock producers, which opens the possibility of placing its products competitively in domestic and foreign markets.

He indicated that, with this work, they deliver tangible results to the less favored sector of the Mexican countryside, in compliance with the instruction of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

He stated that Senasica operates health intelligence mechanisms to monitor that the main pests and exotic diseases of quarantine importance are not present in Mexico.

Since 1997, he added, the countries that are members of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) have agreed that threats such as *fusariosis*, Mediterranean fly and *bactrocera*s should be tracked through tangible and

permanent monitoring mechanisms. Therefore, technological tools provide us the opportunity to determine search variables.

At the meeting, the director of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the UASLP, Miguel Aguilar Robledo, gave Senasica recognition for its leadership, vision and institutional coordination for the implementation of the first National Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System (Sinavef).

The scholar said that the Potosi Institution is nationally recognized as one of the three most important in scientific development; work in which the national laboratory of Geoprocessing of Phytosanitary Information stands out.

The General Coordinator of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Salvador Fernández Rivera, highlighted the collaboration between Senasica and the UASLP, a link that, as he said, has had a positive impact on the work of protection of the agri-food heritage of Mexico.

He stressed that the progress of the academic institution in geoinformatics opens the possibility of generating complementary information systems, which include, in addition to plant health, animal, aquaculture and fisheries health.

The Phytosanitary Epidemiological Surveillance System is the operational tool of Senasica, through which the occurrence or absence of pests in a specific area is determined.

The system operates throughout the national territory and is powered by Senasica technicians. Through its operation, the phytosanitary situation of regulated pests in the field is recorded.

The meeting also included the director general of Plant Health, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, and the coordinator of the National Laboratory of Geoprocessing of Phytosanitary Information of the UASLP, Guadalupe Galindo Mendoza.