

## **The Secretariat of Agriculture publishes the 2020 Agro-Alimentary Safety and Health Program Operation Rules**

These Rules are subject to the austerity criteria of the Mexican government and the efficient use of resources in favor of the most vulnerable sectors.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF) the 2020 Agro-Alimentary Safety and Health Program Operation Rules, to give a better understanding of their performance under the Mexican government's austerity criteria.

The Agro-Alimentary Safety and Health Program is part of the third core idea of the 2019-2022 National Development Plan that aims to guarantee food self-sufficiency and uplift the rural sector.

The Plan stipulates that the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) is responsible for maintaining and improving the health and safety conditions of food produced in Mexico.

As a national security agency, the SENASICA's priority projects are the performance of: epidemiological surveillance, inspection of imports and national and international movement of agriculture and livestock products, and plant and animal health campaigns for the agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture and fishery sectors.

The Program contributes to maintain and improve the health of the country's agro-alimentary, aquaculture and fishery assets, and makes sure that resources are applied with efficiency, mainly to protect the most vulnerable sectors.

The plan consists of five components: Epidemiological surveillance of pests and diseases that impact agricultural and livestock production; Inspection of goods regulated by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Plant

and animal health campaigns; Agro-Alimentary, Aquaculture and Fishery Safety; Health and safety support.

It aims to provide better certainty to agro-alimentary activities through the realization of regional projects to prevent and control pests and diseases that impact the national agriculture, livestock breeding, aquaculture and fishery, and to promote the application of safety systems to food production.

The Program has national coverage, and its application is aimed at zones and regions in the country that require the realization of measures that contribute to the protection, maintenance or improvement of agro-alimentary, aquaculture and fishery health and safety conditions.

The Program is subject to the budget authorized in the 2020 Federal Expenses Budget Decree. The SENASICA shall appoint an agency to make use of the resources through specific interest-bearing accounts for each project; such accounts must have resources available at all times for the realization of the actions provided for in work programs, the Annual Work Plan, operations program or a technical appendix.

The federal resources allocated to the Program can be audited by the Secretariat of Civil Service (SFP), the Secretariat's internal control bodies and the SENASICA, the state control bodies, the Secretariat of Treasury and Public Credit, and the Federal Auditor's Office.

The Secretariat of Agriculture, in coordination with the Agro-Alimentary and Fishery Information System (SIAP), shall prepare final assessments for every item of each expense, with the aim of identifying the objectives and goals achieved, the appropriate expense of the resources, and measure the impact thereof.

The SENASICA may authorize the purchase of laboratory equipment with federal resources, as provided for in work programs, operations programs, work plans and other legal instruments subscribed for the realization of the Program, and subject to national priorities, in accordance with any applicable legal provisions.

The Operation Rules are available for query at the following webpage: <https://www.gob.mx/senasica/documentos/acuerdo-por-el-que-se-dan-a-conocer-las-reglas-de-operacion-del-programa-de-sanidad-e-inocuidad-agroalimentaria?state=published>