

The Secretariat of Agriculture prepares to celebrate the International Year of Plant Health 2020

This celebration is especially meaningful for Mexico because it coincides with the 120 anniversary of the start of plant health activities in our country.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development joins the celebration of the International Year of Plant Health 2020, which is especially meaningful because it coincides with the 120 anniversary of the start of plant health activities in our country.

The federal agency announced that the National Phytosanitary Advisory Board (Consejo Nacional Consultivo Fitosanitario - Conacofi) will be one of the 55 agricultural, academic and scientific organizations that are getting prepared to take part in the celebration, together with nearly 200 other countries.

Mexico joins the celebration of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 as declared by the United Nations General Assembly on December 2, 2018.

The objective of commemorating plant health is to raise social awareness about the importance of preventing plant pests and diseases.

Plant health is essential for food production, thus it is an imperative condition to advance towards food self-sufficiency and to achieve the zero hunger and end of poverty sustainable development goals established by the UN.

Therefore, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, General Director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) took the oaths of Javier Hernández Morales and Néstor Bautista Martínez, new President and Secretary, respectively, of Conacofi for the 2020-2022 term.

Trujillo Arteaga underlined that the Conacofi has consolidated as a forum where experts from the many sectors involved in plant health converge; therefore, their proposals and recommendations help to maintain food production and raise the productivity and competitiveness of Mexican producers.

He also directed the incoming leadership to strengthen its association with the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources, to comply with President Andrés Manuel López Obrador instructions to promote the development of the Mexican rural sector with sustainability in mind.

Moreover, he emphasized that the new Conacofi's leadership is responsible of providing technical and scientific support to the SENASICA in the performance

of their phytosanitary programs during a milestone, because this year Mexico is commemorating the creation of the first government institution dedicated to ensure plant health in our country.

He revealed that the new presidency will also be responsible of organizing the events in commemoration of the International Year of Plant Health, announced by Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, Secretary of Agriculture, a few days ago.

Further, he stated that over 120 years, Mexican producers and agronomists have built a solid sanitary system that gives Mexico a high prestige as food producer and enables exports to over 160 countries, since the country is free from 85% of the 1,200 known plant pests and diseases in the world.

As an advisory agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture, the new Conacofi's presidency reiterated their commitment to support in an impartial and scientific manner the implementation of effective public policies to protect the national agricultural production.

The Conacofi is a consultative body of the Secretariat of Agriculture in phytosanitary matters, and its many functions include: provision of technical advice, analysis of plant health problems in our country and proposal of programs and actions for the solution thereof.

After being sworn in as President of the Board, Javier Hernández Morales highlighted the trust of the representatives of the Secretariats of Agriculture, Environment, Economy and Health and of the academic scientific and social institutions that elected him to be head of the organization during the next three years.

The new leadership of this body of the Secretariat of Agriculture replaces Antonio Segura Miranda and Raciél Hernández Hernández.

Javier Hernández Morales and Néstor Bautista Martínez are agronomist engineers, with specialization in agricultural parasitology, graduated from the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, and have a Ph.D. from the Postgraduate College (Colegio de Posgraduados - Colpos).