

## **The Mexican government and farmers join efforts to strengthen the productivity of the national coffee production**

Secretaries Víctor Villalobos (Agriculture) and María Luisa Albores (Welfare), and Ernesto Acevedo, Undersecretary of Economy, together with farmers implemented an interinstitutional commission to seek solutions that address the social sector.



The Secretariats of Agriculture, Welfare and Economy agreed, through the implementation of an interinstitutional commission, will promote a permanent dialogue with the national coffee farming sector to seek joint solutions to strengthen productivity, specifically of the coffee farming social sector.

The meeting, that took place at the Secretariat of Agriculture, addressed subjects such as market regulation, fair pricing practices (in accordance with the quality of the product), promotion of consumption, access to financing, restoration of agro-industrial plants and commercialization promotion for small social companies.

The implementation of sales schemes for quality aromatics of small farmers at Diconsa stores, through the Mexican Food Security (*Seguridad Alimentaria Mexicana* or Segalmex) organization was also discussed; greater surveillance of coffee imports; representation at the international organizations of the sector; reinforcement of sanitary actions, and incorporation to productive programs, such as Sembrando Vida.

Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, Secretary of Agriculture, pointed out that these and other subjects will be addressed in the agenda by representatives of the federal bodies' members of the interinstitutional commission, which will begin to work next week pursuant to the demands of the country's coffee farmers.

The Secretary stated that the Mexican government is committed to an honest and open dialogue to address the issues faced by a sector of productive and social relevance.

He reminded that Mexico has taken the initiative to integrate a regional front that defends the quality of the coffee and more fair prices.

María Luisa Albores González, Secretary of Welfare, pointed out that the national coffee farming sector is one of the best organized in the country, and that this important productive activity is of great concern for the Secretariat of which she is the incumbent, since it represents families from the poorest and most marginalized regions of the country, often indigenous.

She emphasized that the government is committed and willing to work and create synergies with all involved parties, especially with the dispossessed.

There is an interinstitutional work in coordination with farmers, industry and the authorities to service the most vulnerable sectors, like the coffee sector, and provide assistance to help them develop in fair commerce niches with better prices for quality coffee, she added.

Ernesto Acevedo Fernández, Undersecretary of Industry, Commerce and Competitiveness of the Secretariat of Economy, underlined that his responsibility is to contribute to a proactive dialogue to face the challenges of the coffee farming sector in better conditions, with the realization of public policies that are more inclusive and have a higher economic and social impact.

Coffee farmers, represented by Anuario Herrera Solís, President of Sistema Producto Café, Fernando Solís Callejas of the National Union of Coffee Farmers' Organizations (*Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Cafetaleras*) and Miguel Tejero Vilcaña of the State Union of Coffee Farmers of Oaxaca (*Coordinadora Estatal de Productores de Café de Oaxaca* or CEPCO), among others, underlined the importance of this space talks and the start of a real dialogue for a joint search of solutions to the demands of the sector.

Assistance to farmers will improve through integral actions that benefit the sector and a better interinstitutional coordination.

The integration of an actual census of coffee farmers, the renewal of coffee trees and reactivation of environmental services that benefit the activity are among the first agreements reached, they recounted.