

The regulatory framework to protect livestock production and public health from tuberculosis is under assessment

The Senasica invests over 300 million Mexican pesos per year in the national campaign against bovine tuberculosis. There are 29 regions in Mexico with low prevalence of the disease, which amount to 86% of the national territory.



To strengthen the legal framework to prevent tuberculosis, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Mexican National Autonomous University [*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - UNAM*] signed a Letter of Intent that establishes the bases to soon enter into a Cooperation Agreement on the subject.

Through this agreement, technicians and lawyers will assess the existing national and international framework regarding human and bovine tuberculosis and its relationships and consequences, towards modernizing the existing regulations in our country.

Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, General Director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), in representation of the Secretariat of Agriculture, and Pedro Salazar Ugarte, Director of the Legal Research Institute of the UNAM both signed the document.

Trujillo Arriaga pointed out that the Senasica is an institution where science and law permanently converge, since the agency is responsible of regulating all agro-alimentary health and safety actions in our country.

He mentioned that to achieve its goals, the Secretariat of Agriculture has over 100 Mexican Official Standards (NOM) applicable to vegetable and animal health, plant and animal health inspections, mobilization and safety, that function as a means of interaction between technicians (mainly veterinarians, agronomists and biologists) and lawyers.

In that regard, he stated that the National Campaign against Bovine tuberculosis (BT), which receives around 300 million Mexican pesos of investment every year, is one of the most important campaigns operated by the Senasica, and aims to reduce the prevalence of the disease in the states and directly benefit both the livestock producers, with the commercialization of their

stock, and public health, by preventing any contagion of this zoonotic disease (a disease transmissible between animals and humans.)

Further, he specified that livestock commercialized in certified low prevalence territories double in value the livestock sold in high prevalence areas. There are 29 low prevalence regions in Mexico, which amounts to 86% of the national territory.

Pedro Salazar Ugarte, Director of the Legal Research Institute, underlined that the importance of this cooperation agreement is based on the zoonotic nature of tuberculosis, which requires an interdisciplinary outlook that would help to make progress in the protection the public health and agro-alimentary sector.