

## **The Secretariat of Agriculture, the INIFAP and the Senasica carry out the first state forum “Recovering the productive potential of corn.”**

Within the context of the *Producción para el Bienestar* program, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development develops forums for promoting sustainable practices that increase yield and protect the environment and human health.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development informed that *Producción para el Bienestar* is a program to boost productivity that has been enrolling a greater number of female beneficiaries.

In 2019 this priority program of the Mexican government subsidized 2,145,629 farmers that produce corn, beans, wheat, rice, amaranth, chia seeds and assorted grains, coffee and sugar cane; of the total of subsidized farmers, 665,401 were women.

That figure accounts for 31% of the total, which exceeds the 19% ratio of female land ownership in our country.

In 2019, the *Producción para el Bienestar* program subsidized women in the amount of 3,014,000 million Mexican pesos, out of 11,219,000 million pesos in total subsidies.

The program's 2019 guidelines stipulate that at least 18% of beneficiaries must be women, and that number will increase to at least 23% under the 2020 Procedural Rules.

It is worth mentioning that out of the total, 259,402 subsidized women are from indigenous communities from the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero, Veracruz, Puebla, Chihuahua, Hidalgo, Michoacan, Yucatan, Durango, Campeche, Estado de Mexico, Nayarit, San Luis Potosi, Quintana Roo and Jalisco, in that order.

At the start of this administration the *Producción para el Bienestar* program was set in motion in substitution of the *Procampo/Proagro* program and with substantial changes: focus towards small and medium scale farmers, deliberate intention of boosting productivity by sustainable means, and the direct handing of subsidies. The program provides liquidity to the beneficiaries so they may invest in activities associated with the crops eligible for subsidy.

Grains food self-sufficiency is making progress under these new guidelines. Regarding coffee and sugar cane, the objective is that farmers will be able to sustain their productive efforts within a context of volatile markets and disease such as coffee rust.

The program consists of two strategies: technical support to promote the transition of producers towards sustainable and ecological agricultural practices, and financial guarantees to multiply the effect of the subsidies received by producers of both genders.

Grain subsidies amount to \$1,600 pesos per hectare for small scale producers (up to 5 hectares of seasonal crops or up to 0.2 hectares with irrigation systems) for the spring/summer or autumn/winter cycles; and \$1,000 pesos per hectare for medium scale producers (up to 20 hectares of seasonal crops or up to 5 hectares with irrigation systems).

The annual rates for coffee and sugar cane producers are as follows: \$5,000 pesos for coffee and \$7,300 pesos for sugar cane.