

Measures to guarantee food production and supply in Mexico

Food supply is guaranteed.



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, through its incumbent Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, recognizes all farmers, fishers, aquaculture farmers, producers, traders and other players in agro-alimentary chains for their solidarity and determination in the face of the crisis that affects Mexico and the world.

Once more, they are an example of commitment to guarantee sufficient safe and healthy food to meet the demands of Mexicans and the international markets.

Throughout its history, Mexico has faced many adversities and has always prevailed thanks to the unity of its peoples and farmers and indigenous food producers, together with the entire value chain of the sector and their tireless work carried without qualms. All of them deserve special recognition, since without food, it is impossible to resist at all.

Food supply in our country is guaranteed as there are enough stocks to meet the demands of the population, and the primary and agro-industrial productive chains will keep working and observing, respectively, the provisions established by the health authority to address the situation caused by COVID-19.

The Secretariat of Agriculture calls the general population to avoid making panic purchases, since supply takes place with regularity and national and international trade continues unabated. Unjustified massive purchases cause logistics issues that affect the flow of distribution and give rise to speculation and price hikes.

We emphasize that there is no proof that food or its packaging spread corona virus. However, we urge everybody to maintain hygiene practices for food handling and preparation, including, but not limited to, exhaustive washing, residues separation, adequate cooking, refrigeration

as appropriate, and cleaning of surfaces and utensils; such measures are useful for this and any other risk factor.

To maintain the continuity of food production and supply, the Secretariat has begun implementing the following measures:

1. Instructions to the managers of priority programs to deliver, in due time and proper for, all subsidies to the beneficiaries of the following programs: *Producción para el Bienestar* [Production for Welfare] that supports major grains, sugar cane and coffee production, *Precios de Garantía* [Subsidized fixed prices], *Fertilizantes* [Financing for fertilizer purchases] and *Bienpesca* [Subsidies for fishery activities].

2. Reinforce the work of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), under the guidelines set by Javier Trujillo Arriaga, the incumbent secretary, to ensure the observance of good practices for goods production and handling, and to streamline processes to facilitate the mobilization and safe trade of food, both nationally and internationally.

3. Strengthen communications and collaboration with vulnerable productive chains like grains, vegetables, poultry, meat, aquaculture and fisheries products, to monitor their operations and timely address specific situations. In this task, Secretary Villalobos strengthens his relationship with the *Consejo Nacional Agropecuario* [Farming and Stockbreeding National Council-CNA] and the *Asociación Mexicana de Secretarios de Desarrollo Agropecuario* [Mexican Association of Farming and Stockbreeding Development Secretaries-AMSDA].

4. Maintain full coordination with the Secretariat of Economy, through Miguel García Winder, Undersecretary of Agriculture, to monitor the supply of food and associated goods, and to constantly assess the flow of national and international trade in the event partner countries issue any guidelines. It was recently announced that commercial trade, of which agro-alimentary trade is among the top priorities, will be maintained across the border with the United States.

5. Provide the general public, periodically and through different official channels (webpage and social networks), with advice for the consumption of seasonal products which might be economically beneficial for producers and consumers, and contribute to the health of the population.