

## **The technical operation that guarantees the production of avocado for national consumption and export is reinforced**

There are over 30,000 certified avocado producers in Michoacán harvesting across 46,516 orchards. The majority are small scale producers that own from one to five hectares.



To guarantee and expand the production of avocado for national consumption and export, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and the APEAM (Mexican Association of Avocado Producers, Packagers and Exporters) agreed to reinforce the operational capacity for the supervision of orchards and packaging companies and the issuance of International Phytosanitary Certificates (IPCs).

This joint work includes hiring specialized technicians to service producers and packagers from high-demand regions: Zitácuaro, Tacámbaro, Pátzcuaro, Peribán, Zamora, Los Reyes, Jacona, Tangancícuaro and Tangamandapio.

New certification points will be established to relieve the administrative load of the Opopeo, Tingüindín, Quirindavara, Jicalán, Parácuaro, Tancítaro, Cheranguerán, Tacámbaro and Uruapan units, which will speed-up servicing.

Moreover, the new technical personnel will assist with the digitalization of pest images collected by personnel from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Plant Health Boards for remittal to the National Center of Phytosanitary Reference.

Officers from the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and representatives from APEAM attended a virtual conference to verify the progress of the 2021 workplan, through which the supply of the fruit is guaranteed for the national market and export programs of Michoacán avocados to the United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China and Chile.

Mr. Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, Head of SENASICA, emphasized the growth of certified avocados production in Michoacán over 20 years: From 5,000 hectares free of pests and with certified safety practices to almost 150,000 currently.

Armando Lopez Orduña, general director of APEAM, specified that the 2021 Michoacán Avocado Export Program incorporates 65,000 packing plants and 30,387 mainly small and medium scale producers, who harvest across 46,516 certified orchards in 43 municipalities.

The annual avocado production in Michoacán is 1,725,000 tons, with an estimated worth of approximately 40 billion Mexican pesos. In 2020, the phytosanitary certification units in the federated state issued 74,212 IPCs, which made possible to export over 1 million tons.