

The Mexican government has declared July 1st as the National Plant Health Day

This executive order recognizes the efforts of Mexican technicians to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases.



To raise awareness among the population about the importance of plant health in the production of safe food, and to move towards the goal of food self-sufficiency, the Mexican government has declared that hereafter July 1st will be the “National Plant Health Day”.

This Agreement, published in the Federal Official Gazette (DOF, in Spanish), establishes that the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, through the National Service for Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica) is the competent authority in matters of plant health and is tasked with executing and coordinating all the actions and strategies of diagnosis, prevention, control and eradication of plant pests.

The Agreement also emphasizes that the National Plant Health Day festivity is an acknowledgment of the efforts from the technicians of the Secretariat of Agriculture, a solid and capable agency that stands to address any phytosanitary emergency that presents itself.

It is worth mentioning that July 1st was the date chosen for the festivity, since the Agricultural Parasitology Commission was established on that same date but in 1900. That Commission was the first agency of the Mexican government tasked with studying and fighting the country’s agricultural pests and diseases.

Be reminded that the plant health actions carried out every day in our country aim to accomplish the following: prevent the introduction and spread of new pests; diagnosis, control and eradication of existing pests; regulation of the effectiveness of supplies and control methods, with the aim of protecting the national production of vegetables and their products and byproducts.

The specialized technicians from SENASICA, with the support of researchers and in coordination with farmers and plant health state committees, carry out this permanent work to boost productivity and the food safety of our country.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates invasive pests harm up to 40% of the crops worldwide. Therefore, the agency established 2020 and the International Year of Plant Health, to raise awareness around the world about protecting the health of plants in order to eradicate hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic

development.

During the International Year of Plant Health, Mexico organized various commemorative events: seminars with producers, scholars, lawmakers and scientists; a photo contest; the issuance of an allusive lotto ticket, and bathing in green light the facades of over 30 buildings and historical monuments in Mexico City and the federated states of Jalisco, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato, Tabasco, Nuevo León, Sinaloa and Chiapas, etc.

Mexico is member of the FAO's International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since 1976. The organization's purpose is to foster international cooperation to fight plant and vegetable products pests and diseases, and to establish international measures to prevent their introduction and spread through national borders.

The mission of the organization is to move towards a world where food safety prevails and the levels of nutrition, agricultural productivity and economic conditions of the rural populations are raised.