

# **Agriculture announces immediate actions to control outbreak of Central American locust in Nuevo León**

The National Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica) invests more than 25 million pesos each year in the campaign against the Central American locust in Campeche, Chiapas, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Yucatan.



In order to control and eradicate an outbreak of the Central American locust (*Schistocerca piceifrons Walker*) that occurred in La Cáscara community, in the municipality of Montemorelos, Nuevo León, personnel from the National Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (Senasica) began actions to delimit the area with the presence of the pest, take samples and evaluate which is the best input.

The agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development led a virtual meeting with representatives of the state committees of Plant Health of Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and San Luis Potosí in order to inform them about the current situation of the event and establish a protocol for immediate action.

The Director of Phytosanitary Protection of Senasica, José Manuel Gutiérrez Ruelas, specified that the outbreak was detected in an area where there had been no presence, so that, before starting the applications, it is necessary to have all the information from the field and from laboratory to make control tasks more efficient.

Likewise, he said, Senasica requested the support of one of the most recognized locust specialists worldwide, Mario Poot Pech, who will support the design of the action protocol and will meet with the phytosanitary managers of the Huasteca region, with the objective to train technicians, verify progress and guide the outbreak control strategy.

In this regard, Poot Pech pointed out that in the northeast region of the country, particularly in the limits of the Huasteca of Veracruz, Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosí, there are around one million 800 thousand hectares that have the optimal climatic and geographical conditions for the reproduction of the insect, so it is the area in which control actions are carried out permanently.

He specified that the event detected in Nuevo León could have its origin in the displacement of the winds towards the northwest of the country, between December 2021 and January 2022, which propelled the flying insects towards the foothills of a mountainous area.

The Senasica invests each year more than 25 million pesos in the campaign against the Central American locust, which has been operating for 17 years in the 10 entities whose natural conditions favor the reproduction of this endemic plague: Campeche, Chiapas, Hidalgo, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz and Yucatán.

These permanent actions make it possible to protect the production of basic, industrial, fruit and vegetable crops; reason why they have a positive impact on the economy of thousands of producers, who do not report losses in yield or in the quality of vegetable products and by-products.