## Strategic Alliance with Entities to Protect Mexico's

## **Food Production**

Senasica's programs would not be successful without the support of the states and producers.



The collaboration and commitment of state governments and the country's agricultural producers is strategic for the success of the work that the Secretariat of Agriculture carries out throughout the country to prevent the entry and spread of pests and diseases that could jeopardize food production. Senasica operates plant and animal health programs in the 32 states to prevent, control, and eradicate those pests and diseases where neither state authorities nor producers could be successful on their own, such as avian influenza or the Mediterranean fruit fly.

These actions coordinated by the Secretariat Agency in all regions of the country are aimed at protecting the national food supply, the country's foreign exchange earnings, the assets of producers and rural communities, since their work generates employment and development, in addition to contributing to achieving food security, which is why Senasica is recognized as a National Security Agency.

This was stated by the chief director of Senasica, Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, during his presentation "Agricultural Health. Its Importance in Food Production and Exports", with which he participated in the meeting held by different areas of Agriculture and decentralized agencies with state secretaries of Agricultural Development from all over the country.

Trujillo Arriaga reiterated his invitation to state governments to become strategic allies of the sanitary authority and work hand in hand with phytosanitary and zoosanitary technicians to implement preventive measures and control threats that could jeopardize food production in the country. He emphasized that Mexico has a robust legal framework that prioritizes the importance of health as a public good over private national or foreign interests, which is why the actions carried out by Senasica are acts of authority.

He indicated that Senasica has first class infrastructure, comparable to powers such as the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, which allows stopping the entry of pests and diseases of economic importance, in a context of trade with more than 100 countries.

The federal official recalled that technicians systematically search for pests and diseases that are absent in Mexico and present in other latitudes, so that, if detected, they can react with authority to establish immediate counter-epidemic measures and prevent their dissemination and establishment in the country.

He pointed out that the preventive plant health actions carried out by Senasica specialists are valued worldwide, through the recognition of free areas, which allow farmers to place their goods in the best markets, at prices that allow them to better their quality of life and generate employment and foster development for the communities.

Moreover, Trujillo Arriaga highlighted that the most recent success story is the one of avocado growers of Jalisco, who for the past month has been exporting 1,300 tons of avocado per week to the United States, as a result of a protocol signed with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In animal health matters, he stressed that Mexico is an international benchmark in terms of prevention against global threats such as foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever (ASF), which have devastated the livestock assets of countries on five continents.

For more information see: <u>The Secretariat of Agriculture and the</u> <u>Secretariat of Agricultural Development Strengthen Joint Work</u> <u>to Advance Food Security in Mexico.</u>