

Scientific Work Backs up Sanitary Reputation of Mexican Exports

The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development acknowledges the work in phytopathology of the expert from the Postgraduate Association (Colpos), Daniel Téliz Ortiz, whose technical and scientific advice was fundamental during the dispute before the World Trade Organization (WTO) to support that the Mexican avocado did not constitute any risk to the health of the avocado crop in Costa Rica



The phytosanitary work of Mexican producers is acknowledged worldwide, since the programs and actions carried out, hand in hand with the sanitary authority, are substantiated by science, thus giving Mexico the trust and credibility in international markets.

This was highlighted by the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, when he presented an award to Daniel Téliz Ortiz, PhD in Plant Pathology, who served as the main technical and scientific advisor to the federal government during the dispute with Costa Rica, due to the restrictive measures it imposed on the importation of Mexican avocados.

The federal official pointed out that the participation of the scholar from the Postgraduates Association (Colpos) was crucial to sustain before the World Trade Organization (WTO) that the Mexican avocado did not represent any risk to the health of the crop in Costa Rica.

Thanks to the scientific support of Dr. Téliz, the Mexican Government presented a solid defense, with science-based arguments, and we asserted our reputation and credibility, as shown by more than two decades of uninterrupted avocado trade with the rest of the world, said Secretary Villalobos.

He pointed out that the WTO ruling in Mexico's favor sets a precedent and strengthens the avocado production chain and other products that have followed its example by becoming world leaders, such as mango, papaya and strawberries, for exports mean development opportunities for Mexican communities and families.

Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, chief director of the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (Senasica), said that the agency did not hesitate to turn to Dr. Teliz Ortiz to seek his support in the defense of the Mexican avocado, considering that he is the country's leading specialist on the disease known as "sunblotch" caused by Avocado sunblotch viroid (ASBVd).

The decision of the WTO reopens an important market for Mexican avocado growers in Central America and dignifies the phytosanitary work of producers of various crops, who for years have been striving to comply with national and international regulations.

On behalf of the Association of Avocado Producers and Packers of Mexico (APEAM), Antonio Ortiz Gonzalez, said that the defense of Agriculture before the WTO directly benefits more than 150,000 Michoacan producers, who are also the largest generators of wealth in the state.

Last April, after seven years of controversy, the WTO released its final report, which concluded that by imposing unjustified restrictions on avocados from Mexico, Costa Rica failed to comply with its obligations under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

With the reopening of the market, it is estimated that Mexican producers will export an average of 15 thousand tons per year to Costa Rica.

Also attending the event were Senasica's Director General of Plant Health, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, the President of the National Phytosanitary Advisory Council (Conacofi), Javier Hernández Morales, and Sabrina Alvarado Sánchez, on behalf of the Legal Consultancy for International Trade of the Secretariat of Economy.