

The Secretariat of Agriculture and the industry work together in the design of a traceability system for pigs and birds

Through epidemiological surveillance, the National Agro-alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) protects roughly 600 million birds and 19 million pigs.



On the area of safety, the general director of the SENASICA pointed out that the agency that reports to the Secretariat of Agriculture promotes programs to reduce the risks of physical contamination.

To reinforce the health and safety of meat foodstuffs produced in Mexico, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development works together with the pork and poultry industries in the design of traceability systems that track origin, transit, and destination thereof.

Mr. Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, general director of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) made the above statements during the virtual seminar named “2022 challenges for compliance with plant and animal health regulations with the aim of consolidating the expansion of Mexican agricultural exports”.

The federal official also talked about how it is essential to establish traceability schemes for pigs and birds in the years to come, since, together with bovines, are the main sources of animal protein in Mexico and the world.

In our country, over 90% of our livestock industry is dedicated to the raising, fattening, slaughter, and processing of poultry, pork, and beef, and currently there is a traceability system for bovine animals only.

This scheme would underpin and provide added value to the national livestock sector, as it would be complemented with the epidemiological surveillance actions carried out by official veterinarians, and producers, for the direct benefit of our country's consumers and commercial partners.

Mr. Trujillo Arriaga pointed out that the introduction of animal and plant pests and diseases is a permanent threat to all countries due to their potential impact on economic development and can even endanger public health (zoonotic diseases).

Concerning animal health, the SENASICA carries the systematic testing of herds to over 50 million bovines, goats, and sheep, roughly 600 million birds, and nearly 19 million pigs, to be able to bear certifiable testimony of the absence of quarantine diseases.

Concerning plant health, the official of the Secretariat of Agriculture expounded that their epidemiological surveillance process is even more complex than that of animal health, since currently there are over 100 vegetable products that are vulnerable against multiple pests and diseases of economic relevance, such as the Mediterranean fly, and the fusarium wilt of banana.

Through well implemented protocols, the sanitary status of Mexico has worldwide recognition, since through the years the country has proven to its trade partners the absence of pests and diseases, and in the event of any intrusions, it has demonstrated the ability to contain and eradicate such outbreaks.

Concerning safety, the general director of the SENASICA pointed out that the agency that reports to the Secretariat of Agriculture promotes programs to reduce the risks of physical, chemical, and

microbiological contamination of food, such as the Contamination Risk Reduction Systems (SRRRC, in Spanish), and Good Use and Management of Pesticides (BUMP, in Spanish).

The director pointed out that the main challenge for Mexican technicians is to expand the certification of good practices to a higher number of producers, with the benefit of ensuring the absence of pathogens such as Salmonella and Cyclospora, and thus maintain their eligibility for more competitive domestic and abroad markets.

Juan Cortina Gallardo, president of the National Agriculture and Livestock Council, stated that the industry recognizes the Senasica as a valuable national asset in the promotion of agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, and fishery activities.

He also stated that the main challenge is to maintain and fortify the sanitary status and raise the productivity of production units in the same proportion, which makes necessary to adopt more and improved technologies that are also sustainable.

Further, he pointed out that thanks to the joint work with the Secretariat of Agriculture, the sector keeps growing every year, to the point that nowadays it accounts for nearly 10% of all exports and bring more earning than the foreign sales of oil, tourism activities, and direct foreign investments.

Lastly, Mr. Gallardo said that, through compliance with sanitary regulations and the adoption of good practices, the industry seeks to expand the domestic market and diversify the markets abroad, mainly in the Middle East, the European Union, and the main Asian markets of China, Japan, and South Korea.