Nicaragua: Canine Units reinforce Phytosanitary Protection in the Country

The Canine Unit training project has been supported by OIRSA. The binomials' function is to reduce the risk of pests entering the country in travelers' luggage.

The Augusto César Sandino International Airport is the first point of entry into the Republic of Nicaragua to have Canine Units (to support of non-intrusive inspections) in order to reduce the phytosanitary risk due to the introduction of pests and diseases. This project has been developed by the Instituto de Protección y Sanidad Agropecuaria (IPSA), with the support of OIRSA.

Dogs detect odors of fruits, seeds, meat, meat products, meat by-products, dairy products, among others, which can be pathways for the transport of pests and diseases of plant and animal origin. The detection capabilities of sanitary risk goods in luggage and cargo are over 95% certainty. All this work is to reinforce the non-intrusive inspection (with scanners) at the Augusto Sandino Airport in the city of Managua.

The use of Canine Units is a highly effective and increasingly common practice in airports around the world. Four dogs of different breeds initiated the first part of the plan for the implementation of Canine Units. Subsequently, it is planned that the Canine Units will not only be stationed at the airport, but also at the country's land borders, to perform non-intrusive inspection of cargo and baggage.