

Mexico and Nigeria execute a work plan for the commercialization of hibiscus flowers

Mexico and 15 African countries support trade in food such as: sesame, hibiscus, rice, strawberry, corn, apple, cocoa, walnut, pear, tobacco, grape, poultry, lobster, bluegill and sardine



The SENASICA and the agricultural quarantine service of Nigeria executed the document before the Nigerian ambassador in Mexico and representatives of the hibiscus flower industry of both countries

As part of the strategic plan to diversify the agro-alimentary markets operated by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, the health authorities of Mexico and Nigeria executed a work plan to carry out safe exports of hibiscus flowers from the African nation to our country.

Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, general Director of Plant Health of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA), and Vincent Isegbe, general comptroller of the agricultural quarantine service of Nigeria, executed the document before Rafiu Adejare Bello, Nigerian ambassador in Mexico, and representatives of the hibiscus flower industry of both countries.

The Mexican official pointed out that the work plan stipulates that the Nigerian authorities will certify the exporter companies that meet the requirements set out by the SENASICA: appropriate cleanliness and quarantine treatment of containers, and setting of traps to detect the presence of pests like the Kaphra weevil.

The SENASICA's technicians will verify the quarantine treatments and compliance of provisions on site, while inspectors in Mexico will check the goods again at the country's points of entry, in order to minimize the risk of introduction and dispersal of pests and diseases of economic relevance to our national territory.

Mr. Ramírez y Ramírez pointed out that this plan supersedes any direct interaction between exporters and importers, as it establishes obligations and responsibilities for the Mexican and Nigerian governments, which adhere to the regulations acknowledged by over 180 countries before the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

In his turn to speak, Vincent Isegbe, general comptroller of the agricultural quarantine service of Nigeria, underscored the trust shown by the SENASICA to his country's health authority, and that to correspond to that trust, on the months prior to the execution of the work plan, the Nigerian ministry of agriculture has been optimizing their procedures in order to comply with the SENASICA's requirements.

He pointed out that hibiscus flowers are an emblematic product of Nigeria due to their high availability and quality, and that currently they have reliable traceability mechanisms in place to provide assurance to any importer countries.

In the same way, Nigeria is an important food consumer, due to its high demographic index, so his country will work together with the SENASICA to, in the medium term, increase shipments of Mexican products, which have an excellent reputation worldwide.

It is worth mentioning that the current population of Africa is 1.3 billion people, and its birth rate is among the highest in the

world. It is expected to double its population by 2050 and thus bring a higher demand for food.

Currently, Mexico has trade in food with African countries such as Nigeria, Benin Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Ethiopia, and the United States. Ivory Coast, Uganda, Egypt, Morocco, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, Ghana, Zaire, and Oman, including: sesame, hibiscus, rice, strawberry, corn, apple, cocoa, walnut, pear, tobacco, grape, poultry, lobster, bluegill and sardine.