

# Mexico and Brazil speed up their bilateral agroalimentary trade in favor of producers and consumers

The health agencies of both countries agree to coordinate their agendas to supply healthy and safe foods for their populations



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development progressively reinforces the presence of highly recognized Mexican products in the South American region: avocado, lemon, and asparagus

To strengthen and speed up the agroalimentary trade between Mexico and Brazil, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Brazilian embassy in Mexico agreed to a work strategy to move towards a balanced food trade, in benefit of producers and consumers.

The federal agency informed of the meeting between Francisco Javier Calderón Elizalde, general director of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA), and Fernando Coimbra, Brazilian ambassador in Mexico, to agree upon the agendas promoted by both governments to supply healthy and safe foods.

The Mexican official underscored the fact that Brazil is a strategic partner for our country, and consequently the SENASICA is working to ease up trade restrictions and address more quickly the concerns of food importers and exporters.

Further, he pointed out that sanitation is a priority subject in Mexico, and thus the agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture maintains its legal mandate to operate science-based actions and programs to provide the Mexican rural sector with the highest level of protection.

He also emphasized on the bonds of brotherhood that exist between Mexico and Brazil, and that our federal government is working to ease the procedures that lead to safe imports of Brazilian foods that are highly demanded in our country.

In turn, there is work to progressively strengthen the presence of recognized Mexican products in the South American region: avocado, lemon, and asparagus.

Juan Gay Gutiérrez, SENASICA's general director of Animal Health stated that Mexico imports poultry meats from Brazil, and recently the import of pork meat from the state of Santa Catarina was recently authorized.

The risk assessment procedure to authorize imports of cured and boned bovine meats is ongoing. Such products enjoy international fame due to the zoosanitary work implemented in recent years by Brazil to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease.

The federal official delivered the Brazilian delegation to official notices requesting updates about the status of foot-and-mouth disease in the Brazilian areas that export beef and pork meat products. With that information the agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture would be in position to assess the risk and recognize other areas in Brazil as free of the disease.

Ambassador Fernando Coimbra pointed out the fact that both countries are agroalimentary powerhouses in the Americas and the world.

However, due to the current economic uncertainty in the world, which impacts food prices, cooperation and trade will provide the two countries with the opportunity to supply their respective markets with health, safe, and competitively priced products.

He mentioned that Brazil exports beef to over 140 countries, including the United States, Japan, Canada, China, and the

European Union, which shows that the sanitary status of their exporter companies is fully documented.

He requested an extension to the authorization to export pork meat from the states of Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul, two highly competitive regions in the world market that export meat products to over 80 countries, by copying the strategy used for the Santa Catarina zone.

The diplomat also stated that the facilities located in those two regions are ready to be audited by the Mexican health authorities at any time.

Both delegations agree to organize work meetings during the following days to supervise the progress of their bilateral agenda.

For Mexico, the following officials attended the meeting: Irais Barreto Canales, head of the Unit of Global Economic Intelligence of the Secretariat of Economy, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, and SENASICA's general Director of Plant Health, Israel Cueto Espinosa, director of Phytosanitary Regulations, Fernando Rivera Espinoza, director of Imports and Exports, and René Hernández Ruiz, director of Institutional Projects and Development.

The Brazilian delegation consisted of Adriane Reis Cruvinel, agricultural attached to the embassy in Mexico, and Diego Coelho, head of the Economic and Commercial Sector.