

The 2023 Sanitation Program aims to promote the welfare of small scale producers and the national food supply

Francisco Javier Calderón Elizalde, general director of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) stated that the 2023 work plan aims to reinforce the transparency and accountability of the programs and actions operated by the sanitary agency of the Mexican government



The budget allocated this year to the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) exceeds 5 billion Mexican pesos, and will be directed to meet the mandate to protect the country's agroalimentary sanitation, promote actions in benefit of the welfare of small and medium scales producers, and facilitate the international trade of food products to reinforce the national supply and help to bring down inflation.

While attending the presentation of the 2023 work plan for the agency, Víctor Villalobos Arámbula, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development underscored the importance of maintaining and reinforcing the health and safety measures to help reinforce the national supply and the development of productive chains.

The federal official also pointed out that the foregoing will contribute to advance food security, the welfare of the producers and the development of rural communities.

The work of thousands of specialists of the SENASICA, supported by farmers, stock breeders, and the fishing industry, has positioned Mexico as a world model on the subject, and among the top five countries with the best food sanitation and quality status.

The SENASICA is one of the major public assets of Mexico, because in spite of external factors such as climate change, international inflation, and armed conflicts, the agency has

maintained its commitment to guarantee the supply of healthy and safe foods for the population.

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The institutional planning will seek to reinforce its technical, scientific, legal, and administrative platforms, to meet the objectives of helping to ensure the timely supply of food and facilitate agroalimentary trade.

The 2023 allocated budget of 5,042 million Mexican pesos has been allocated to priority items with the goal of stopping the introduction of pests and diseases, through epidemiological surveillance works, and fighting any existing pests and diseases in our national territory.

The priority activities include the inspection of commercial shipments and tourist luggage at the points of entry to our country, and the regulation of the national mobilization of agroalimentary goods across our national territory.

Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, general Director of Plant Health, pointed out that improving and maintaining the country's phytosanitary status, through campaigns, programs, and surveillance systems has been designated as a priority in order to

protect over 1.5 million hectares of crops across the 32 federated states.

Over 500 million Mexican pesos have been allocated to reinforce the Moscamed (Mediterranean fly) program to contain the pest near the southern border with Guatemala, and the national campaign against the fruit fly.

Phytosanitary actions to fight pests and diseases of the foods most consumed by the population, such as corn, beans, bread making wheat, rice, citrus fruits, avocados, coffee, and bananas, among others, will be reinforced, and the phytosanitary epidemiological surveillance actions to timely detect and prevent 36 quarantine pests that currently are not present in Mexico will remain in place.

Juan Gay Gutiérrez, general director of Animal health, stated that to prevent, control, fight, and eradicate animal pests and diseases, under the One Health approach of protecting human health, the SENASICA emphasizes the reinforcement of zoosanitary campaigns against bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, bovine paralytic rabies, ticks, avian influenza, and varroosis of honeybees.

The plan also includes strengthening emerging campaigns to prevent exotic diseases like the highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1), and African swine fever (ASF).

Gay Gutiérrez also stated that to speed up commercial operations and bring down import costs there is ongoing work to simplify the zoosanitary risks mitigation measures in order to promote imports of healthy and safe livestock, aquaculture, and fishery goods.

Amada Vélez Méndez, general director of Agroalimentary, Aquaculture and Fisheries Safety, pointed out that during 2023 they will work with the 89 authorities in charge in the states, to directly benefit 35,400 production units, of which roughly 60% of which are operated by small and medium scale producers.

Currently, innocuousness systems in eight countries are being audited, and there are ongoing negotiations to establish the equivalence of inspection systems for sheep and goat meats with Canada, and poultry and cured meats with the United States, as part of the actions to speed up the import of healthy and safe foods.

To facilitate the trade of organic products, the health authorities of Mexico and Canada will sign a memorandum of understanding for the mutual recognition of the equivalence of their control systems for this type of products.

Amada Vélez also pointed out that the negotiations with their peers of the United States and the European Union, to reach equivalence agreements and speed up the bilateral trade of organic foods, are in an advanced stage.

Jorge Luis Leyva Vázquez, general Directorate of Plant and Animal Health Inspection, stated that the inspection actions at 417 points at seaports, airports, and borders, where shipments, vehicles, passengers, and luggage pieces that arrive to our country by sea, air, and land, are being reinforced.

To prevent the introduction and dispersal of pests throughout out national territory, Federal Inspection and Verification Points (PVIF, in Spanish) remain in operation and work in coordination with 250 Interval Verification Points (PVI, in Spanish) for the verification and inspection of any goods subject to the regulations of the Secretariat of Agriculture.

The meeting was attended by Santiago Arguello Campos, Arturo Macosay Córdova, and Lourdes Cruz Trinidad, general coordinators of Agriculture, Livestock, and International Affairs, respectively.

Also in attendance, Sol Ortiz García, general director of Policies, Research, and Climate Change; Patricia Ornelas Ruiz, general director of the Agroalimentary and Fisheries Information Service (SIAP, in Spanish); Rosa Chávez Aguilar, general counsel of the Secretariat of Agriculture; and on behalf of the SENASICA, Alejandra Hernández Torres and Marco Antonio Ramírez Velázquez, general directors of Administration and IT, and Legal, respectively.