

The Secretariat of Agriculture highlights industry's contribution to ensure food supply and boost small producers

The National Agricultural Council (CNA) stated that, with sanitary guarantees, producers and traders are in favor of the free market and the elimination of protectionist practices



The Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development stressed that Mexico's food producers and traders have demonstrated their commitment to adopting the actions taken by the Mexican government in food health and safety.

This guarantees the supply of safe food throughout the country and enhances the competitiveness of small farmers and ranchers, said Javier Calderón Elizalde, chief director of the National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality Service (Senasica).

In a working meeting with the Vice-Presidency of Agro-alimentary Health and Safety of the National Agricultural Council (CNA), he said that the work that Senasica carries out in the 32 states would not be the same without the support of the agricultural, livestock, aquaculture, and fishing industries, which permanently cooperate with official personnel in the operation of sanitary campaigns and the timely reporting of suspected pests and diseases not present in Mexico.

In response to the concerns of the meat industry regarding trade with Brazil, Calderón Elizalde stressed that the Mexican market is not open to the import of Brazilian meat and, if it would be open, will take all necessary measures to allow the entry of products free of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

Senasica is attentive to the results of the investigations carried out by the Brazilian government and will make the necessary decisions to allow or not the entry of beef from that South American country into Mexico, he said.

He also stated that all foods entering the country are subject to sanitary inspection by official Senasica personnel, and all criteria for endorsing imports and exports are science-based, thus providing all guarantees to producers, consumers, and trading partners.

He detailed that during 2022 the officials of the agency carried out more than 44 million inspections at ports, airports, borders, and internal mobilization points, so the first barrier of sanitary defense has never been neglected.

Mario Puente Raya, CNA Vice President for Health, said that Mexico's large, medium, and small producers, as well as the food processing, packing and marketing industry, are convinced that health and safety represent the most important passport for their goods, both nationally and internationally.

He assured that the industry is in favor of the free market and eliminating protectionist practices, which is only possible if the regulations issued by Senasica and the requirements established by trading partners in the working protocols are complied with.

Moreover, he commented that this year the CNA has a broad agenda with Senasica, which includes the follow-up of 15 international market diversification topics, three on epidemiological surveillance, 11 on inspection, verification, and certification, as well as 6 on standardization.

To this end, he said, the Collaboration Agreement, ratified in 2022 between the CNA and Senasica, establishes work routes through

technical roundtables with plant health, animal health, safety, and inspection experts from both agencies.

At the meeting were present the general directors of Plant Health, Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez; of Animal Health, Juan Gay Gutiérrez; of Phytosanitary Inspection, Jorge Luis Leyva Vázquez; and of Agro-alimentary, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Safety, David Soriano García.

The industry was represented by the executive president of the National Association of Federal Inspection Type Establishments (ANETIF), Hugo Fragoso Sánchez; the general directors of Mexican Beef, Rogelio Pérez Sánchez; of the Organization of Mexican Pork Producers (Opormex), César López Amador, and the president of the Association of Producers and Exporters of Mexican Mangoes (EMEX), Eduardo Castillejos Allard, among others.