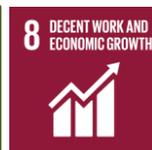


SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN COLOMBIA & DENMARK ON VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY IN THE PIG MEAT SECTOR, Annual report for 2018



Meeting with the new Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

Project description

The first phase of the Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) between Colombia and Denmark was initiated in 2016. Focus is on veterinary and food safety issues in the Colombian pig meat sector working with following four subthemes: 1) Chemical residues, 2) Pathogens, 3) Risk analysis and contingency planning and 4) Meat inspection, official control and food safety at slaughterhouses. The partner authorities are the Colombian Food and Drug Administration (INVIMA) and the Colombian National Institute of Agriculture (ICA).

In late 2017, the Colombian partners expressed interest in continuing the cooperation project. The project document of the second phase was signed in June 2018 now including two new subthemes: 5) Animal welfare, and 6) Smallholder development and the cooperative model.

Key activities in 2018

In February, experts from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) trained 112 INVIMA inspectors in four cities (Bogotá, Medellín, Pereira and Cali) on meat inspection and on the monitoring of food safety at slaughterhouses. This will expectedly lead to improved standards of inspections, which will help to reduce public health risks and help Colombia gain access to new export markets. A key result of the activity is an ongoing national pilot project between INVIMA and Fazenda, one of the largest slaughterhouses in Colombia, implementing new meat inspection procedures and guidelines inspired by Danish Meat Inspection.

In April, a high-level delegation with officials from the partner institutions INVIMA, ICA, Ministry of Agriculture and Porkcolombia visited Denmark. The purpose of the visit was primarily to conclude phase I, discuss content

of phase II and introduce the Colombian partners to Danish expertise in the pig meat sector. The program included visits to both public and private entities such as the Danish Agriculture and Food Council, Danish Meat Research Institute (DMRI), DAT-Schaub and DVFA. The visit played a significant role in opening doors for Danish companies. Following the visit DAT-Schaub and DMRI achieved access to relevant industry and authorities to discuss business opportunities.

In June, the last Steering Committee Meeting of phase I was held in Bogotá where the results of phase I were presented. The officials expressed high satisfaction with the project and highlighted the project's contribution to significant improvement of Colombian inter-institutional relations between the private and public stakeholders. Next, the project document for phase II was signed. The new phase with a project duration from July 2018 to December 2020 will focus on institutional capacity building aiming to fulfil Colombia's objective of safer production and products with a positive impact on public health and help meet the requirements to access new markets.

In September, the Embassy and the DVFA arranged a fact-finding mission to Colombia to visit the partner institutions, several pig producers and slaughterhouses to collect information relevant for implementation of phase II and for understanding the current Colombian challenges and opportunities. The visit ended with a meeting with the new Colombian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, who expressed the continued high commitment of the new Government to the SSC project.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2018

Despite the election of a new Colombian government in August, the relations between DVFA, the Embassy and the Colombian partners only grew stronger in 2018. A strong commitment from Danish side to engage with new Colombian partners proved highly beneficial to ensure continued commitment for the project.

The partners have continued to deliver on the objectives of the project by engaging in necessary cooperation across institutions and the public-private sphere, which is unusual in Colombia. One great example being the pilot project cooperation between INVIMA and Fazenda.

Status: Full SSC project under implementation.

Partners: ICA (National Institute of Agriculture. Primary production authority under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). INVIMA (Colombian Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health and Social Protection).

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