

FOOD & AGRO SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN MEXICO & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019

Danish Authorities in International Cooperation



Project description

The sector cooperation with Mexico is focused on pig production with an aim to strengthen prevention and management of exotic diseases. Mexico has special interest in African Swine fever, diagnostics, hygiene and food safety, where Denmark has great expertise and can help build capacity in both the public and private sector in Mexico.

The project partners are the Mexican Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), the National Service for Safety and Quality of AgriFood Production (SENASICA), the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DFVA) and the Danish Embassy.

Key activities in year 2019

After the change of government in Mexico in December 2018, the first half of 2019 was dedicated to establishing a dialogue with the new administration and aligning the content of the cooperation project to the political priorities of the Mexican government.

In October 2019, Denmark was invited as "Specially Invited Country" for the annual congress of the main industry organisation for Mexican pig producers – OPORPA.

Besides a prominent exhibition with Danish companies, organised in collaboration between the Trade Council and DI – Confederation of Danish Industry, Denmark was given the opportunity to share experiences and present the historical development of Danish food production from the main stage.

Presentations included contributions from Food Nation, Danish Agriculture and Food Council (L&F), EKF and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

A key moment for the sector cooperation was the signing of the revised project during the inauguration ceremony with participation of – among others - the Mexican Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Victor Villalobos.

The capacity development activities under the Danida Fellowship Center continued in 2019. The programme is aimed to support the sector cooperation project and has been a great success since its beginning in 2017.

To date, 100 Mexican professionals from public authorities, academia and industry representatives have been awarded scholarships for university level courses in Denmark, returning to Mexico with both professional and cultural experiences and a great interest in continuing their connection to Denmark.

In order to maintain the relationship to alumni of the scholarship programme, the Embassy in Mexico established the "Danida Alumni Network – Mexico" in January 2019, and the network organized impressive activities on Anti-Microbial Resistance and Diabetes with participation of both Danish and Mexican experts.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

The signing of the SSC project in October 2019 marks the end of the inception phase for the cooperation project, and with activities scheduled to commence in January 2020 throughout 2022 the aim is to maintain momentum in the implementation of the project.

It is also the ambition to further secure active involvement of the private sectors in Mexico and Denmark, as they are key stakeholders in the objectives and results of the project and were instrumental in the inception of the project.

Likewise, it is the ambition of the Embassy to further expand the Danida Alumni Network – Mexico and bridge the activities of the alumni with the Danish business community in Mexico.

Status: Phase I

Project period: January 2020 to December 2022

Partners: SADER, SENASICA

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