

## Mexico and Colombia aim to export agricultural products to Asia

The current economic and political situations between the United States and Latin American countries, including the US-China trade war, have obliged the Latin American countries, especially Mexico, that usually focused on exporting their agricultural and food products to the United States, to seek for opportunities to expand their markets for such products. In this regard, Asia is one of the destinations that the countries in the region aim to strengthen the commercial relation with, as shown in the following news from Colombia and Mexico;

### Colombia's Minister of Agriculture visited China to accelerate the market opening procedure for beef and avocado.



Mr. Andrés Valencia Pinzón, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia, led a delegation to visit the People's Republic of China on 27 July 2019 to expedite the market opening procedure for the export of Colombian beef and avocado to the Asian country. In the previous year, China was the world's

second biggest importer of agricultural, livestock and agro-industrial products, with the rate of 7.9% or the total value of up to 126.342 million US dollars.

The objective of this visit was to urge China to accelerate the process of allowing beef imports from Colombia, although Colombia have not been received the cattle disease-free status. Also, it was to request a visit of Chinese authority to Colombia to inspect the quality and hygiene of beef and pork production plants to prove that they meet the standards.

For avocado, they will be an establishment the regulations that Colombian exporters must follow, including the process of issuing sanitary certificate, registration of plants and packaging factories, farm management, monitoring, epidemic control measures, packaging and pre-export inspection and quarantine, which are the duty of the Colombian Agricultural and

Livestock Institute (ICA) to cooperate with the country's customs authorities in order to meet the Chinese standards for the avocado export.

In this regard, the Minister said that the promotion of cooperation and negotiations between the authorities responsible for agriculture and livestock of Colombia and China is another mission that the Colombian government gives priority to.

### **Mexico aims to increase mango export volume to Japan**

Mexican mango exporters are aiming to increase export volume to the Japanese market. Mr. Francisco Villegas, president of the Mexican Association of Mango Packagers for Exports (EMEX), said that the Japanese market is commercially interesting. Although, Mexico is currently exporting only 5% of mangoes to such country, there is a high possibility to grow the number and increase the shares in the market.

In addition, Mr. Francisco added that the association wants to increase the diversity of the export markets and realizes that, apart of Japan, the Middle East region is also another interesting market. So that they will take actions to increase the export volume to both markets by emphasizing on the quality and sanitary of the product.

The president of EMEX also expressed confidence in the quality of Mexican mangoes that will help drive the increase in exports to Japan to compensate exports to the US market.

### **Mexico prepares to export livestock to Asia.**



The National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico (SADER), plans to export swine viscera to China, beef to Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Peru, and poultry to Nicaragua. Also, it aims to reactivate the export of horse meat to the European Union (EU) and beef to Russia as soon as possible. In order to achieve those goals, they have already collaborated with the sanitary authorities of each country to be informed about the animal sanitary regulations that Mexico has to follow in order to be able to export such products to those countries. Details of plans for markets in Asia are as follows;

- **The People's Republic of China**

Mexico is in the process of establishing an agreement on the trade of swine viscera with China. In May, the draft has already been proposed to China. This additional agreement will be attached to the agreement on pork export that the Chinese government has already granted permission.

- **Japan**

Currently, Mexico is allowed to export bone-in beef to Japan without requirement on the age of the cattle, and being in the process of negotiating to obtain a permission to export beef with spinal column.

- **Singapore**

For Singapore, Mexico is in the process of determining the form of animal sanitary certificate for export that will be issued to the establishments that have been examined by the delegation of Singapore experts who visited Mexico in 2018, in order to start exporting beef to such country as soon as possible.

- **Taiwan**

The Taiwanese delegation will visit Mexico in August to observe the inspection process of beef importers' plants.

Mexico is one of the five countries in the world that have been certified by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as free from six animal diseases, namely: foot-and-mouth disease, Classical Swine Fever, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, CBPP, Horse Sickness, and Plague of Small Ruminants. This is one of the advantages of Mexico in the international market.

Sources: <https://www.minagricultura.gov.co/noticias/Paginas/MinAgricultura-viaja-a-China-para-acelerar-la-apertura-de-este-mercado-para-la-came-y-el-aguacate-colombiano.aspx/>

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