

# NAPPO Newsletter July 2020 special edition

North American Plant Protection Organization



Organización Norteamericana de Protección a las Plantas



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**  
2020



JULY 1ST 2020  
**120 ANNIVERSARY OF  
PLANT HEALTH  
IN MEXICO**  
1900-2020

## COMMEMORATION OF THE 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PLANT HEALTH IN MEXICO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH, IYPH

Last July 1, 2020, Mexico celebrated 120 years of Plant Health activities, according to historic writings published in 1900 by the naturalist Alfonso Luis Herrera López, who was the first person in charge of the Commission on Agricultural Parasitology (similar to Agronomy) in Mexico. It is also worth noting that Chapultepec Zoo in Mexico City bears the name of this distinguished Professor.



**PROF.  
ALFONSO**

**L.  
HERRERA**

*Commission  
on  
Agricultural  
Parasitology*

For this reason, SENASICA in Mexico identified a series of outreach efforts to commemorate these important events.

This year we have a unique and unrepeatable circumstance, as there are two reasons why the year 2020 is important for Mexicans – not only are we celebrating the “International Year of Plant Health”, but we are also commemorating the “120th Anniversary of Plant Health in Mexico”.

Plants provide us with 80% of our food and produce 98% of the oxygen we breathe. That is why it is fundamental to have strong institutions with the goal of promoting and overseeing compliance of legal provisions that protect agricultural production, support diagnostics, and prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests which endanger plant health.

With the motto “Protecting plants, protecting life”, 2020 was proclaimed as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) which dovetailed perfectly with the commemoration of the 120th Anniversary of Plant Health in Mexico. The purpose of these celebrations is to raise awareness within society on the crucial role of plant health in sustainable agriculture, as well as in promoting growth and economic development which in turn brings well-being to the population.



*“July is also a very important month for Mexicans as it is a favorable time for planting which brings hope for a new harvest.*

*This was certainly what inspired the creation of the Commission on Agricultural Parasitology on July of 1900. The Commission was the first official government agency responsible for studying and controlling insects and pest diseases in agriculture. The original Commission is now the National Service for Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) which is in charge of complying with and observing the legal provisions to preserve agricultural health, through the Plant Health General Directorate which is also the National Plant Protection Organization of Mexico.*

*As a result of provisions and guidance from international agreements, the Plant Health General Directorate, recognized as the Mexican National Plant Protection Organization, is the point of contact with similar organizations around the world, with a duty to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases that may pose risks to the health of plants, plant products and byproducts.*

*Fulfilling this is not possible without active and committed participation by growers, industry, and the general public.”*

*Said Mr. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Plant Health General Director, SENASICA, MEXICO, during his virtual presentation on the **Current Status of Plant Health in Mexico**, part of the 120th anniversary of Plant Health Activities in Mexico Forum, celebrated from June 29 through July 3, 2020.*

We have all participated in and witnessed the evolution of plant health through time to its current role in the development of the agri-food sector in our nation, which has positioned Mexico among the 10 most important food producing countries in the world.

Mexico is the center of origin for corn and cacao, and also has designations of origin for many other agricultural products such as coffee from Chiapas, vanilla from Papantla, Veracruz, habanero pepper from Yucatán and tequila from Jalisco, distilled from blue agave.

As part of these two important plant health events, several activities are taking place to recognize the critical task of producing healthy food and creating awareness among the Mexican population concerning

*“This is why, we would like to express our recognition and gratitude to our Mexican growers and to Mexican federal, state and local authorities for their support in maintaining a healthy agriculture for the well-being of the human race.”*

*Said Mr. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Plant Health General Director, SENASICA, MEXICO, during his virtual presentation on the **Current Status of Plant Health in Mexico**, part of the 120th anniversary of Plant Health Activities in Mexico Forum, celebrated from June 29 through July 3, 2020.*

the importance of plant health, and how the protection of plant health can help eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and encourage economic development.

## **PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH**

We started the celebration with the National Day of the Agronomist, that recognizes the role that phytosanitary professionals play in the production of high-quality food and commitment to protect crops from pests and diseases that affect production. This event brought together approximately 1,000 agronomists.



Mexico also designed a commemorative coin that has the 2020 International Year of Plant Health logo on one side and the 120th Anniversary of Plant Health in Mexico logo on the other side. It was extremely successful and nearly 2,000 coins were awarded.



Furthermore, from June 29-July 3, 2020, a Forum to mark 120 Years of Plant Health in Mexico, with the motto “Healthy agriculture for human health and well-being”, was delivered virtually through YouTube, Facebook and SENASICA’s website.

During the forum, and despite the pandemic situation in Mexico and the world, more than 100,000 people joined the celebration.

We were honored to receive messages of congratulation from several colleagues working in international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Mexico, the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Mexico, the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), and the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT), as well as Mexico’s National Agriculture Council (CNA), who were keen to recognize the work dedication of Mexican authorities in animal and plant health including Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, Dr. Francisco Javier Trujillo Arriaga, Chief Director of SENASICA, Mr. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Plant Health General Director and teams of professionals they oversee.

The forum featured speakers from national and international organizations as well as from growers and research groups such as FAO /International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Joint Division; Mango Exporting Packers (EMEX); National Association of Berry Exporters (ANEBERRIES); Specialized Agronomists (IAP); National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP); Association of Growers and Packers of Avocados from Mexico (APEAM); National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) and the National Advisory Phytosanitary

Council (CONACOFI).

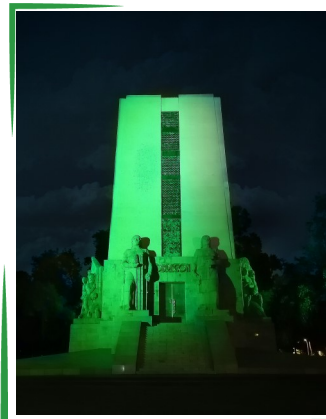
During this important week for Mexico and concluding on July 10th, several Mexican buildings and iconic monuments were illuminated in green in cities including Mexico City and in the capital cities of states such as Guadalajara, San Luis Potosí, Chiapas, Campeche, Colima, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Nayarit, Puebla, Sinaloa and Tabasco, as well as the main SENASICA office in Mexico City.

Furthermore, Mexico issued a commemorative lottery ticket with a drawing on July 26 that mentions both events.

A series of thematic exhibits are planned for the main



*Mexico's Independence Monument*



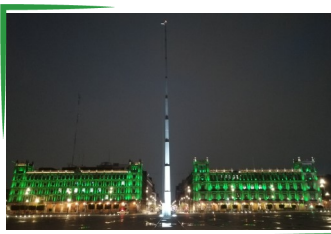
*Álvaro Obregón Monument, Mexico's President from 1920 to 1924*



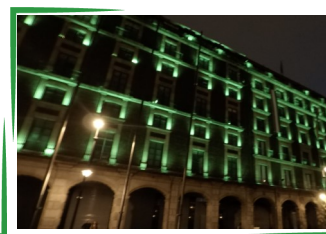
*Monument to Cuauhtémoc, last Aztec Emperor*



*Monument to Mexico's Oil Industry*



*Government Buildings in Mexico City*



*Grand Hotel in Mexico City*



Government Building in the city of San Luis Potosí, capital of the state of San Luis Potosí



Government Building in the city of Guadalajara, capital of the state of Jalisco



Facilities of the Puebla Plant Health State Committee

subway stations within the Public Transport System in Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey.

In addition, there will be a Photo Contest with the theme of Plant Health, where winning photos will be displayed in Avenida Reforma, one of the most



important avenues in Mexico City, and also at the Chapultepec Zoo also in Mexico City. The photos will be displayed once Mexican authorities lift the COVID-19 pandemic quarantine currently in effect.

Closing activities will take place at three phytosanitary fora: the first one will be aimed at growers, packers, industry and public in general; the second will focus on legislators and authorities in charge of approval of plant health policies; the third and last forum will focus on the scientific, academic and student communities, with participation of scientific societies related to plant health, such as the Mexican Academy of Applied Entomology, Entomological Society of Mexico, Mexican Society for Plant Pathology, Mexican Weed Science Society, Biological Control Mexican Society, among others.

These actions reaffirm Mexico's commitment to the international community to collaborate in fighting agricultural pests and prevent their introduction and spread. This role afforded Mexico the honor to chair the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and be a member country of the North American Plant Protection Organization, NAPPO, as well as of the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health, OIRSA.

## WHAT SHOULD WE DO AND CONTINUE DOING AS A COUNTRY, AND AS ENTITIES AND GROWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANT HEALTH?



Continue building awareness on the importance of plant health as a public asset that needs to be protected and maintained to ensure healthy agriculture, human health and well-being.



Protecting plants from pests and diseases is more profitable than dealing with large scale phytosanitary emergencies. Pests and diseases, once established, are often impossible to eradicate and their management requires time and money.



### Commemorative Video



*“By protecting plants, we are protecting our own lives. Therefore, promoting plant health is fundamental and should remain an enduring task for the worldwide society. For these reasons, the United Nations proclaimed 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.”*

*Said Mr. Francisco Ramírez y Ramírez, Plant Health General Director, SENASICA, MEXICO, during his virtual presentation on the Current Status of Plant Health in Mexico, part of the 120th anniversary of Plant Health Activities in Mexico Forum, celebrated from June 29 through July 3, 2020.*

