

Violence in Mexico puts avocado exports to the US at risk

Given the difficulty of guaranteeing the safety of health personnel operating in avocado producing farms in the Mexican state of Michoacán, the US Department of Agriculture announced in a statement that it sent to the association of Mexican avocado producers (APEAM), that it would suspend the certification of the fruit if violence does not end in the region, where criminal groups, such as the Jalisco Nueva Generación Cartel (CJNG), are fighting to control one of the most violent areas in the country.

The alert comes after several incidents that have affected US personnel working in the state. The main incident was registered on August 16, when officials from the US Animal and Plant Inspection Service were intercepted, threatened, and their vehicle was stolen after suspending the activities at an orchard located in the municipality of Ziracuaretiro.

The job of the Mexico Pre-Authorization Area agency of the Department of Agriculture in Mexico is to ensure that all sanitary requirements for the entry of the fruit into the United States are met.

Michoacan is the world's leading producer of avocado and the only Mexican state that has permits to sell it to its northern neighbor.

Last year's exports exceeded 2.5 billion dollars, an amount that exceeds oil sales, which amounted to 1.18 billion dollars. In that State, avocado is known as the green gold and it is the second agricultural product that reports the most export earnings to the Mexican economy, only surpassed by tomatoes.

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