"Decenio de las Personas con Discapacidad en el Perú"
"Año de la Diversificación Productiva y del Fortalecimiento de la Educación"

Lima, June 23rd 2015

United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Regulatory Analysis and Development USDA

Dear Sirs,

Peru is a growing country in the exportation of agricultural products which is developed on the basis of an organized work between the Private Sector (producers, exporters, packers and all agents involved in the exporting chain) and SENASA, as the plant protection authority of Peru, with the goal to reach international markets with products that do not contain pests and meet the regulations established by the importing countries.

Our activities of plant pest surveillance and phytosanitary certifications are harmonized with international standards and accomplish the phytosanitary regulations imposed by the importing countries and in particular the provisions established of the United States (US).

The proposed rule (Docket No. APHIS-2014-0028) will allow the export of fresh peppers (Capsicum annum L., Capsicum baccatum L., Capsicum chinense Jacq., L. Capsicum frutescens, and Capsicum pubescens Ruiz & Pav.) from Peru into the US and its territories by the application of a set of phytosanitary measures to mitigate the risk of pests identified as result of the pest risk analysis carried out by the Animal Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Department of Agriculture (USDA) after several years of work.

While the Pest Risk Analysis was carried out, technical teams of SENASA and APHIS hold meetings to discuss these issues and find the best way to achieve phytosanitary measures that allows the exportation without meaning a risk for the agriculture of the US.

The fresh peppers (*Capsicum* spp.) to be exported from Peru will be grown at production sites specially designed to maintain an adequate phytosanitary protection and to exclude quarantine pests of concern for the US.

To the date, countries that export these products under similar exclusion systems have not reported any incident. Thus, Peru will be added to this system already known and applied by APHIS for imports to the US.

As APHIS knows, SENASA has a harmonized legal framework, with approved export procedures and specialized staff assuring the compliance with the phytosanitary requirements proposed by the rule.





Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria SENASA

Dirección de Sanidad Vegetal

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Finally, we would thank USDA and APHIS the fast publication of the final rule for the access of fresh bell and chili pepper (*Capsicum annum* L., *Capsicum baccatum* L., *Capsicum chinense* Jacq., L. *Capsicum frutescens*, and *Capsicum pubescens* Ruiz & Pav.) which will benefit both countries.

Sincerely,

SENASA Perú

Director of Plant Quarantine a.i

Enne Carrillo Esquerre