

## The first International Date festival opens in Mexico

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The first International Festival of Mexican Dates is inaugurated in San Luis Rio Colorado. Victor Villalobos Arambola, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the United Mexican States inaugurated the festival. 17 date producers from the UAE, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Mauritania have participated in the Festival.

Minister Villalobos expressed his happiness for the valuable cooperation between the two friendly countries, the UAE and Mexico at various levels. He extended his thanks and appreciation to Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Presidential Court, for his support of the festival and the development of Mexico's agricultural date palm sector. He also expressed his hope that this festival would be the first of an ongoing fruitful cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture in Mexico and the General Secretariat of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation to enhance food security and achieve sustainable development.

Al Menhali Ambassador of the UAE to Mexico highlighted the fact that the First Mexico International Festival confirmed the depth of the bilateral relations between the two countries and the close cooperation that links its people.

Abdelouahhab Zaid, Secretary-General of Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, indicated that the award has achieved tangible success in organising a series of date festivals that exceeded 30 in the UAE, Arab Republic of Egypt, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Sudan, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and the Kingdom of Morocco.