[Mercedes López Martínez]
[Vía Orgánica y Regeneration International],
[México]
Forum Origine, Diversité et Territoires
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Initiative : A regenerative agroforestry model in Mexico

Approximately 50% of Mexico's land is semi-arid and degraded. We are experiencing an unprecedented climate crisis that has been caused, in large part, by the industrial agricultural model and that can be reversed with models of agroecology and regenerative reforestation.

Since 2018, Vía Orgánica and Regeneration International have promoted the paradigmatic Million Agaves project, which seeks to restore land and ecosystems, optimise water use, strengthen the peasant economy, protect pollinating insects, find healthy food for livestock and poultry, but above all, store billions of tonnes of CO2 to cool the planet.

The model has been implemented in an inclusive way in the communities of San Miguel de Allende, Dolores Hidalgo and San Luis de la Paz, Guanajuato and in the state of Querétaro, where it works mainly with women and young people, who apart from restoring their land, develop integrated agave and milpa systems, the latter a heritage bequeathed by hundreds of generations to the Mexican population and which is being lost.

It is important to mention that the mesquite and acacia regeneration systems are managing to produce 43 tonnes of biomass per hectare per year, as well as highly nutritious fodder for livestock, after a fermentation process; in addition to mesquite flour, which is highly nutritious.

For its part, the milpa system in Mexico is the basis of healthy, local food, which was designated as Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. The milpa is a holistic system with diverse foods such as maize, beans, squash, chillies, chayotes, quelites and medicinal plants, the basis of Mesoamerican food sovereignty, holistic, resilient and driven by local communities for centuries.

The two systems worked in parallel have generated networks and public policies, integrating diverse actors such as producers, consumers, local authorities, academia (who carry out pre- and post-soil and carbon sequestration studies), national groups such as the National Campaign without Maize there is no Country, and international networks such as Regeneration International.

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