

COURTESY TRANSLATION:

Milpa-labras document

Vicente Guerrero Comprehensive Rural Development Project, known as Grupo Vicente Guerrero (GVG) is a peasant organization as a non-profit legal entity established on December 3, 1997 as a civil association of Mexican nationality, as stated in deed number 30189 before the faith of notary 156 of Mexico City; who has his address at Domingo Arenas s/n in the community of Vicente Guerrero, Municipality of Españita, Tlaxcala. Likewise, its corporate purpose is: promote, train and advise peasant organizations, communities, producers and institutions to achieve ecologically sustainable development that allows progress towards a more just self-managed society in harmony with Mother Nature.

For 26 years we have been supporting and collaborating with the peasant and indigenous communities of the State of Tlaxcala and other states of the country in productive processes with agroecological practices, such as soil and water conservation, selection and preservation of native seeds, diversity productive, biodiversity and with this obtain healthy food free of agrochemicals for families. As well as promoting organizational and community self-management processes.

In the technical opinion that we propose to deliver to the panel we will address the risks and impacts of the importation and release into the environment of genetically modified corn in peasant and indigenous agriculture for the practice of the milpa system, understood as the production practice that integrates corn, beans, pumpkin, broad bean, quelites, medicinal plants and the resilience they generate in the face of climate change and soil wear, as well as in the nutrition of people and backyard and animal-drawn animals.

Likewise, we will address the importance of the consumption of corn and beans, the food base and peasant and biocultural identity, in our country. Protected within the framework of the USMCA in chapters 3 of agriculture, 24 of the environment and in the constituent rules of the GATT such as Article XX. Our diet is increasingly threatened by the introduction of genetically modified corn and processed foods that contain preservatives or artificial flavorings; Given this, we will present arguments to maintain the protection of corn for the production of nixtamalized dough.

We consider that with the threat of the entry and planting of genetically modified corn and the annulment of the presidential decree, our native corn seeds will be lost and we will be conditioned to the purchase of transgenic corn and the use of aggressive agrochemicals such as glyphosate that will affect health. of the peasants as well as the soil, the pollinating insects, the environment and the aquifers and with this the presence of serious and chronic diseases in the families that carry out their productive activities every year. All of these elements are protected by international human rights treaties, by national legislation and by the USMCA itself, which is why we will provide the arguments to maintain their protection.

In this sense, we believe that all the families with whom we collaborate have the human right to produce their own food free of agrochemicals and transgenic seeds for better health, as well as the right to a better environment with the use and exploitation of their own resources. natural resources such as soil, water and its own native seeds, using them rationally to ensure the life of present and future generations. Another of the activities that will possibly affect the entry of genetically modified seeds and the annulment of the decree are the seed exchanges that have great significance and importance in the peasant and indigenous communities of our state, since this allows the seeds to remain with the peasants and that they themselves carry out the genetic improvement of these, likewise these exchanges are to share early or short cycle varieties that are used as "climate emergency" as well as productive performance.

Regarding the biocultural rights that we will address are the dishes and snacks made with corn, beans, pumpkin, nopales and broad beans that range from the famous pozole, tlacoyos, tamales, atoles, pinole, tostadas, gorditas, sopes, esquites, chileatole, pumpkin seeds toast, navigating nopales, sweet pumpkin and corn on the cob. Likewise, corn and other native seeds fairs are spaces for exchanges, reflection and formulation of management strategies for actions aimed at improving and protecting native germplasm.

As a peasant organization, the nature of our activities, at risk with imports of genetically modified corn, we mainly carry out:

- Sustainable Agriculture: This program is one of the most important since it has to do with our food sovereignty, which contributes to improving the living conditions of families and strengthens peasant and indigenous identity with the farmer-to-peasant methodology and equity of gender.
- Training of Promoters with the farmer-to-peasant methodology: community promoters are the main actors for the promotion and dissemination of sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty, as well as other actions that require attention in their own community.
- Area of political incidence: this area has been consolidated from the process of defense and protection of the genetic diversity of our native corn and its objective is to identify allies to join the different efforts undertaken.
- Sustainable indigenous peasant marketing: it is a way of life and development proposal that is related to sustainable agriculture and peasant and indigenous food sovereignty, which enriches the culture of the people and allows a more supportive economy.

Finally, we want to mention that our organization has not had a relationship or financing with the parties involved in the controversy panel.

Sincerely