Importance in Mexico of the ban on the planting and use of transgenic corn and glyphosate for human consumption

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Rural Mexico and the significance of maize

Rural life and campesino struggles have been determinant in the history of our country, especially the struggle for land (1910-1921; 1934-1992).

Half of the territory is in the hands of campesino communities: ejidos and communities. There is a deep-rooted sense of community. More than 25% of the population lives in rural areas.
RURAL MEXICO, OUR IDENTITY

Half of our total territory is in the hands of campesinos

Total area: 200 million ha
Social property: 100 million ha

32,000 agricultural centers
80% Ejidos, 20% Comunidades

Traditions
Culture
Territory
Community
Gastronomy
Food
Agricultural production
Socio-cultural impacts of corn

3.2 million producers with less than 5 ha
National Production of Corn (mdt)

Total Production: 27 million tons (mdt)

National Production of Corn (mdt)
- Yellow corn, 3.1, 12%
- White corn, 23.4, 88%

Destination of corn production (mdt)
- Animal feed, 5.6, 21%
- Human consumption, 20.8, 79%

Producción de maíz por ciclo productivo
Primavera - Verano, Otoño – Invierno mdt

- 7 mdt
- 20 mdt
USMCA and Agri-Food Dependence
In Mexico we are undergoing a profound, radical process of transformation towards agroecological production for the recovery of our environment, our soils, for healthy food and for the defense of our genetic resources, corn being our main food. 2.3 million producers are in agroecological transition processes, promoted by government programs, campesino and civil society organizations, the Sowing Life Program with 1,125,000 hectares, and the Production for Well-Being Program with 4,000,000 hectares. Production for Wellbeing with 4,000 Field Schools, where 114,000 producers have been trained and 85,000 are participating in agroecological transition processes. Conahcyt's Pies Ligeros, which trains 200 agroecological leaders for each cycle, in addition to support for research groups in basic and applied science.
Alternatives to glyphosate in weed management

In Anec, with 3,000 organized producers, we have an impact on more than 7,000 hectares through biofactories in 12 states of the republic.

We have demonstrated that it is possible to produce without pesticides and herbicides, improving the soil, our genetic resources and conserving and improving productivity by up to 30 to 50%.

Agroecological management of weeds

Combination of cultural and intercropping practices, crop rotation systems, as well as the use of bioherbicides to control populations and coverage of weeds in critical periods of competition in order to guarantee biodiversity in agroecosystems.
Farmers' organizations and civil society in defense of our corn

The USMCA recognizes the conventions and regulations to which our country was previously subject.

This defines that it is up to our country's counterpart to carry out the risk studies regarding the consumption of transgenic corn, that is to say, to demonstrate the absence of risk, and not the Mexican State.
Agroindustry repeats the same pattern as in the Tobacco case

Introduction of complex and novel concepts to divert attention from what is important.

Restrict access to relevant information such as:

- Risk assessments
- Unbiased performance analysis
Previous experience in Mexico regarding damage caused by the release of genetically modified organisms in centers of origin of cultivated plants.

The case of cotton where the inserted transgenes have had a different and cumulative effect on wild populations.

The damage caused is irreversible and unacceptable, so the economic benefits derived from their use are irrelevant.
The precautionary principle as a mechanism for resolving the dispute

Mexico is obliged to comply with the first article of the Cartagena Protocol that establishes the precautionary principle, which is instated due to the lack of scientific certainty about the safety of genetically modified organisms. Our country must take measures for the protection of its biodiversity.

In other words, the prohibition of planting and use for human consumption of transgenic corn and the use of glyphosate derives from the Cartagena Protocol and Mexico's Biosafety Law, so the precautionary principle and approach must be applied.
Thank you!!!