

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 1281

Booth Number: 4

Bioculture to Enhance the Value of
Ancient Creole Maize in Chihuahua

COUNTRY: Mexico

ORGANIZATION: Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)

FUNDING REQUEST: \$196,500

OBJECTIVE: To help people from Tutuaca, Otachique, and Conoachi communities in Chihuahua, through a biocultural rescue program, to maintain the genetic diversity of native maize in the face of climate change, including validation and verification mechanisms to preserve their diverse maize races.

RATIONALE: Tutuaca, Otachique, and Conoachi harbor important maize varieties that are threatened by and may disappear because of the introduction of transgenic maize. Through this project, it will be possible to preserve corn biodiversity and cultural traditions, adapt ancient agricultural techniques to actual needs stemming from climate change, and improve the local population's quality of life by achieving alimentary adequacy.

INNOVATION: Our interest in the preservation of "creole" maize includes maintaining biocultural traditions while at the same time achieving alimentary adequacy in the face of climate change. Creole maize research and rescue has been achieved in accessible areas; our project, however, will implement technology transference in remote, mainly indigenous communities (Tarahumara, Pima, Huarogio and Masculais), and also will include ecoregional strategic alliances with federal, state and municipal governments, rural communities, and academic institutions.

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