

NATIONAL DAY OF CORN: SCIENTIFIC FORUM ART AND EXHIBITIONS

Date: September 29 to October 1, 2011

Mexico is the center of origin and diversification of maize. The cultural, economic and social development of this crop is easily demonstrable, found in foods in more varied and remote parts of the country. The diversity of maize Mexico is, in itself, of great value to humanity as a whole. The cultivation of GM maize, which will have introduced genes that confer resistance to herbicides, insecticidal properties, or even make the corn in a bioreactor into industrial raw materials, was not allowed in Mexico two years ago. This was due both to the importance of diversity of Mexican corn, and the risk, fully justified by scientific evidence, that native maize may be contaminated with transgenes. However, in 2009 lifted the moratorium, starting the cultivation of experimental genetically modified corn in Mexico. The Union of Concerned Scientists to Society (UCCS) and the collective of women artists and maize (Mamaz) have convened a forum and a series of exhibitions to discuss, analyze and disclose the current status of maize among the general public.

The Scientific Forum will be held in Oaxaca Ethnobotanical Garden on September 29 and will aim to disseminate advances in our understanding of maize in Mexico and in Oaxaca and the risk it poses for both diversity and human health, the use of genetically modified varieties. The art exhibition will be opened between September 30 and October 1 at various forums in the city of Oaxaca.

Scientific Forum Agenda (September 29): Time Speaker Title 9-14 hrs.

Dr. Alejandro de Avila Blomberg,
Introduction JEBOax Activity: natural history and civilization corn

Dr. Daniel Piñero Dalmau, UNAM Genetic diversity of useful species in Mexico

Dr. Angel Takeo Kato Yamakake,
Graduate College Origin and diversification of maize in Mexico

M.C. Cecilio Cruz Mota, CONABIO
Project progress and results of global native maize: a national effort for understanding and conservation of diversity of maize and its wild relatives in Mexico

Dr. Fernando Castillo Gonzalez
Graduate College
Races of maize and its importance in the development of agriculture in Mexico

Dr. Gabriel Ramos Fernández, IPN and

Dr. Elena Alvarez Buylla, UNAM state node Presentation UCCS

14-16hrs.

BREAK

16-19 hrs.

M.C. Flavio Aragón Cuevas, INIFAP and

M.C. Humberto Castro Garcia
Universidad Autonoma Chapingo
Diversity of native maize in Oaxaca

Dr. Elena Alvarez Buylla, UNAM hazards, risks and deficiencies of transgenic maize in its center of origin (Mexico)

Dr. Porfirio Ramírez Vallejo, College
Postgraduate
Comments landraces vs. transgenic varieties

Dra. Tayde Morales Santos
Universidad Autonoma Chapingo
Comments on the proposed legislation on native maize
sent to the Oaxaca state legislature