

The Mazahua milpa: bastion of traditional knowledge and beliefs

Alicia Yaneth Vásquez González¹

Cristina Chávez Mejía²

Francisco Herrera Tapia³

Fermín Carreño Meléndez⁴

Abstract:

Biological and cultural diversity of the milpa, which are currently at risk of extinction because of several factors, which would put at risk the safety and food sovereignty of indigenous and peasant peoples of Mexico. In this chapter we analyze the milpa mazahua of San Pedro El Alto as a bastion of knowledge about the environment and local beliefs for land cultivation. The study was carried out in San Pedro El Alto Temascalcingo, México from April 2013 to August 2014; campesinos and campesinas were interviewed and participant observation was used to observe the agricultural cycle ritual. So that by cultivating the land and the practice of agricultural cycle rituals, both, local environmental knowledge and agrobiodiversity of milpa are conserved. And, by doing so, special meanings are given to campesino land.

Keywords: *local knowledge, milpa, Mazahua, biological and cultural diversity.*

¹Email: yaly2003a@hotmail.com

² Email: cchavez@uaemex

³ Email: fherrerat@uaemex.mx

⁴ Email: fermin_carreno@yahoo.com.mx
