

***Generational Management of the Milpa in
the Mazahua Community Palmillas, State of Mexico***

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Abstract:

Geographically, this investigation is located in the Mazahua community of Palmillas, San Felipe del Progreso, State of Mexico and it compares the handling of the milpa (maize crops) by two different age groups, over and under 50 years old. To this end, a participatory observation in eight districts was made, as well as a questionnaire of semi-open questions to 60 "ejidatarios" (with actual experience in the handling of the milpa) that was produced during the 2015 cultivation cycle. Generation contrasts were detected among older adults (less educated, 40% with full time farming as a primary activity, greater tendency of multicrops in bigger extensions of plots field, more respectful of traditionals and dedicated to rituals, environmental factors, etc.) and the younger group (more educated, with other primary activities, and less extensions of lands, dedicated to monoculture in spare time, lesser attention to rituals, etc.) From the results, we can conclude the the handling of the milpa is in the middle of a process of transformation; however, there are elements of the culture and the Mazahua's historical memory that remain, such as the memory of past times when the tradicional crops were exalted and the production was an extended family matter.

Key Words: *peasant agriculture, generation contrast, historical memory.*

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