



SIN MAÍZ NO HAY PAÍS

Mexico City, September 29, 2023

WE ARE CORN. NO TO GMOs

To the PEOPLE OF MEXICO:

National Corn Day was first celebrated in 2009; today we are celebrating its 15th anniversary. It was born as an initiative of the National Campaign Without Corn There Is No Country. Later the celebration was made official by decree in 2019. Today this celebration is rooted in dozens of rural and urban populations across the country that celebrate it in various ways.

It is a day of celebration, yes, but also of reflection and combative action.

The United States seeks to impose on Mexico what corn to eat and how to produce it, now through a dispute panel derived from the T-MEC.

This action seeks the repeal of the presidential decree of February 13 of this year, which establishes the prohibition of the use of transgenic corn and glyphosate, an agro-toxin associated with it.

The health problems caused by glyphosate have been documented in countless scientific papers that are publicly available.

It is also a fact that transgenic corn is not equivalent to our native corn, since it was designed as fodder to fatten animals. For this reason, it contains a greater volume of starches and there is data linking it to the epidemic of obesity and diabetes caused by ultra-processed products made with high fructose syrups and starches from transgenic corn. This violates the right to adequate food enshrined in the Constitution, whose Regulatory Law was approved by the Senate of the Republic on September 19 of this year.

Our health is at stake. As we expressed today to the U.S. government, "the people of Mexico will not tolerate that under the pretext of a trade agreement, they are forced to eat what the U.S. citizens themselves reject."

But this is not only a health issue. We denounce that what the owners of economic power are trying to do by contaminating Mexican corn is not only to appropriate the seeds and privatize them in favor of a few companies; what they are looking for is to do away with forms of life and

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community organization in order to continue to devastate our territories and thus take control of our natural resources and the work of our people.

We are defending a way of life and a way of understanding the world. Corn and *milpa*, produced by peasants, have identified us and given us a face before other cultures for millennia. They were the sustenance of cities such as El Tajín, Las Yácatas, Mitla, La Quemada, Teotihuacán, Xochicalco, Palenque, Uxmal or Tenochtitlán, among hundreds of other cities; today they are the sustenance of art, crafts, as well as the knowledge and techniques that are expressed in agriculture and in the rich regional cuisines that make us so proud.

Today, on National Corn Day, and every day, we call on all the people of Mexico to:

- Actively defend our right to healthy, adequate and culturally appropriate food.
- Defend our right to have on our daily table tortillas made with good quality corn and free of pesticides.
- To defend and value peasant work.
- And above all, we call on you to defend our sovereignty.

National Campaign Without Corn There is No Country

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