

# History of Food Production in Mexico

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# 1934

Lázaro Cárdenas is elected president.

Starting of ejidos system, which gives peasants access to land, not ownership. This means that peasants to credit.

There 400% increase in land distribution with record production since 1910.

# VP Henry A. Wallace



Toured Mexico in 1940, and found that it took a Mexican farmer 200h to produce a bushel, when it took a Kansas farmer 10

# 1940

part of the Mexican Agricultural Program as a joint initiative between the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation.

shift from import to export between 1943 and 1958.



Dr. Norman Borlaug (standing) with students in Mexico, 1964. [Rockefeller]

# The Green Revolution in depth

ose:

Genetic improvement of plant

varieties

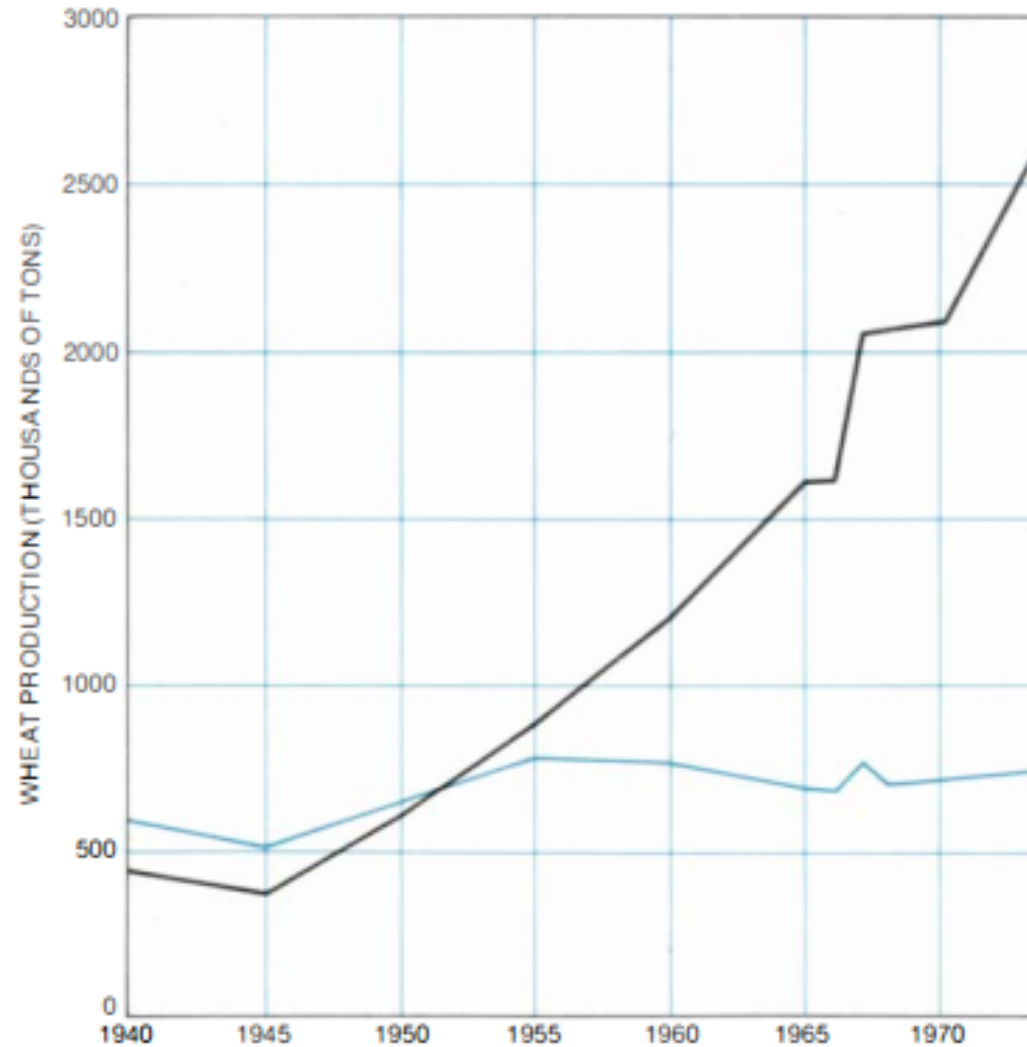
oil

Control of insect pests and

plant diseases

Agricultural practices of

farmers



Mexican agriculture became more integrated with the North-American food complex

→ export of luxury fruits and vegetables

→ import of corn, beans, and wheat from the U.S

Mexico farmers: Modern, Semi-commercial and Subsistence

**the rapid increase of agricultural production → the efforts of the modern sector**

Differences between the categories:

average farm size

percent of cropland under irrigation

capital investment

# Surprise decrease in the late 1960's.

Limited and irregular supply of water:

- Distribution of the water resources  $\neq$  distribution of the good cropland.
- Irrigated areas are more productive and produce a wide range of crops
- Rain-fed agriculture limited to corn, beans and grains but is not productive enough.

End of the 16 year “Green Revolution” project → preventing the spread of modern technology and proper training

Environmental effect

# Agriculture: NAFTA

istence farms grow stable crops and commercial farms provide c

s

s granted freedom to transition to more profitable expenditures

A: Elimination of tariffs and quota barriers -> opening up free-m

vestment and commerce

**of a competitive market-based:**

can farmers compete with U.S producers

deased local production

ss in imports over exports -> country-wide deficit

the... with... but... the... the...

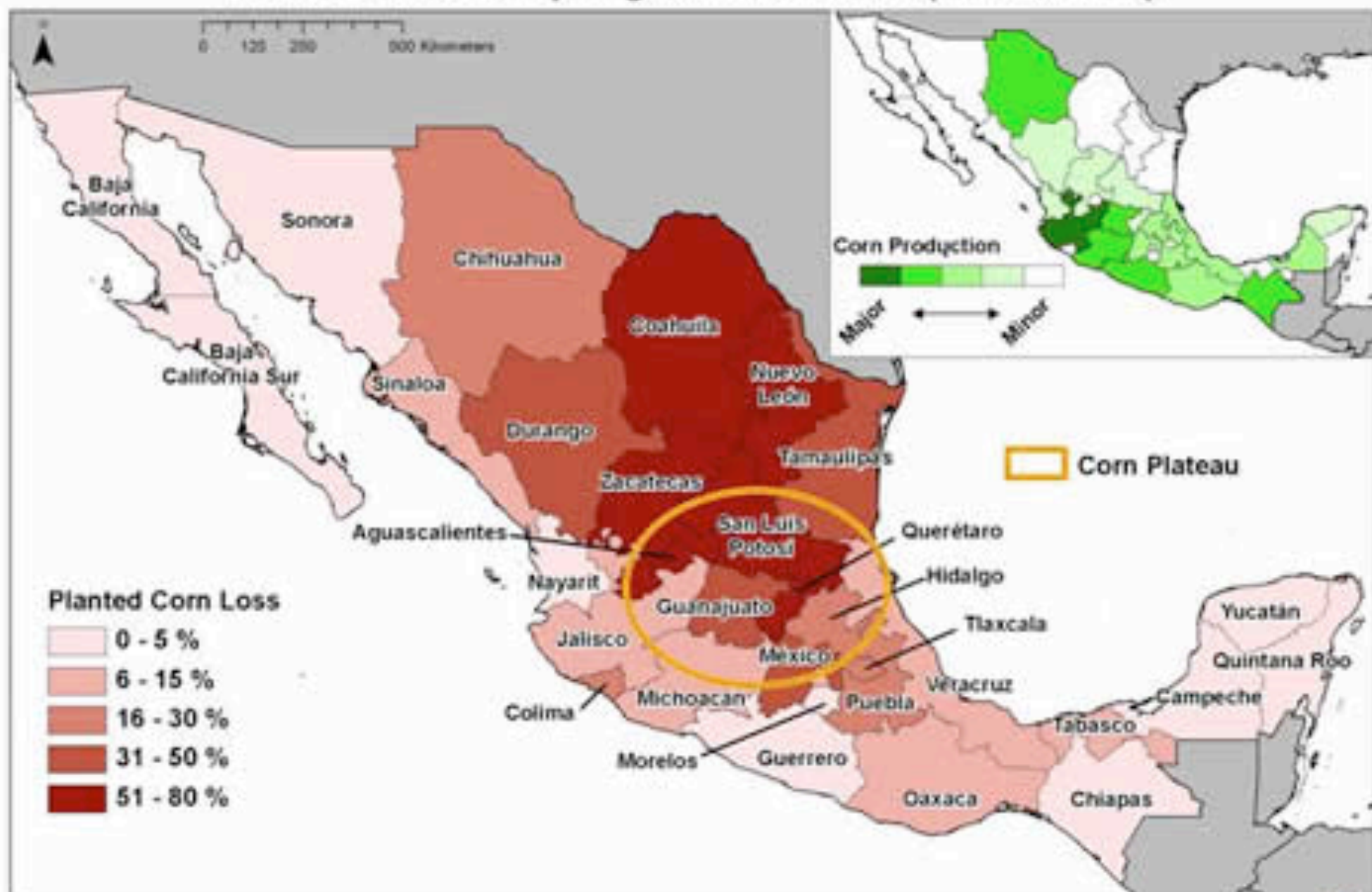


# Procampo program



- The Mexican Government founded the Procampo program to alleviate the negative effects NAFTA.
- Procampo program gives cash transfers to farmers that planted one of the basic crops.
- Household income of farmers increased 14.2% between 1994-1997.
- Cash transfers are mostly used to increase the use of current inputs of their farms, resulting in no technological development in those farms.

# Mexico: Loss of Spring/Summer Corn (MY 2011/12)



Data Sources: Servicio de Información Agroalimentaria y Pesquera (SIAP), con información de las Delegaciones de la SAGARPA.

United States Department of Agriculture  
 Foreign Agriculture Service  
 International Production Assessment Division  
[www.pecad.fas.usda.gov](http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov)



# Conclusion

• Progression will come from education of all classes and incorporation of technology

• Need for a more self sufficient market

- local production

- greater crop diversity

• Development of highly profitable technological production techniques which suit the diverse ecology of the country

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