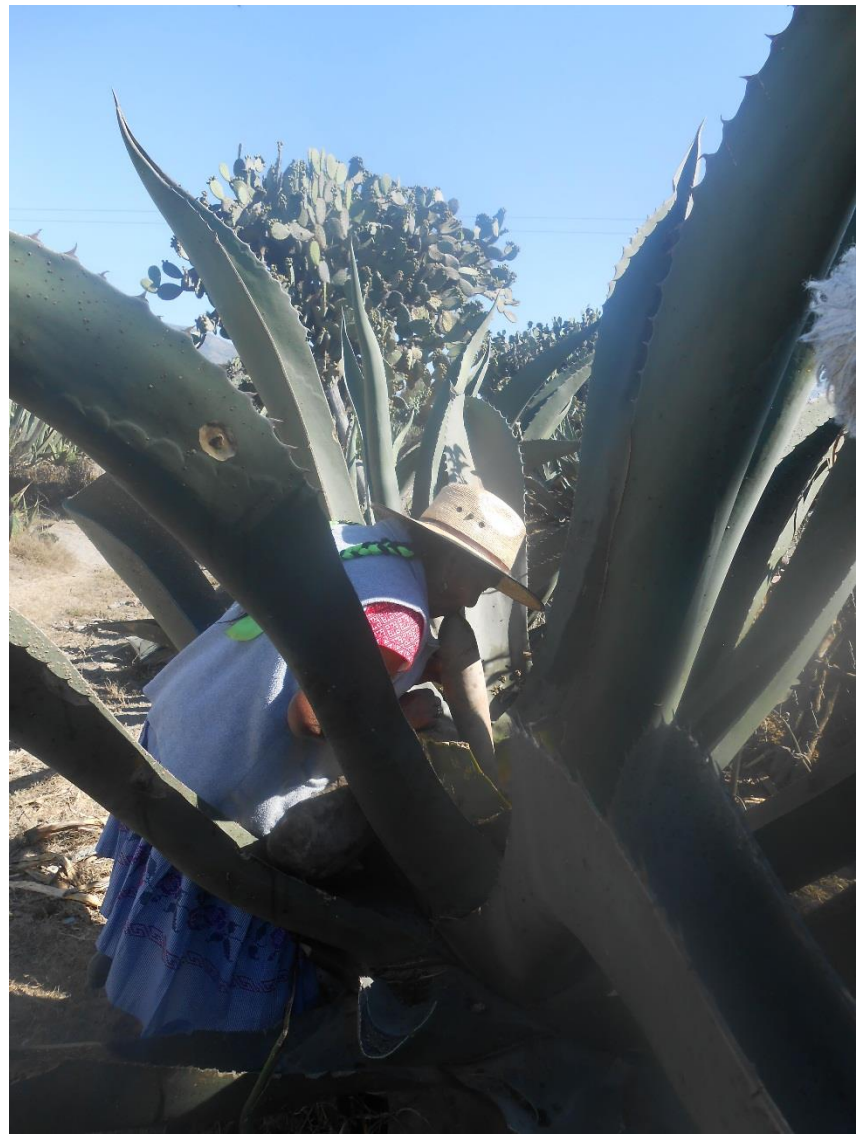


Indigenous women in rural Mexico are taking the innovation process in their hands



Milpa Maguey Tierno de la Mujer

- Is a cooperative integrated by 20 women and one men (all indigenous otomies) located in San Andres Daboxtha, Cardonal, Hidalgo, Mexico. The cooperative produces agave syrup which is sold in national market. *Two needs were priority in the cooperative organization: satisfy households' member needs and the sustainable use of the local resources: agave and lechuguilla.*
- The environmental conditions are difficult in High Mezquital where the cooperative took place. In this context indigenous women decided to organize in collectivity to find financial resources, access to property and build their facilities, and obtain specific trainings for improve production and environment process.
- The use local resources for agave syrup production required innovation process.
- The cooperative's experience highlight some aspects:
- Social innovations: democratic rules based on reciprocity and solidarity.
- An actors' ecosystem such as universities, governments (local and state) and NGO's, who collaborated to support the cooperative.
- The cooperative adapted new technologies such as solar panels to reduce their cost.
- The cooperative has also promoted the agave reforestation in their community based on their indigenous agro ecologic knowledge.
- The cooperative strength its indigenous knowledge in the agave management, learned to carry out new production processes to obtain a quality product to offer in the markets.



Maguey Tierno de la Mujer Backgrounds:

**Local needs, Gender needs, environmental conditions. Use of local resources. How to start?
Agro-ecological practices based on indigenous knowledge.**



The innovation needs:

Social innovation (reciprocity and democracy).

Ecosystem actors: trainings, Universities, non-governmental organizations, technical schools, researchers, municipal, state and national government

The technological innovation process





Keep working in cooperative for more than 25 years involves Improving of production, marketing and organization. Taking into account the local resources and hña hña knowledge. The innovations are based on specific needs. .

