Abstract

The rural areas of the Federal District face serious problems of soil erosion and environmental contamination. Producers and social actors in this area have persisted in knocking on the doors of various federal government agencies, searching for technical and economic support to protect the Teuhtli Ecological Conservation Zone. Teuhtli is renowned on a world-wide level as a reservoir of genetic diversity for the cultivation of amaranth (Amaranthus hypochondriacus), and the production of its seed is an activity of great economic, social, cultural and environmental importance. Among the most important benefits of amaranth are its significant nutritional value (similar to that of cow’s milk) and its high profitability, which allows producers to earn a profit of 100% more than if they were to invest in risk free investments. This research project was carried out with an agroecological approach, supported by the application of questionnaires and interviews. The goal of the project was to analyze the sociocultural processes of amaranth producers in the Tehuhtli Ecological Conservation Zone, located in Santiago Tulyehualco, in the Delegation of Xochimilco, Mexico City, Federal District. The results of this work have led to the conclusion that the producers, through their organization, have managed to preserve the cultivation and genetic variability of amaranth, in addition to preserving their traditions, identity and surroundings.

Keywords

Peri-urban agriculture, resource conservation, Tulyehualco, drainage basin, agricultural cultural heritage.