Abstract

In Mexico, agricultural problems are often identified from a disciplinary and interpretative perspective in which that of rural farmers is omitted. In this work, the aim was to perform a diagnostic of the agricultural situation in Hocabá, Yucatán, based on the knowledge of rural farmers and technicians, for designing solution options. In the municipality of Hocabá, farmers carry out, at least, four types of milpas: slash and burn milpa, cane milpa of first and second years, and corn with cover crops. According to 85% of the farmers, rain is the most important factor that limits agriculture in Hocabá, due to the characteristics of rain (one short season and frequency) and by the low water retention capacity of the soil. Fallow was the second cause (5%), the third was weeds (3%), and the fourth cause was soil fertility (3%), and soil type (1%).

Keywords

Rain, fallow, weeds, soil fertility, soil heterogeneity.