

## CMT grows hope in the municipality of Guerrero, in Chihuahua

Hundreds of tons of seeds and fertilizers were obtained as a result of the will of many people: Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, the producers themselves, and people in the municipality of Guerrero in the state of Chihuahua; due to the null support of the government

In 2019, the budget for the agricultural sector in Mexico decreased by thousands of million pesos, which left producers in a vulnerable situation. In a report, the Federal Chamber of Deputies mentioned that we lack public policies to benefit the Mexican fields.

Through Supportive Contribution, which means the efforts made by Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C., (CMT), the farmers in the municipality of Guerrero in the state of Chihuahua, and the support of the City Council in the organization and logistics. They all contributed to get corn and oat seeds, as well as fertilizers to provide farmers with the supplies they needed for the planting season.

In the midst of a crisis caused by drought and without any support provided by local and federal authorities, farmers and the members of the City Council clearly expressed: "If we had not received support from Congregación Mariana Trinitaria we would not have been able to grow anything at all. Their actions turned into Seeds of Hope".

"Maybe a lot of farmers would not have been able to grow anything due to the prices of fertilizers. However, actions like these motivate people and they are determined to produce a little bit more" mentioned Juan Escárcega, one of the producers who got benefits through this program.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria is committed to the Mexican fields, it subsidized 667 tons of seeds, and 327 tons of fertilizers for the planting season to benefit 456 producers and their families. This model may be replicated anywhere in the country, people only have to follow a procedure that takes one week to get a reply, while the procedures and paperwork in governmental offices may take several months.

"We wouldn't have been able to grow anything because the supplies are really expensive. Congregación Mariana Trinitaria helped us, and without their support many farmers would have been lost because the fields have been forgotten for many years", said Cristina Beltrán, a councilwoman in the municipality of Guerrero, in Chihuahua.

The local authorities thanked CMT for the support they got, and they also remembered that this area is one of the most important agricultural zones in Chihuahua, as more than three thousand people work in this sector. This means that 14 percent of the producers got benefits through the delivery of this support.

### Case of success in numbers

- 6667 tons of seeds were bought.
- 327 tons of fertilizers



- 456 producers obtained direct benefits.
- 1600 people got indirect benefits.



### The rescue of the Mexican fields, a big challenge

Due to the sanitary contingency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mexican fields faced big challenges, such as the fall of oil prices, and internal problems like the lack of policies and public programs to assist during the sanitary contingency; as mentioned in the report "Situation of the Agricultural Sector in Mexico" developed by the Federal Chamber of Deputies.

Nevertheless, the problems in the Mexican fields are nothing new. In 2012 the budget allocated to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) was cut 14.4 percent, as in 2018 it was 76 thousand million pesos, and currently it is only 65 thousand 434 million pesos. In 2020 the budget for the agricultural sector was 47 thousand 577 million pesos, which represents a reduction of 27.2 percent, compared to the one they got in 2019.

### Primary activities developed during the fourth trimestre in 2019

Sector	Thousand million pesos
Agriculture	665 thousand 147
Breeding and selling animals	271 thousand 905
Forestry activities	27 thousand 377
Fishing, hunting and capturing species	23 thousand 418
Services related to agricultural and forestry activities	Three thousand 991

According to the studies promoted by the Chamber of Deputies, almost half of the resources are led to four programs: Program to Promote Welfare, focused on the increase of food self-sufficiency in the country by providing resources and guaranteeing access to 20 services like special prices, technical assistance, financing, supplies, between many other benefits.

Additionally, we have the program Special Prices for Basic Food Products to contribute to the improvement of food security to increase the production of basic grains in the country, which was developed for producers. The Program of Livestock Credit whose objective is to increase the productivity of small and medium-size producers through investments to increase livestock production like sheep, goats, and poultry farming.

More to the point, the Program of Fertilizers, whose objective is to combat the problem of low availability of local fertilizers with competitive prices for small producers.

Considering the previous information, we need more actions like the ones developed by CMT to help farmers in Mexico, as millions of producers and their families depend on that kind of activities.