

Green Revolution in Mexico

What is the Green Revolution?

- 1. Package of Inputs and Modern Varieties (Mvs), High yielding varieties (HYVs)**
- 2. Means for increasing surplus**
 - a. To avoid land redistribution**
 - b. Industrial inputs to production**
 - b. To provide cheap food both as food and feed**

a plant's view of the green revolution

- i. breeding, genetic manipulation gets more energy to grain
reduce height, foliage, increase nutrient uptake
- ii. Agrochemical nutrient and biocide packages
Fertilizer increases yields
Pesticides protect monocultures from pests
Herbicides
Reduce weeds which overcome shorter crops
Enforce monocultures: mono v dicot specificity



1. The green revolution in a social frame: Antonio y su rancho
 - a. Government policy, Crony capitalism, patronage
 - b. Wage labor on peasant plots
 - i. local poor don't get land, but work cheaply
 - ii. functional dualism: rich/poor interdependency in Mexican agrarian capitalism
 - i. Agricultural inputs: Emilio Rico and the Fertimex distribution scam
 - ii. Crop insurance scam: the Mariachi miracle



1. Adapting the GR

CIMMYT (International Center for Corn and Wheat Improvement),
<http://www.cimmyt.cgiar.org/Research/maize/index.htm>



SAM: El Systema Mexicano Alimentario

- i. 1980-82: 3.8 billion in food crop support subsidies to 'basic grains' producers**
- ii. SAM II (Son of SAM):**
 - agro-capitalists get feed crops included. Subsidies to soya, barley (beer) etc.**
- iii. August 1982 oil price collapse, subsidies ended.**



SAM Outcomes:

1. Price supports work: vast increase in corn production, Mexican food self-sufficiency obtained
2. Agro-Capitalist interests are very powerful and capable of turning agricultural programs in their favor *and away from poorer farmers*
3. Urban Working Class meat consumption is more politically important than rural food production



Persistence of Functional Dualism:



Peasant Sector

Self-sufficient



Provides Cheap Labor to
Modern Sector

Modern Sector