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:

Modern Sector

Self-sufficient
Provides Cheap Labor to Modern Sector

Peasant Sector