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Toltec pipil water and soil management: An experience to share from El Salvador, central America

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Statement of the Problem: Having the opportunity to find buried vestiges of ancestral cultivation in El Salvador after the passing of several thousand years, is an edaphic fortune. Currently, the country has reached a high level of environmental degradation and contamination of the soil and water. This situation provokes difficulties for the population, such as food quality, reduction in drinking water availability and increase in diseases.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The field work was executed by unsystematic observations through time, studying evidences of cultivation in the soil's stratigraphy of the central zone in the country.

Findings: The evidences show the good soil and water practices for cultivation in the organic ancestral agriculture. Two main methods of cultivations were, one of them is identified as punctual and the other as furrow. A third less common method is the construction of terraces. The usage of soil conservation practices were found in the evidences. In water management, the evidence shows that the furrow construction was also done with the purpose of irrigation for the six months dry season.

Conclusion & Significance: The Toltec Pipil agriculture, is eminently of organic type, sustained by its benefits and verified by thousands of years of use. The use of three types of cultivation for sowing demonstrates the knowledge and importance that the Toltec Pipil gave to the soils and water. The organic management is now in the process of being retaken in some parts of the present agricultural world. Currently, we must work on how to promote the importance of the soils and water.

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