

What's our 1 week answer?

- CRS should contract Quecha Aloom set up new communities in SM and surrounding areas focused on amaranth production to address malnutrition and give opportunity to meet demand that currently exists. Now poke holes:
 - QA had no incentive whatsoever to show us anything negative we've only seen one growing organization

Discussion

- importance of "native seeds" and how long that might take to get set up in SM? What can group 1 (Intervida) show us/do they have seeds for SM already?
- how do we tie in the ECADI's and how do we extend this to commercialization
- what we wish we learned at Qucha a loom
 - where their money comes from and goes
 - how much they actually sell, and as % of total sales
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Dan Questions

- tell him our 1-week solution and get his thoughts
- three times as thirsty as corn?
- Dan's information that contradicts what Sheryl said about corn being just as good as amaranth
- blede vs. amaranth
- verify seasons in SM: May-Oct (wet season) and Oct-April (dry season)
- who owns the community plots? owned by the promoter? CRS insure crops here?
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- getting over the seed perpetuation problem is a big step
- all are very in touch with the Mayan culture/history
- blede tends to be retroflexus (not good for grain, more weedish)
- water discussion: varieties matter a lot! it could work in Rabinal and not work in SM; need to try out in ECADIs
- \$50 per soil sample
- demonstration plots tend to be on promoter's land; promoters are compensated just with inputs (seeds, irrigation systems, chickens) but have more work
- 2-3 years to get beyond the promoters; but if it works great for the promoter other people will just start doing it
- SM just isn't great for farming

- research on amaranth in SM has not been done
- most farming things fail because bad technical knowledge up front or bad management
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Matthew To-Do

- get contact info from everyone
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