

Reflexión sobre la pobreza rural en la región planicie huasteca del estado de San Luis Potosí, México

Reflection on rural poverty in the Huasteca plain region of the State of San Luis Potosi, Mexico

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Resumen

El objetivo del presente trabajo es hacer un análisis crítico reflexivo sobre la pobreza rural en la región planicie huasteca del estado de San Luis Potosí. El estado está integrado por 58 municipios y 6,887 localidades y se clasifica en cuatro regiones: Centro, Altiplano, Media y Huasteca. En el territorio de San Luis Potosí la pobreza es una realidad evidente, tanto en el medio rural como en el urbano; los municipios de la región planicie huasteca, cuentan con las condiciones propicias para el desarrollo de la ganadería y en el caso de la agricultura una zona de riego y temporal para la producción de diferentes cultivos agrícolas. Sin embargo, en esta zona se destaca un importante porcentaje de pobreza rural que cada día se acentúa más, a pesar de los programas permanentes de apoyo al campo que deberían generar riqueza en este importante sector de la economía. Como conclusión, se pueden mencionar muchas causas de la pobreza rural, sin embargo el mayor y más importante causante, es el productor mismo, que cuenta con un bajo nivel educativo, mismo que les reduce las posibilidades de administrar sus recursos, y esto conlleva a que los productores agrícolas no puedan sostener una economía rentable a largo plazo, debido a que trabajan con altos costos de producción y utilizan créditos muy costosos. Adicionalmente, los productores ganaderos no implementan acciones de transferencia de tecnología, que les permita aumentar la producción agropecuaria.

Palabras Clave: San Luis Potosí, Planicie Huasteca, Pobreza Rural, Transferencia de Tecnología, Producción Agropecuaria

Abstract

The objective of this work is to make a thoughtful critical analysis of rural poverty in the Huasteca plain region of San Luis Potosí State. The State is made up of 58 municipalities and 6,887 towns and is classified into four regions: Center, Highlands, middle and Huasteca. In the territory of San Luis Potosí poverty is a reality evident, both in rural and urban; the huasteca plain region municipalities, have favorable conditions for the development of animal husbandry and agriculture an area of irrigation and storm for the production of various agricultural crops. However, in this area highlights a significant percentage of rural poverty that each day is emphasized more, despite permanent support to field programmes which should generate wealth in this important sector of the economy. In conclusion, you can mention many causes of rural poverty, however the largest and most important cause, the same producer, which has a low level of education, same that reduces them to manage their resources, and this means that agricultural producers can not sustain a profitable long term economy, since they work with high production costs and used very expensive credits. In addition, the livestock producers do not implement actions of transfer of technology, allowing them to increase agricultural production.

Key words: San Luis Potosi, Huasteca plain, Rural poverty, Technology transfer, Agricultural production.

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Introduction

Talk about poverty is a very complex issue, whose definition depends on the institution that handles it. However, in general you can define poverty as the condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, housing, education and information. Poverty refers not only to monetary income but also access to services (World Bank, 2007).

In Mexico, poverty affects millions of children, men, women, older adults and, especially, indigenous peoples. Altogether, nearly half of the Mexican population is poor, so that the fight against poverty is a priority that must be attended by the three branches of Government. It is important to highlight that rural poverty is consistently greater than urban (respectively, 61.6% and 40.6% in 2012).

The rates of poverty in rural areas of Mexico are substantially higher than in urban areas. Agricultural development can be a good way to increase income and reduce poverty in rural areas, but the performance in this area has been weak in the past twenty years, so it has lagged with respect to other sectors.

The Huasteca plain region of San Luis Potosi State, despite being an area rich in natural resources and have a significant productive potential in agriculture and livestock, have poverty rates average amounting to the 66.36% of its population (CONEVAL, 2012), spread across the three municipalities that comprise this region: ebony, Tamuín and San Vicente Tancuayalab..

Therefore the aim of this work is to make a thoughtful critical analysis of rural poverty in the Huasteca region of San Luis Potosí State.

POVERTY IN SAN LUIS POTOSI

San Luis Potosi is located in central Mexico, with a land area of 848.3 square kilometers⁶². Its population is 2,585,518 people, of which 1,260,366 are men and 1,325,152 women (INEGI 2010); the state is composed of 58 municipalities and 6,887 localities, and is classified into four regions: Central, Altiplano, Media and Huasteca.

In the territory of San Luis Potosi poverty is an obvious reality, both in rural and urban areas, a result of inequities that distinguish productive and social activities, which are being expressed among people by gaps in opportunities work and income.

The results reported by the CONEVAL with respect to the period 2010-2012, indicate that:

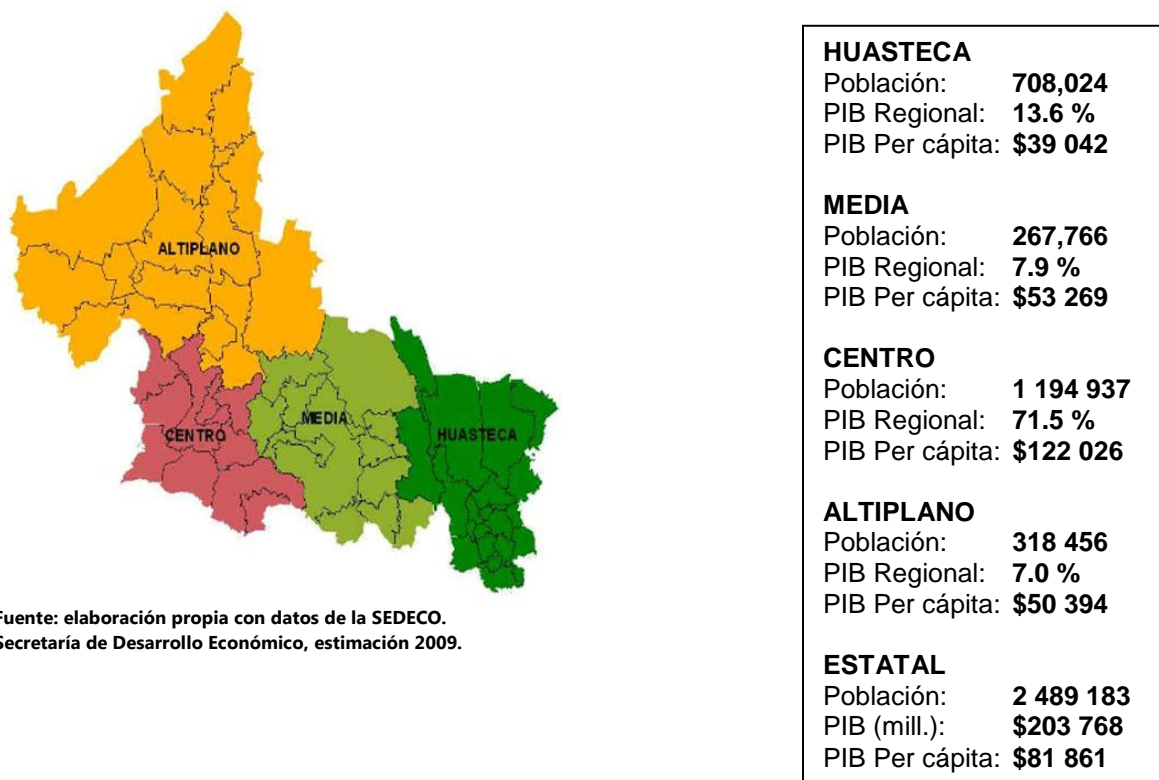
- In 2012 the percentage of people in poverty in the state was 50.5%, equivalent to 1,354,160 people in this condition. This represents a decrease of 21,140 persons compared to 2010.
- The state reduced the population in extreme poverty, which rose from 15.3% (402,573 people) in 2010 to 12.8% (342,946 people) in 2012, ie there was a decrease of 59,627 people in this condition.
- From 2010 to 2012 there was a reduction in the number of people and the percentage of population with social deprivation of access to health services, lack of quality and living spaces, lack for access to food and lack by educational backwardness.

Noteworthy progress in reducing by lack access to health services, which rose from 19.0% in 2010 to 14.0% in 2012. Despite this progress, saw an increase in the number of people as in the percentage of population by lack access to basic services for housing and lack access to social security.

In the context of the regions, inequalities generated by the advantages of urban areas over rural areas.

An example illustrating the inequality is referred to the following estimate on Axis 1. Social Policy and Poverty Reduction, the Social Development Sector Program (SEDESORE).

Map 1. Regional Distribution of Population, PIB Regional y PIB per cápita, 2009

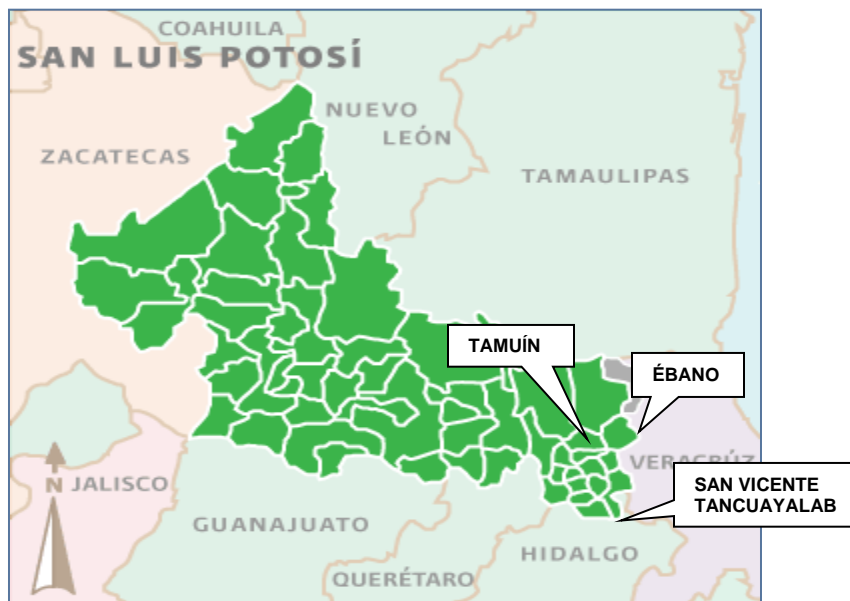


According to data from CONEVAL, in San Luis Potosí the proportion of the state in poverty showed a decrease from 2010 to 2012, nearly two percentage points, from 52.4% to 50.5%. This meant identifying in absolute numbers for 2012 to 1 million 354 thousand people in this condition, something that two years ago was 1 million 375 thousand people. Among the regions mentioned, the Huasteca is subdivided into three areas: Huasteca central, southern Huasteca and Huasteca north, formed by 7 municipalities: El Naranjo,

Ciudad Valles (most densely populated and urbanized of the Huasteca), Tamuín, Ebony, San Vicente Tancuayalab, Tanquián de Escobedo, Tamasopo and El Naranjo.

The municipalities in which we will focus are in this area and are Ebon, San Vicente Tancuayalab and Tamuín, which make up the plain Huasteca and whose population in poverty represents 4.096% of the total State (Map 2).

Map 2. MUNICIPALITIES OF PLAIN Huasteca



Fuente: elaboración propia a partir de datos del INEGI

Cuadro 1. Classification of multidimensional poverty Township Ébano, San Luis Potosí (CONEVAL, 2010).

MEDICIÓN MUNICIPAL DE LA POBREZA 2010 Ébano, San Luis Potosí			
Indicadores	Porcentaje	Número de personas	Número promedio de carencias
Pobreza			
Población en situación de pobreza	64.6	23 297	2.9
Población en situación de pobreza moderada	44.9	16 175	2.4
Población en situación de pobreza extrema	19.8	7 123	3.9
Población vulnerable por carencias sociales	19.0	6 867	2.3
Población vulnerable por ingresos	5.3	1 895	--
Población no pobre y no vulnerable	11.1	3 989	--
Privación social			
Población con al menos una carencia social	83.7	30 164	2.7
Población con al menos tres carencias sociales	43.2	15 578	3.8
Indicadores de carencia social			
Rezago educativo	24.5	8 824	3.5
Acceso a los servicios de salud	21.2	7 633	3.3
Acceso a la seguridad social	73.4	26 456	2.9
Calidad y espacios de la vivienda	20.8	7 481	4.2
Acceso a los servicios básicos en la vivienda	54.6	19 671	3.3
Acceso a la alimentación	34.7	12 517	4.0
Bienestar económico			
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar mínimo	30.3	10 912	3.1
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar	69.9	25 192	2.7

Fuente: elaboración propia con datos del CONEVAL, 2010.

Description of the Municipality

Ebano has a population of 41,529 inhabitants (INEGI, 2010), its total area is 700 275km², and represents 1.15% of the state territory. Bordered on the north, east and south with the state of Veracruz and the municipality of Tamuín, and west by the same municipality. Ebon is located in a large plain called the Northern Gulf Coastal Plain. The Panuco River is located in the southern part of the town and passing through these lands called Oviedo river. To the north is a small portion of Tamesí River, which passes through the town Ebon called Jopoy river. South of the municipal head are the gaps Fish, Chajoy, Laguna Seca and La Laguna Iguala.

The predominant climate in the whole municipality is warm humid with summer rains. Its average annual temperature is 24.8 ° C, with a rainfall of 800-1000 mm. The most important rainfall occurs during the months of May to October; Drought is from November

to May, the warm temperature is from April to September and the cold period from November to February.

Predominant activity in the region is cattle ranching, so much of their land is devoted to growing pasture for that purpose. These alternate with areas dedicated to irrigated agriculture and temporary land. This municipality is among those enrolled in the national crusade against hunger (SEDESOL, 2014).

Cuadro 2. Classification of multidimensional poverty in the municipality of San Vicente Tancuayalab, San Luis Potosí (CONEVAL, 2010).

MEDICIÓN MUNICIPAL DE LA POBREZA 2010 San Vicente Tancuayalab, San Luis Potosí			
Indicadores	Porcentaje	Número de personas	Número promedio de carencias
Pobreza			
Población en situación de pobreza	77.1	11 341	3.1
Población en situación de pobreza moderada	43.5	6 400	2.4
Población en situación de pobreza extrema	33.6	4 941	4.0
Población vulnerable por carencias sociales	17.1	2 512	2.3
Población vulnerable por ingresos	1.4	207	--
Población no pobre y no vulnerable	4.4	653	--
Privación social			
Población con al menos una carencia social	94.2	13 854	3.0
Población con al menos tres carencias sociales	55.9	8 226	3.9
Indicadores de carencia social			
Rezago educativo	25.4	3 735	3.6
Acceso a los servicios de salud	40.1	5 907	3.9
Acceso a la seguridad social	75.6	11 122	3.2
Calidad y espacios de la vivienda	32.4	4 765	4.0
Acceso a los servicios básicos en la vivienda	57.8	8 499	3.5
Acceso a la alimentación	47.3	6 956	3.9
Bienestar económico			
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar mínimo	47.3	6,958	3.3
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar	78.5	11,549	3.0

Fuente: elaboración propia con datos del CONEVAL, 2010.

Description of the Municipality

The population of San Vicente Tancuayalab is of 14,958 inhabitants (INEGI, 2010), the area is 520,108 km², representing 0.84% of the state territory. Adjoins the northeast with Tamuín, south to Tanquián de Escobedo, with Tanlajás southwest, east with Higo, with Tempoal southeast and northeast with Panuco, the last three in the state of Veracruz de Ignacio Llave.

A ratio of 25% or more of the population in extreme poverty is among the municipalities registered in the national crusade against hunger (SEDESOL, 2014).

The Moctezuma river, which determines the eastern boundary of the municipality with the state of Veracruz, is the most important river resort, with a path from south to north, from the municipality of Tanquián de Escobedo until it joins the river Tampaón. Also important are the lagoons known as Laguna and Laguna del Olivio Laróga, north of the municipality.

Its climate is warm sub-humid with summer rains. The average annual temperature is 26 ° C, an absolute maximum of 45 and a minimum of 8 ° C.

Human intervention in these soils determines the exploitation and use in agricultural and livestock activities.

Cuadro 3. Classification of multidimensional poverty in the municipality of Tamuín, San Luis Potosí (CONEVAL, 2010).

MEDICIÓN MUNICIPAL DE LA POBREZA 2010 Tamuín, San Luis Potosí			
Indicadores	Porcentaje	Número de personas	Número promedio de carencias
Pobreza			
Población en situación de pobreza	57.4	20 822	2.6
Población en situación de pobreza moderada	43.5	15 758	2.2
Población en situación de pobreza extrema	14.0	5 064	3.7
Población vulnerable por carencias sociales	27.1	9 837	2.0
Población vulnerable por ingresos	5.9	2 123	--
Población no pobre y no vulnerable	9.6	3 465	--
Privación social			
Población con al menos una carencia social	84.6	30 659	2.4
Población con al menos tres carencias sociales	35.1	12 710	3.6
Indicadores de carencia social			
Rezago educativo	26.1	9 451	2.9
Acceso a los servicios de salud	16.3	5 924	3.3
Acceso a la seguridad social	62.8	22 752	2.6
Calidad y espacios de la vivienda	16.7	6 042	3.6
Acceso a los servicios básicos en la vivienda	43.6	15 797	3.0
Acceso a la alimentación	36.2	13 131	3.3
Bienestar económico			
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar mínimo	25.0	9 059	2.7
Población con ingreso inferior a la línea de bienestar	63.3	22 945	2.3

Fuente: elaboración propia con datos del CONEVAL, 2010.

Description of the Municipality

Tamuín population is 37,956 inhabitants, and its area of 1848,103 km² (INEGI, 2010), which represents 3.04% of the state total. He is not enrolled in the crusade against hunger.

Colinda to the north with the states of Tamaulipas and Veracruz and the municipality Ebon; east with the municipality Ebon, the state of Veracruz and the municipality of San Vicente Tancuayalab; south with the municipalities of San Vicente Tancuayalab, Tanlajás and Ciudad Valles; west with the municipality of Ciudad Valles.

The municipality is crossed in its central part by the Tampaón River, which joins the river Moctezuma to form the Panuco River which empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The climate is tropical and rainfall is 882.8 mm. The average annual temperature is 25.8oC, with an absolute maximum of 48.5oC and an absolute minimum of 7oC.

Expectations plain region huasteca to combat poverty

As can be seen from the above information on the municipalities of the plateau region Huasteca, these have conditions conducive to the development of animal husbandry and agriculture, with irrigation zone and time for the production of various agricultural crops.

However, this area stands a large percentage of rural poverty that every day is more accentuated, despite the ongoing field support programs that should generate wealth in this important sector of the economy.

Currently, the producers of the municipalities of Ebony and San Vicente Tancuayalab, who are enrolled in the program of the national crusade against hunger, benefit the financial gain of 75% by some programs to support the field .

It is expected that in the medium term this palliative help alleviate poverty of this important productive area of San Luis Potosi.

Widespread expectations of both agriculture and livestock have, as there are success stories in this region. One of them is organized producers in the area, who have achieved competitive standards at the national level in the agricultural subsector, as is the case of INTERAGRO Group (IG), comprised of a total of 6 integrating companies, making them has allowed support of various links in the production chain.

Integrative companies G.I. They are formed so that small and medium entrepreneurs to join and thereby achieve economies of scale that allow them tecnificarse, buy cheaper and sell better able to reduce the middlemen, in order to achieve greater competitiveness, producers they recognized that it was essential to organize to achieve economies of scale in buying and selling, and thereby reduce costs.

Currently, the G.I. It consists of 728 agro entrepreneurs, of which 76% are producers with less than 10 hectares. In 2013, the group cultivated 17 000 hectares in the two agricultural cycles, of which 10 300 hectares are irrigated and 6700 have temporary, all dedicated to the production of grains: beans, soybeans, sorghum and maize, mainly. Additionally, these same partners have more than 11 300 hectares dedicated to livestock.

Within the livestock subsector, the municipalities of Tamuín and Ebon present the highest state livestock inventory, accounting for this zone an area of opportunity. It is noteworthy that Tamuín is the municipality with the largest number of cattle in the state.

With this huge livestock potential, it is timely for producers of the region develop livestock. For example, the high cost in the area of standing calf kilogram, about \$ 45.00, this business makes it attractive for any livestock producer engaged in managing production systems with high standards of meat production per hectare.

Such activities would result in greater profitability for the producer, generation of jobs, better quality of life for families in rural areas and, consequently, poverty reduction.

All these observations offer alternative solutions that help fight poverty in the region Huasteca plain.

Also, here are some suggestions that can support the fight against poverty, making it clear that these are not miracle because it requires organization, training, discipline, hard work and perseverance on the part of producers to achieve good results are made.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The area comprising the region of the municipalities Ebon, Tamuín and San Vicente Tancuayalab in the state of San Luis Potosi, is framed in the Rural Development District # 132, an area defined action of SAGARPA, like many other throughout the country.

In the area of influence of this district, in rural areas, areas dedicated to livestock cover an area of 187,749 hectares and those dedicated to the agricultural area of 56,595 hectares, making a total of 9,229 producers in the rural sector and on smallholdings, the latter which corresponds to areas that are not ejidales.

In this region they have two agricultural cycles, which are the times in which can be sown crops authorized by SAGARPA, corresponding to the spring / summer cycles and autumn / winter. There maize, sorghum, soybeans and vegetables.

In 1993, the federal government through the SAGARPA implemented social policies and strategies to combat poverty in Mexico, that way the PROCAMPO program, now called PROAGRO, which emerged as a mechanism for transferring resources was promoted in late 1993 to compensate domestic producers by the subsidies they receive their foreign competitors, replacing the scheme of guaranteed prices for grains and oilseeds.

In this program support per hectare or fraction to the eligible area registered in the directory PROCAMPO, which must be planted with any licit cultivation it is granted. They are subject to support producers individuals or companies with registered premises at the Center for Rural Development Support (CADER) corresponding to them, who will deliver his only full dossier in compliance with regulations of the program.

In the area of the plain Huasteca region they have registered 10,083 producers who are transferred \$ 68,162 739.80 pesos in the two agricultural cycles that have during the year.

This incentive to some extent is a compensatory support for the producer to purchase seed and inputs for the corresponding planting cycle, and while it is a program that aims to revive the economy and social welfare of producers, have not had the expected impact under not been given the required tracking, so many producers have dedicated themselves to have these resources to use in other than support activities to which it is addressed.

Another program that is carried out in the region is the Program Alliance for the Countryside same began in 1996, and has changed its name through the passage of the different administrations. Its goal is to enable beneficiaries to purchase goods to reactivate agricultural and livestock activities, purchase machinery and implements a subsidy of 50% to 70%, depending on the area of marginality where the project is located. This program even though it aims to combat poverty, has not given satisfactory results to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

Finally, from 2009 the support program -soya oil, safflower, sunflower-which seeks to promote the cultivation of oilseed production in the region, giving support to producers of \$ 1 was implemented in this area 500 thousand pesos per ton in the harvest of oil that is delivered to the domestic industry. This program is one of the most important to revive the economy in rural areas.

This program has allowed producers to increase their production of an area of 7000 hectares in 2009, one of 37,579 have today, positioning this region as the second most important soybean production in the country, only below Tamaulipas state.

However, despite the good results obtained with some programs, you should still look more closely at how producers can actually generate wealth and exit poverty history in which they have been immersed.

In order to evaluate a social program it is necessary to investigate and evaluate their processes, results and impact on the population. That way is to generate information, knowledge and learning that support the creation of new ideas, as well as taking timely and relevant decisions to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and quality in improving the living conditions of the population.

It is worth mentioning that there has been given the importance it requires personnel who are hired seasonally, nor to advice given to producers who have access to the support granted by the federal government and / or municipal. Such staff is hired by seasons and is

not specialized in the required work, so virtually extension network in Mexico is dismantled.

This overview leaves at a disadvantage to producers in the agricultural and livestock areas, because although they enjoy certain government support have no guarantee that these will help them to produce more tons of a crop per hectare or produce more liters of milk or kilos of meat per hectare, for not using appropriate technology for maximum performance.

Another situation that has worsened the agricultural and livestock production in this region, as in many other regions of the country and the world, is climate change, which in the past eight years has generated heavy rainfall or severe drought in atypical seasons. The presence of this climate has necessitated the measure to strengthen the rural economy by identifying the best use of land according to its location, whether in the irrigation area or temporary, seeking a better choice for use in agriculture or livestock.

Thus, there have been other problems. But what can be done to combat the effects of climate changes in the field? For example, you can resort to producers trained for change and social programs designed to implement the most important technological innovations, which are being carried out in the most advanced countries in technology and thus increase livestock production and agriculture in the region.

One of the technologies in the field of livestock grazing that is applied in the tropical climate with excellent results are silvopastoral systems with the use of leguminous trees like *Leucaena*, banks biomass for use in the dry season, as in the case of king grass CT-115, the establishment of sugar cane for use in periods of extreme drought, according to silvopastoral systems and the use of banks biomass king grass CT-115 grass, the use of multinutritional blocks as a supplement, especially when animals graze the king grass CT-115, to enrich the quality of forage, and the application of molasses / urea as a supplement during consumption of fibrous forage and poor quality (Alonso, 2011).

Another of the circumstances to provide the producers with the intent to make it a priority to combat poverty in the rural theme, is promoting the organization of producers through agricultural clusters, where they have the opportunity to form companies and better levels of profitability, thus giving added value to their products.

On his way to go to fight poverty in rural areas, producers must take the initiative to acquire discipline and teamwork, and to eliminate the middlemen pit of self-styled social leaders. These are also producers who function as leaders of a community, who when there is a great social need, or a delay in the payment of government support, act as intermediaries with the government playing the role of representatives of other producers: They make efforts and get financial support, but often they are the main beneficiaries, leaving the common producer in the same situation in which he found himself. These social leaders are therefore perpetrators of rural poverty in the area.

Among the situations that is important to strengthen within the agricultural sector are using better irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, for better yields in different crops grown in the region within the irrigation area as well as the identification of better alternatives for planting crops in different agricultural cycles, opting for planting crops with higher agricultural profitability.

CONCLUSION

Poverty is an issue of concern worldwide. In the specific case of the State of San Luis Potosi, in his plain Huasteca, this has sufficient conditions to succeed; however, there are many perpetrators of poverty that hamper growth and progress of the region and its inhabitants. Among these social leaders who abuse and manipulate producers, the same producers who refuse to be trained in the new options technology transfer, and some authorities show little interest in following up programs and benefits granted are the neediest.

Can mention many causes of rural poverty, however, I think the most important is the producer himself. Their low educational level prevents them manage their resources and sustain a long-term profitable economy; many of them work with high production costs,

apply very expensive credits or, in the case of those dedicated to livestock, not implement the technology transfer activities that allow them to increase production from the field.

The above case is repeated with agricultural producers. There is a lack of organization prevents them from getting added value to their production.

Finally, Menander, writer of Greek comedies, said the phrase: "It is shameful born poor, but become so by clumsy actions". This can be applied to the population of the area of the Huasteca plain potosina, where he has not used its natural wealth, and people make wrong decisions inadequate.

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