

IRB application

Maize Farming in Chiapas – Interview Protocol

Below is a set of sample questions covering the broad themes of my project. I do not intend to get through all of them in each interview, but to use them as a starting point for an open dialogue.

1. What is your name and where are you from originally?
2. Do you identify as indigenous or mestizo?
 - a. If indigenous, which ethnic group are you from/part of?
3. How long have you worked on this farm?
 - a. When and where did you learn how to farm?
 - b. Why do you do this work?
4. What types of crops do you grow here? Do you rotate crops seasonally?
 - a. Why did you choose to grow these crops?
 - b. Where do you get your seed from?
 - c. Where does the food you grow end up?
 - i. If you sell it, where? To whom?
5. Do you practice a specific system of farming?
 - a. If yes, what is it called, and what are its principles?
 - b. Do you grow any genetically modified crops? Why or why not?
 - c. Do you use pesticides/herbicides? Why or why not?
 - d. Do you use synthetic fertilizers? Why or why not?
6. Are you satisfied with your relationship to the Mexican government?
 - a. Do you feel your needs are represented on a regional/national level?
 - b. Are you policed/patrolled by any government/non-government groups?
7. Is “tradition” or “science” more important to you? Do you view them as opposites?
8. Rank these goals in order of importance to you: Profit, sustainability, community welfare.
9. What does the term “sustainability” mean to you?
10. How do you feel about the Zapatista movement?
11. Are there any other communities/farms/people you would recommend I talk to?

Zapatista community specific:

1. How has your community changed since the start of the Zapatista movement?
2. How is your community involved in the larger movement?
3. Does your community produce all its own food?
4. Are you concerned about your crops being contaminated by transgenic varieties?
 - a. If yes, what are you doing to prevent contamination?