

Biofuels in Mexico: Pros and Cons



Nasser Nuri/REUTERS

Today's furor over biofuels should be understood in the context of climate change and the need to replace the consumption of fossil fuels with alternative forms of energy that emit fewer greenhouse gases (GHG). Though initially, biofuels were considered an alternative to gasoline, today, they are seen as additives that prolong the use of fossil fuels. A broad debate is taking place about their economic viability and the environmental and social impact of producing biofuels, as well as scientific research about second- and third-generation energy sources.

The United States, Brazil, and the European Union are the main producers and consumers of this kind of fuel. Mexico has begun production, proposing public policies influenced by the enthusiasm and economic interests of companies and international agencies that promote their production and consumption. At the same time, a series of critiques have been made by political parties and civic and academic organizations that question their viability in Mexico, using different arguments. Undoubtedly, the decision to produce biofuels will have important consequences in the country's long-term development. Therefore, Mexico must analyze in depth their possible advantages and disadvantages and the appropriate inputs for their production, as well as define their viability both nationally and locally.

With the aim of analyzing and debating this issue, the CISAN organized the seminar "North America, Climate Change, and Public Policies on Biofuel in Mexico." The articles published here were derived from that seminar.

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