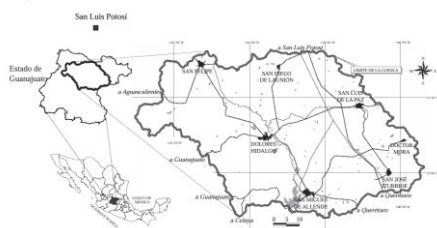


# Basin overexploitation and agroecology: struggle and solution of the Independence Watershed in Guanajuato, Mexico

M. Sc. Gabriela Morales Aguilar / gmoralesa@enes.unam.mx

## The Independence Watershed

Located in northern Guanajuato, Mexico. spans 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> across seven municipalities and 650,000 inhabitants.



Map 1: Location of the Independence Watershed

## Problem Statement

Aquifers face severe overexploitation, due to export-oriented agribusiness.

*Water infiltration prevention and soil erosion*

- *Monocrops and water extractivism*
- *Policies: 27 constitutional article, Water Law, and NAFTA now USMCA.*



Foto 1 Agroproduction field

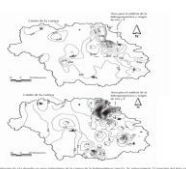


Foto 2 As and F concentrations



Foto 3 Health consequences

## Why rural women as key actors

- Rural male migration to the US
  - Sexual labor division
- Migration leads to family disintegration and land abandonment, paving the way for agribusiness and auto parts companies to expand their control over rural areas.



Foto 4 Demonstrations



Foto 5 Backyard crops



Foto 6 Apiaries



Foto 7 Rainwater collection

## Empowering Strategies and Capacities

Different strategies have been implemented to mitigate the crisis, combat soil erosion, enhance food security, and safeguard plant, animal, and human life.

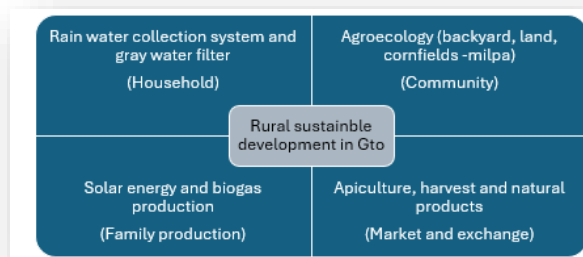
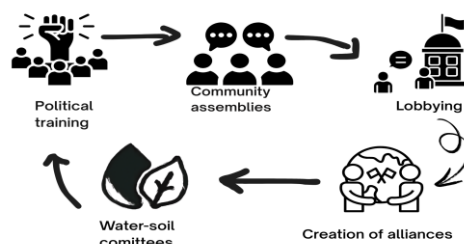


Figure 1 Implemented strategies for rural sustainable development

## Community Management

Political and organizational capacities are crucial for advocating change and ensuring the sustainability of their initiatives.



***"Women are at the front of the territory defense and restoration"***



Foto 8: Main harvested crops / rural diet



Figure 2: Rural transformation driven by women