

The AKIS of the organic Agricultural Sector in Guanajuato, Mexico; Charaterization and Analysid

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In most economic industries, knowledge is considered as an asset of production. In recent times, the focus of discussion has turned on the role and importance of knowledge in mastering the current and future agroeconomic challenges as to help farmers to cope with climate change. Currently, organic agriculture has attracted the attention not only of small Mexican producers, but also of medium and large producers. However, Guanajuato is one of the Mexican states that endures another consecutive period in which the organic agricultural sector is far from being at the top of the public agenda. Also, little is known about the different actors, their communication links, and the system knowledge upon the organic sector along the state. In order to close this gap, the concept of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) was used as conceptual framework and semi-structured interviews together with a survey were applied to managers, directors and project leaders along the Guanajuato state. The study reveals that the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems of the organic Agricultural sector in Guanajuato can be characterized as fragmented due to the informal links detected on the various actors as well as the very little coordination and cooperation between them. A clear absence of organizations at national level that supports the systems was identified which could otherwise support the system. Hence, the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems of the organic Agricultural sector in Guanajuato can also be characterized as weak. Further research in this topic is needed regarding regional and national Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in order to achieve and create a wide range of information and analysis.

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