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Information and analysis
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Chromatography as a tool to fight for food sovereignty

Chromatography is a qualitative method whose principle goal is to decompose the soil components (microbiology, minerals, organic material). The result is visual and allows the interpretation of the interactions between these components, according to the specific context in which the soil is submitted and according to a certain amount of characterisations established over time by the biochemists interested in it.

Chromatography has existed since 1900 and is a technique of qualitative analysis of soil that is little known and in the academic and professional field is not respected. It was initially developed by the Russian botanist Mikhail Tswett to separate the different pigments of plants, in this case chlorophyll. The technique continued to be developed in Germany, among others by the philosopher Rudolf Steiner, also founder of biodynamics. The philosopher used it to analyze the development of pathogens such as syphilis and tuberculosis, experiments which gradually led him to investigate the sap of plants and pulps in order to determine the quality of the elements (by physical and chemical characterization), while considering the external and internal systemic elements of production (among others the influence of

the lunar cycle in the presence of salts within the elements). Others will be interested over the years, for various purposes, if not in the end, the German biochemist Pfeiffer, who perceives in the technique, a real potential for the in-depth analysis of soil microbiology. In Latin America, the first book on the theme appears in 2015 entitled *Cromatografía, imágenes de vida y destrucción del suelo*. A book published by Jairo Restrepo Rivera, international consultant and agronomist at the Brazilian Federal University of Pelotas. It is necessary to mention the importance of Jairo Restrepo Rivera's work in advancing the democratization of peasant knowledge as a tool to fight agribusiness giants. Jairo is indeed a unique reference for Regenerative Agriculture in Latin America, to dare to rethink power relations - always in this logic of food



Impregnation of a soil cromatography performed in a Cali artisanal laboratory, April 2, 2018. The result shows a strong presence of organic material and minerals, however, not available due to soil compaction. In other words, the nutrients that make up a soil are visually present but for lack of balance and energy (aeration, access to water), they remain in disharmonies: the different zones are clearly distinguishable. For more information, see chapter II of Jairo Restrepo's book.

sovereignty - which translates concretely, in the development of techniques, tools, knowledge and organizational processes that go beyond the path from Green Revolution to Free Trade.

In the same way that we have recently seen here in Quebec alternative production movements such as permaculture, biointensification, nourishing villages, food solidarity, concepts resulting from the influence of several schools of thought including the agroecology of Pierre Rabhi (France) or, more recently, Jean-Martin Fortier's small-scale vegetable production, Jairo Restrepo's contribution to organic farming, same as the other avant-garde activists from other countries, is in itself a revolution in the way of thinking the field methodology in a systemic way. In this case, the chromatography allows a control in real time, adapted to the local realities, precise and completely independent of the industrial / scientific circuits and especially in regard to the biological certifications that allow a so-

called "access" to the market. A title that, by definition, paradoxically makes these products certified, unattainable. Indeed, by looking at its own definition, the term access to something implies in itself the fact of obtaining a state deemed superior to the situation or the rank occupied until then, which certification entails. Overgrading a biological product that comes from the natural state of the soil and therefore belongs to its original nature, signals that we still have too little understanding of the microbiology of the soil where we grow, in this concern in quantity rather than quality. Reading the soil differently can help us understand the quality of its living and dynamic interactions. Thus, the methodology to follow is described in it the same name: Chroma = Colors, Graphos = Writing.

Finally, the technique helps to dignify the work and has helped given rise to artisanal laboratories in Colombia. This is the case, among others, for Tierra Libre in Bogotá or for Surcomún in Cali, where as part of PASC accompaniment, the development of such a laboratory is an opportunity to strengthen knowledge, with the aim of combining and integrating an in-depth methodology into organic farming projects.

See <https://morralscampesino.files.wordpress.com/2016/03/cromatografia-restrepo-pinheiro.pdf>

International accompaniers in Colombia

The PASC has been promoting an anti-imperialistic vision of international solidarity for 13 years now. Accompaniment serves as a means of protection for community and organizations, and creates a space for creating links of solidarity between here and Colombia.

If you're interested by accompaniment in Colombia, contact us or visit our website.

El Guayabo community return to their land

13 January. Colombia. "It all started on 17 September 2002. The situation with the paramilitaries was really bad around here. And then, a decade later, on 11 December 2012, they started taking legal action," recounted a member of the community of El Guayabo y Bellaunión (Municipality of Puerto Wilches, Department of Santander), who were evicted from their land on December 13.

On January 12 of this year, both communities embarked on a deliberative process, backed by the National Agrarian Coordination and the Dialogue Commission for Southern Bolívar and Central and Southern Cesar. The result of the meetings was a decision to return to the land from which they were evicted by force on 13 December 2017. Around 11:00 a.m., a hundred or so people reoccupied the land chanting "LAND ! LAND !"

In December, some 60 families were left homeless and without land from which to derive their subsistence. In January, in a gesture of solidarity, residents of other regions such as Costa Caribe, Centro Oriente, Southern Bolívar, Cesar, and Southern Cesar joined this land reclamation action.

"The land agency ruled that they couldn't evict us until the status of the deeds is clarified. This is vacant land that we've been occupying for over 40 years, yet on 13 December 2017 they came to kick us off. There are no guarantees. The strategy is different now, less violent. But the goal is the same: to remove us from the land where we were born and grew up," concluded this community member.

Starting in 1977, the communities embarked on a process with the Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute (Incora) to obtain deeds to this vacant land and recognition

that they are the official owners of it.

But in 2002, Rodrigo López Henao, a large landowner claiming to have been displaced by the guerrillas, began taking a series of actions, both illegal and legal, to reclaim this land. López Henao does not appear in the victims registry of the National Victims Unit.

A hundred people retook possession of the San Felipe farm occupied by caretakers in the employ of Mr. Lopez Henao, who has been taking both legal and illegal measures for a decade and a half to evict the families living on the land for over 40 years.

The community in attendance for this occupation is demanding the immediate presence of national, regional, and international supervisory bodies. They have corresponded with the offices of the United Nations and the National Ombudsman, to which they wish to entrust the occupants of the farm who were evacuated from the site with their belongings (including a 28-calibre rifle, a weapon little used for tending livestock).

El Guayabo

This community owes its name to a time when the "drinking men" of the locality would go to other towns on Saturday nights to "raise a wrist," returning to their land on Sunday to sleep off the hangover. Its founders were loggers who sold timber to build the boats navigating on the Magdalena River. The puckishness of the name is reflected in the way this community has kept up its strength, hope, and good humour in the face of a contested eviction process.

Targeting of activists continues in Colombia

Peasants, Afro-Colombians, indigenous people, women, social leaders, human rights defenders, trade unionists and essentially anyone in Colombia fighting for peace, social change and democracy continue to suffer from state and paramilitary violence. Colombia has historically had one of the worst human rights records in the American continent. The country has one of the world's largest internally displaced populations at 7.2 million. The government signed peace agreements in Havana in 2016 with the country's largest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), and is in peace talks with the second largest group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), but its suppression of civil liberties has continued unabated.

One of the most brutal expressions of the right-wing violence against communities in Colombia is the systematic assassination of social leaders. The violence peaked during the decade of the 2000s, when President Alvaro Uribe's harsh anti-insurgency campaign resulted in the annihilation of generations of leaders and activists in Colombia. During his two presidential terms,

at least 32,000 people were forcibly disappeared and presumably executed.

Despite signing a peace process and winning the Nobel Peace Prize, the Santos government continues to be complicit in the assassinations of hundreds of social leaders even as the Attorney General's Office refuses to conduct any sincere investigations. In 2017, more than 100 social leaders were assassinated. There has also been a spree of assassinations of demobilised members of FARC, which is an alarming signal to those involved in peace processes.

Since the beginning of 2018, it is reported that around 50 social leaders have already been assassinated. In March, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights released a report stating : "...that plenty of those murdered human rights defenders carried out actions aimed at implementing the peace agreements related to land distribution. In addition, the Commission has received consistent reports indicating that indigenous and Afro-Colombians human rights defenders are exposed to aggravated violence."

*By Zoe PC / The Dawn News
See our website for more
information and complete article.*

Piedra, it is the rock of resistance, the rock which, placed in the powerful's shoe, bothers. It is the one that, in all its diversity, constitutes our habitat, vital to our existence. It is the rock we throw. And, of course, it is the exploited rock. Extractivism, an economic model based on the exploitation of resources, ravages always increasingly here and elsewhere. It is in "Canada", on colonized lands, that the majority of mining companies hold their headquarters. As so, the Canadian companies deploy their activities in Colombia in all impunity, and take advantage and participate in the political and social violence that hits this country living in war.

The Project Accompaniment Solidarity Colombia is a collective which realizes accompaniment with Colombian communities and organizations since 2003, while also creating links here and in Colombia of groups and individuals struggling against the imposition of mega-projects of resource extraction.

PROJECT ACCOMPANIMENT SOLIDARITY COLOMBIA

**E-mail : info@pasc.ca | Phone : 514-966-8421 | Website : pasc.ca
facebook.com/ProjetAccompagnementSolidariteColombie**