

Your Name

Alicia Melgoza

Email address

amelgoza@uach.mx

Company / Agency / Organization

Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua (UACH), Department of Natural Resources

Presentation type

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Presentation title

Native plant propagation for rangelands restoration

Authorship

Alicia Megoza, Carlos R. Morales, and Otilia Rivero

Abstract (max 250 words)

Our project of native plant propagation is a long-term program composed of different research projects that have been developed with a common goal: restoration of degraded ecosystems. These research projects include plant species with phytoremediation capacities, species for livestock production, and selected species with potential to succeed under the global environmental change. The material evaluated in the projects included about 95% of native and 5% of exotic species. At the beginning, the program had a strong livestock production approach. However, due to the changing needs of the society, native species in general represent not only a forage source but also the continuity of ecological services. Among of the limitations for the program is that, even though establishing native vegetation has been successful, the main cause of degradation has not been removed, i.e. overgrazing. Other limitations include the lack of continuity on the funding granted by financial agencies, as well as the periods of the granted projects, which is usually one or two years. This period is not enough for seeds collection, germination tests, and fieldwork. In addition, some years with extreme droughts had been reflected in low seed production. The previous work performed on this program permitted to identify some strategies on germination in over 60 species. Moreover, about 12 grass ecotypes have been selected for forage production, soil stabilization, and seed production. Also, survival at the field has been accounted in about 20 plant species. All these achievements have been possible thanks to a group of individuals as well as institutions, which demand the restauration of the ecosystems. However, diffusion of this program between the society and institutional organizations is needed in order to succeed in this program of native plant propagation.

Category

Objective 4.2: Partnerships: Working together

Presenter Bio

Alicia Melgoza pursued her Ph.D. on range management at New Mexico State University. During thirty years, she worked for the federal government of Mexico developing research and extension projects on plant taxonomy and plant ecophysiology. Currently at UACH, her main research is related to the evaluation and selection of wild plants for restoration purposes, especially for dryland ecosystems.

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