

Expanding the Benefits of Improved Germplasm to Suit the Poor in Chiapas, Mexico

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Abstract

This study documents how farmers modified an improved maize variety—with desirable characteristics for all farmers, but perceived as affordable only to the wealthy—into one appropriate for all, including the poor. Changes in the extent of adoption and associated farmers' perceptions of V-524, an improved maize variety, in a community (*ejido*) in Chiapas, Mexico (over a nine-year period) are examined in the paper. This improved variety is a Tuxpeño based open-pollinated variety (population 21) from CIMMYT; it was released by the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agricolas of Mexico. Originally, farmers perceived it as having many

