



**Learning from Indigenous Food Activists in Mexico:  
Community Solutions to Global Climate Crises**

# Earth to Tables Legacies Project (2016- )

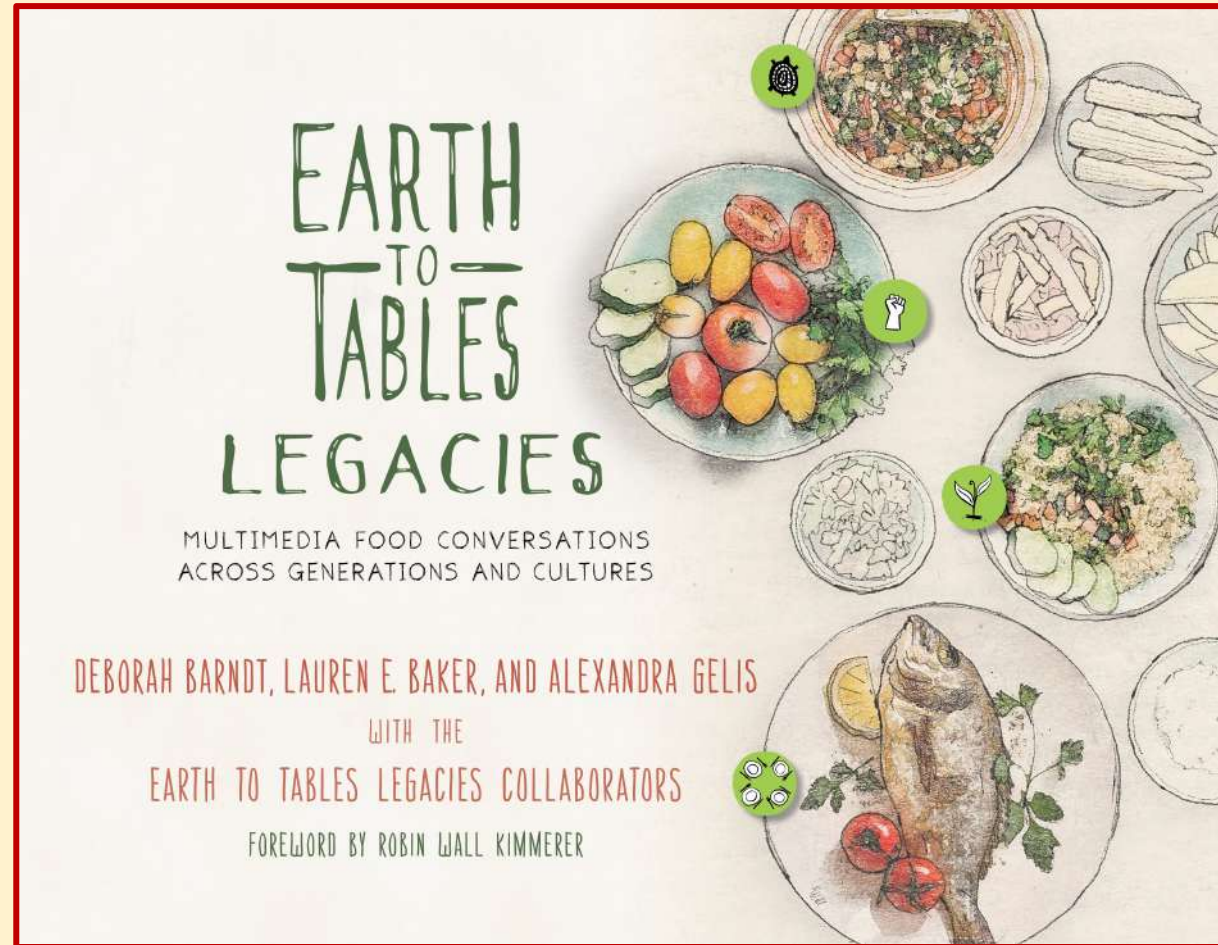
## Exchange of food sovereignty activists

(Canadian-Mexican, Indigenous-settler, youth-elders, rural-urban)



Built on personal/political relationships, both blood and chosen families

*Earth to Tables Legacies:  
Multimedia Food Conversations Across Generations and Cultures*



[earthtotables.org](http://earthtotables.org)

# With SCAN! ISC members, I hope to..

- Expand scope beyond Ontario/Canada to Mexico/Global Indigenous Peoples
- Counter corporate industrial agriculture as major contributor to climate crisis
- Move from critique to proposal: from problems to Indigenous-led solutions
- Share experience of creating Indigenous-settler relationships

# Two Indigenous communities in Mexico



Nurio, Autonomous P'urépecha Community near Morelia in Michoacán state

Sinanche, Mayan community near Mérida in Yucatán state

# Nurio, Michocán: Autonomous P'urépecha Community



# An intercultural and intergenerational partnership



Fulvio Gioanetto, Italian-Mexican ethnobotanist



Maria Blas Cacari, P'urépecha medicinal plant expert

# Climate Crisis: Avocado Plantations



- Massive deforestation
- Uses community water
- Global warming moves fields higher
- Narcotraffickers control production (violence)
- MNCs control packing/export (profits)



## Impact on land and Indigenous communities



Community loses access to forests for foraging, medicines, heating, picnics



New insect plague destroying pines: government ignores local solutions

# Community solutions: inject pines with natural inputs



Gather "weeds" from forests



Cook natural herbicide, fungicide, insecticide

# Keep youth from migrating and build local economy



Miguel and Serena from Muskoka to Mexico



Family business employs 60 residents

## Links in Earth to Tables Legacies website:

Video: [The Alchemy of Agroecology](#)

Video: [Who Will Feed Us? The Farm Labour Crisis Meets the Climate Crisis](#)

Photo essay: [Medicinal Plants in the P'urépecha Cosmovision](#)

Photo essay: [Cooking and Eating Together:  
From the Kitchen Table to the Community Meal](#)

# Sinanche, Yucatán: Mayan Community



# Mayan food activists Ángel Kú and Valiana Aguilar



Trained at UniTierra (2016-2019)



At Six Nations greenhouse (2019)

# Solar Maya: Reconstructing Mayan Homestead

<https://suumilmooktaan.org/solar-maya-suumil/>



## Solar Maya integrates life-sustaining activities

- Bees
- Animals
- Seed house and nursery
- Vegetable garden
- Workshop
- Dry toilet
- Collective kitchen
- Dormitories
- Meeting place



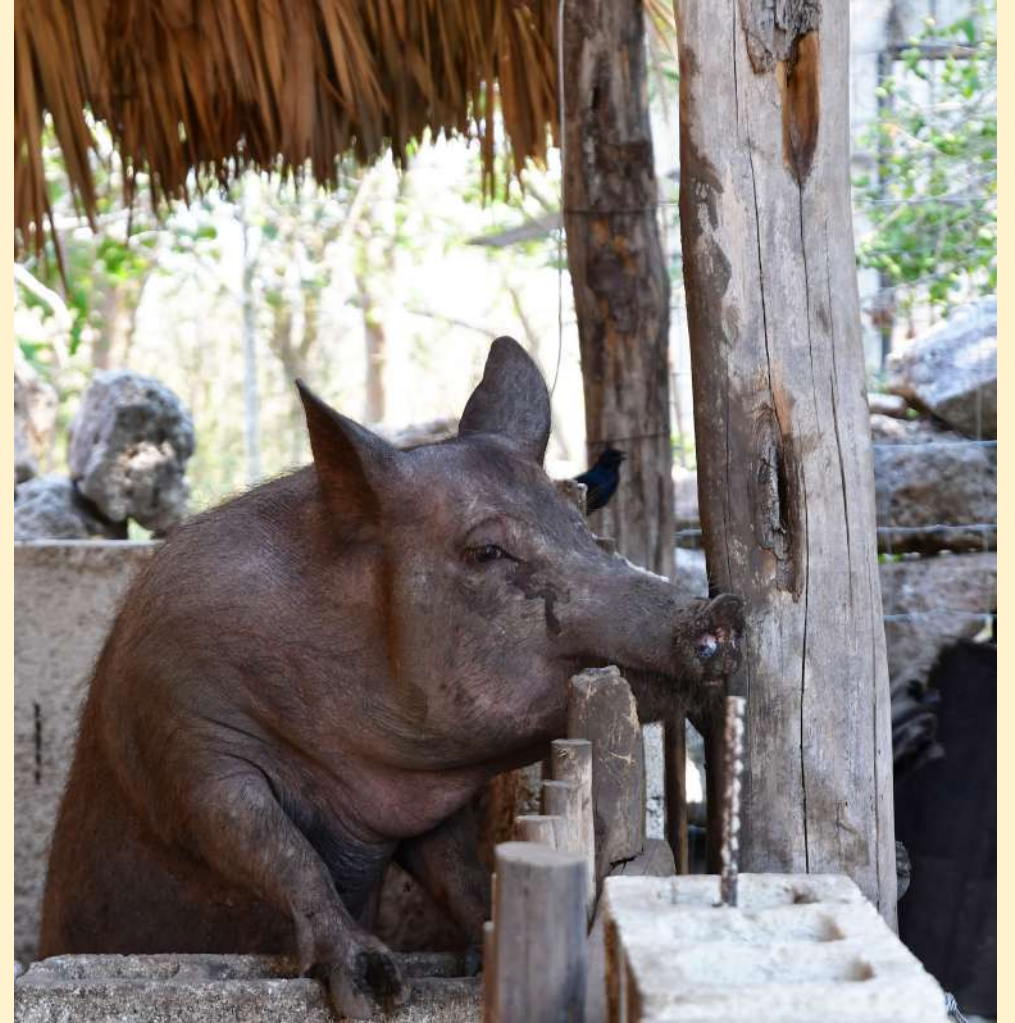




Melipona: bees are central to life



Animals for closed loop farming,  
milk, meat, and mischief..!





Seed house and seedling nursery



# Vegetable garden and succulents





Palapa for meetings and meals



# Dormitory and dry toilet





Collective kitchen and earth oven



# Learning from the Mayan history and cosmovision: Field trips into the past and present





Community  
controlled burn  
of milpa



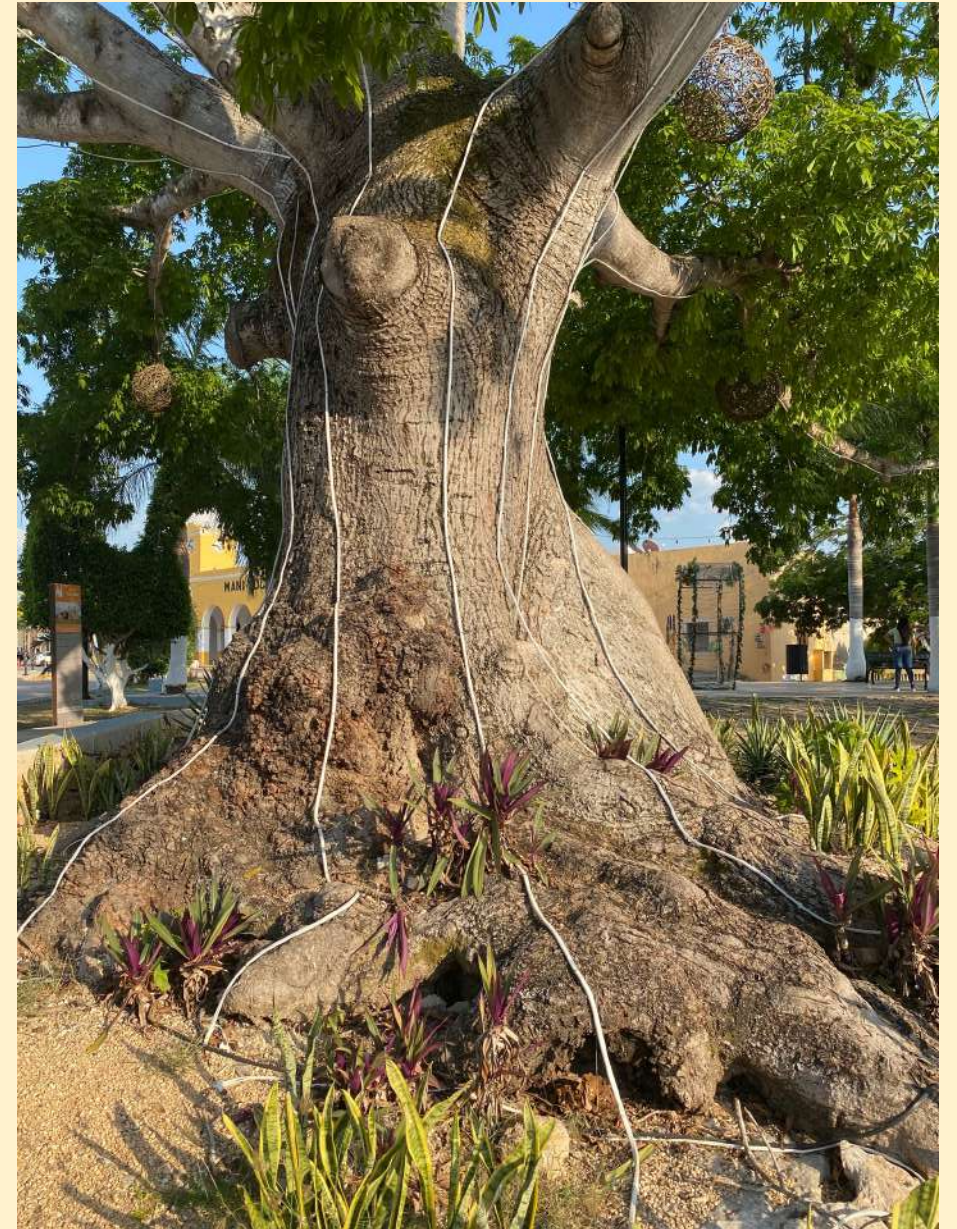


Uxmal: Mayan history and cosmovision



Recreating Mayan codices,  
carvings and language

1562: Mani massacre and  
codices destroyed by Friars



# Mayan Train: Tourist economy and Indigenous territories



## Cenotes: sacred sites vs. tourism



[Raquel's water song](#)

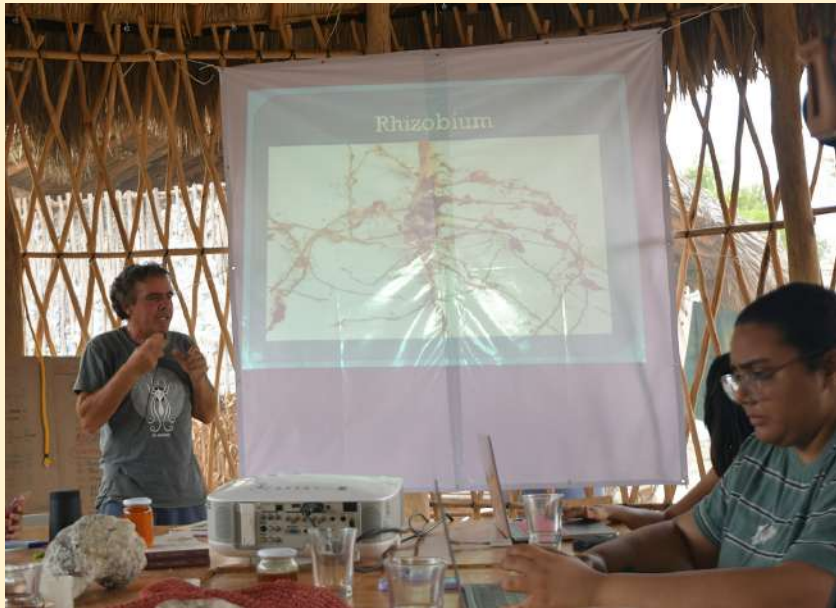
# Confronting Contradictions: Historical narratives



## New Legacies Projects

- Multimedia production on Solar Maya
- Biofactories
- Seed sovereignty
- Film on Ghanaian women farmers
- Feeding Haudenosaunee post-partum mothers
- Reweaving community with elders





Biofactories (organic inputs):  
Nurio-Sinanche exchange



Seed sovereignty and seed saving



Corn as connector

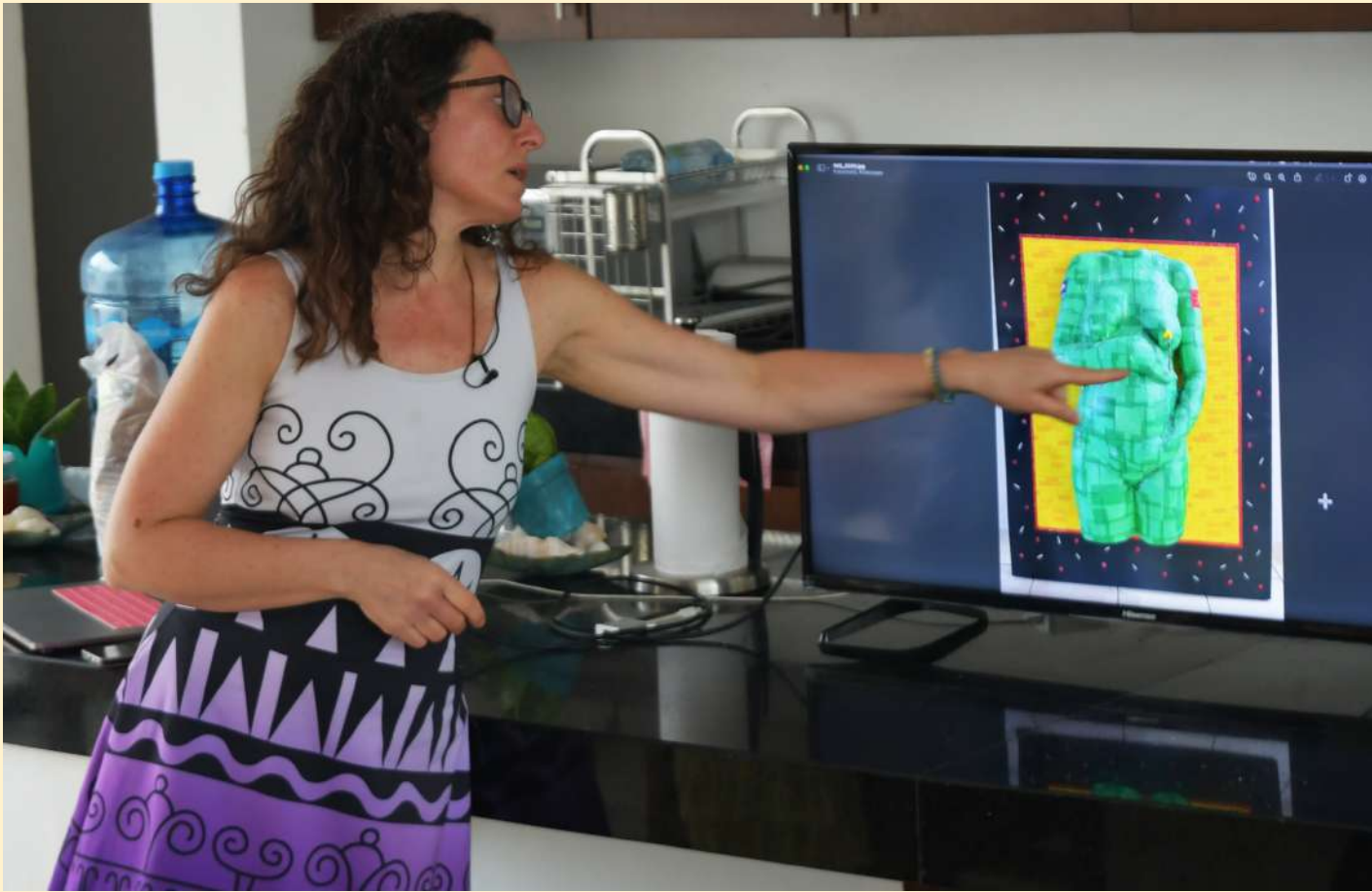


# Ama's film on Ghanaian women forest farmers



# Expanding website and art forms





Chandra's postpartum arts-based research:  
Colonialism on women's bodies



## Mutual nurturing: youth and elders



# Challenges in Indigenous-Settler Relationships

- Community and family priorities: how to support them
- Funding: Different sources for Indigenous and settlers
- Language: Spanish translation, Mohawk? Mayan?
- Climate change viewed differently: concepts of time & adaptation
- Activism takes different forms: from planting to protesting
- Leadership shifts: letting go and picking up
- Personal lives and political moments



Links in Earth to Tables Legacies website:

Video: [The Alchemy of Agroecology](#)

Photo essay: [Mutual Nurturing](#)

Photo essay: [The Mush Hole](#)

Photo essay: [Cooking and Eating Together](#)



I welcome your comments and questions...!