

***Macadamia spp.* as an opportunity to deploy a highly marginalized community in Veracruz, Mexico**

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The municipality of Tlalnelhuayocan in the estate of Veracruz, Mexico is a highly marginalized area characterized by a cloud mountain forest ecosystem. Currently the 70% of this forest has been transformed into pasture that is not efficiently handled. The proposal of this work is to promote agroecological alternatives that integrate the cultivation of *Macadamia spp.* However, information about this crop in the area is scarce and unpublished, for this reason the knowledge about the performance of plantations in the place is required by future investors. The objective of the present work was to make a diagnosis of the macadamia plantations in the region and evaluate one agrosilvopastoral system (macadamiacattle pasture). The investigation was carried out from April 2012 to April 2014. The methodology used was participatory action research followed by interviews, participant observation, and discussion groups among owners of the orchards older than 25 years. The results indicated that in Tlalnelhuayocan the orchards have 90% of the varieties developed under Mexican selections. These orchards have few pruning and non-systematized fertilizations. Nevertheless these varieties have great production rates in relation to kernel recovery with up to 33% and 70% of oil. Some of these orchards produce 4.5 tons/ha per year. However, these orchards begin to present fitosanitary problems, mainly with *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The proposed agrosilvopastoral system initiated production in average until the sixth year, obtaining a full cost recovery until the eleventh year. The implementation of this system offers a possibility for the communal land holders to be incorporated as *Macadamia spp.* producers without abandoning their livestock activities. This productive system could also be an option with environmental, economic and social benefits.