**Mexico Rural Assistance Affirmative**

### Mexico Rural Assistance Affirmative – Table of Contents

[Summary 2](#_Toc375080265)

[Glossary 3](#_Toc375080266)

**First Affirmative Speech**

[Rural Development 1AC 4](#_Toc375080267)-8

**Affirmative Answers to Negative Arguments**

[Answers to: Mexican Economy Growing 9](#_Toc375080272)

[Answers to: Aid Won’t Solve – Mexican Farmers Can’t Compete with US Subsidies 10](#_Toc375080273)

[Answers to: Aid Won’t Solve - High Demand for Drugs 11](#_Toc375080274)

[Answers to: Not Enough Water 12](#_Toc375080275)

[Answer to: Aid Won’t Solve – Interferes with Democracy, which is Key to Long-Term Success……..13](#_Toc375080275)

### Summary

#### This affirmative argues that the United States should send more aid to small rural farming operations in Mexico in the form of money, equipment and supplies (like fertilizer and tractors), and technical training (like lessons on irrigation) because it will reduce poverty and drug violence. Currently, poverty and drug violence is increasing as rural farmers in Mexico are having a hard time selling their food in North America as United States and Canadian farmers, who run highly efficient, government subsidized, and mechanized farms, can sell the same product a lot cheaper.

#### First, the affirmative argues that this aide will help farmers produce more food, cheaper. In making their food cheaper, more people will buy their food, which in turn, will help farmers keep their farms and stay out of poverty.

#### Further if farmers start to go out of business, they will look elsewhere to make money – and the two most profitable options are to start producing drugs like marijuana and cocaine or to start working for drug cartels as drug traffickers or contract killers. The plan would help make legitimate farming profitable again, so people do not have to turn to violence or drugs to make money.

### Glossary

**Felipe Calderon:** The former President of Mexico who completed his term in November 2012.

**Enrique Peña Nieto:** The current President of Mexico.

**NAFTA:** The North American Free Trade Agreement was a deal between the US, Mexico and Canada negotiated in the mid-1990’s that made is easier for companies to ship goods across borders. Also, it eliminated extra taxes and limits on cheaper food from the United States and Canada that used to make Mexican food comparable in price to US and Canadian food. Without these extra taxes that kept US and Canadian food prices at the same level as Mexican food prices, Mexican farmers have had a tough time competing with cheaper US and Canadian goods. It is often argued that this policy has caused a great deal of harm to small rural farmers.

**Mérida Initiative**: The program through which the US is currently providing a substantial amount of aid and security assistance to the Mexican government.

**DTO:** Drug Trafficking Organization or drug cartel; a large and sophisticated gang that produces and distributes drugs.

### Rural Development 1AC (1/5)

First, we will describe the current state of the US’ relationship with Mexico:

US Aid for Mexico’s war on drugs has failed to help reduce Mexico’s problems with drug trafficking, poverty, and inequality.

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 11

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf)

Calderón’s drug war led to the killing and capture of many of the cartels’ leaders, but there is no sign that the drug trafficking organizations are ready to surrender. In describing Calderon’s offensive, a U.S. Government Accountability Office report stated that it “does not appear to have significantly reduced drug trafficking in Mexico.”¶ Analysts have found that the initiative is insufficient to meet the challenges posed by the cartels because it does not address the longterm problems that feed the drug trade: poverty and inequality. The Obama administration’s expansion of the initiative to include some attention to poverty is a positive change, but to secure long-term impact, poverty relief and job creation for youth will need to become a core component of the initiative.

### Rural Development 1AC (2/5)

#### Next, we will discuss how the absence of aid for programs that reduce poverty causes drug violence in Mexico.

The root cause of current drug violence in Mexico is the poverty of rural farmers.

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012

(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau\_-Human\_Security\_and\_War\_on\_Drugs.pdf)

As such, the cultivation of illicit crops and the salaries of sicarios (cartel hit men) continue to be very attractive in the face of unemployment and poverty (Kelly, Maghan, and Serio 2005; Hill 2010). However, as Wells (2006, 57) indicates, “this does not necessarily imply that the US should support these industries . . . [rather,] they should be aware of the extent to which people’s economic security is linked to drug cultivation and . . . the importance of offering them [viable] alternative economic opportunities.” ¶ In this light, it is clear that drug policies should focus more on economic security by addressing problems of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. By maintaining a narrow perspective on the drug industry as a threat to state security, rather than a problem related to underdevelopment or socioeconomic conditions, the War on Drugs continues to neglect the roots of the drug industry. Writing about the Mexican context, Vanda Felbab-Brown (2010, 7) supports this reconceptualization of security: “Addressing the socioeconomic needs of the marginalized areas of both the northern urban belt as well as southern rural areas is critical for reducing the recruitment pool for the DTOs, severing the bonds between marginalized communities and criminal elements, and resurrecting the hope of many Mexican citizens that the Mexican State and legal behavior can best advance their future.” FelbabBrown also underscores one of the most important factors in Mexico’s strategy: the bulk of the anti-drug activities are taking place in northern Mexico’s troubled states, but little action is being addressed in the southern states or poorer communities of the country. A similar situation occurred in Colombia, where security conditions improved in major cities, but rural communities— particularly in the Puntomayo region—have seen little progress.

### Rural Development 1AC (3/5)

And, drug related violence in Mexico is increasing.

Shoichet, reporter for CNN, 2013

(Catherine E., March 28, 2013, A grisly crime surges into spotlight as Mexico shifts drug war strategy, http://www.cnn.com/2013/03/27/world/americas/mexico-violence)

[That cartel has since fractured](http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/americas/06/21/mexico.cartel.capture/index.html), but violence in the region has remained a grisly reality.¶ The seven corpses found in Uruapan last weekend were among at least 30 killed nationwide -- a high death toll that once again drew attention toward drug-related violence in Mexico, where more than 60,000 people were killed in drug-related violence from 2006 to 2012,[according to Human Rights Watch.](http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/21/world/americas/mexico-human-rights)¶ [Read more: Rape case in Mexican resort city puts violence back into the spotlight](http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/06/world/americas/mexico-violence)¶ The violence comes as Mexican President [Enrique Pena Nieto](http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/02/world/americas/mexico-pea-nieto-profile/index.html) pushes a new strategy aimed at focusing more on dealing with social and economic issues that fuel the drug trade and less on combating cartels head-on.¶ Uruapan is among the metropolitan areas in Mexico tapped for [the president's new program](http://mexico.cnn.com/nacional/2013/02/12/la-estrategia-de-combate-al-delito-se-enfoca-en-las-causas-de-riesgo), which aims to prevent violence, school dropouts, addiction and domestic violence, and also to better detect problems in Mexico's education system.¶ Without jobs and social programs, [Pena Nieto told CNN last year](http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/27/politics/mexico-president-interview/index.html), millions of Mexicans "have no other option than to dedicate themselves sometimes to criminal activity."¶ The goal of the government's new strategy, Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said last month, is creating a "culture of peace and respecting the law."¶ [Mexico reports more than 26,000 missing](http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/26/world/americas/mexico-disappeared/index.html)¶ "It is the responsibility of the state to pursue criminals and punish them to preserve peace and harmony," he said, "but we are convinced that fighting and punishment alone do not resolve the problem."¶ Some analysts have praised the new government approach.¶ "The cartels have been able to recruit tens of thousands of killers in part because poor neighborhoods have been systematically abandoned over decades and lack sufficient schools, community centers and security -- in short they lack opportunity," [the International Crisis Group said in a recent report on Mexico's cartel violence](http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/mexico/048-pena-nietos-challenge-criminal-cartels-and-rule-of-law-in-mexico.aspx). "There are many dedicated Mexican social workers with the experience and ability to reach the vulnerable groups if they are given resources. If they succeed in reducing violence, theirs can become a security model to follow instead of one to fear."

### Rural Development 1AC (4/5)

The violence from drug trafficking has several bad effects including human rights abuses and significant harm to communities

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012

(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau\_-Human\_Security\_and\_War\_on\_Drugs.pdf)

The presence of military forces in the drug wars has also intensified tensions between cartels and government officials. Increasing pressure from the security forces and rival cartels has made DTOs more ruthless, violent, and willing to resort to kidnappings, torture, and terrorism across Mexico, such as the 2011 bomb attack in Monterrey, in order to create an environment of fear and to gain territorial control. Furthermore, pressures in certain areas of the country have resulted in DTOs invading other, more peaceful areas such as Aguascalientes (Kellner and Pipitone 2010). The military may not be directly responsible for these crimes, but its presence provokes conflict by inviting more frequent and aggressive confrontations with DTOs. In the end, civilians continue to suffer the burden of the War on Drugs. ¶ Many individuals, including government officials, police officers, farmers and ordinary civilians, tend to face dual pressures in this battle for information and power. As Seccombe (1997, 292) writes, they face “the threat of assassination or other violence, coupled with the offer of financial reward for a favourable decision [in favour of cartel demands].” As a result, Colombia and Mexico are left with corrupt, weak, untrusted governments and societies paralyzed by impunity, crime, and associated social problems, all of which compromise the security and well-being of individuals and communities. A growing sense of fear, frustration, and mistrust is felt by Colombians and Mexicans. The inability of the War on Drugs to assuage such feelings results in personal and community insecurity. The current approach is so focused on military action that it has failed to ensure these forms of security and has actually led to human rights abuses, displacements, and deaths. A human security approach in Colombia and Mexico would prioritize the safety of populations and address socio-economic concerns and violence first.

### Rural Development 1AC (5/5)

Thus we offer the following plan:

The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic development assistance to small farmers in Mexico.

Last, we will discuss how development aid will reduce poverty and drug-related violence.

Development assistance to Mexico is crucial to resolve these harms and should target rural areas with small family farms

Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 11

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf)

Reducing migration pressures will require development and job creation throughout Mexico, but poverty and international migration are particularly concentrated in the countryside. Although about a quarter of all Mexicans live in rural areas, 60 percent of Mexico’s extreme poor are rural and 44 percent of all of Mexico’s international migration originates in rural communities (see Figure 2). ¶ This means that more than half of rural Mexicans live in poverty and 25 percent live in extreme poverty. 25 As one expert states, “Rural poverty is one … of the principal “pushfactors” in Mexican migration to the United States” and thus should be the primary focus of development efforts aimed at reducing migration pressures. 26 After decades of declining support among international assistance agencies, 27 agriculture and rural development is now re-emerging as a vital development focus. The World Bank’s 2008 World Development Report states, “Agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction.” 28 ¶ Research has also found that agriculture is one of the best returns on investment in terms of poverty-reduction spending. 29 For example, each 1 percent increase in crop productivity in Asia reduces the number of poor people by half a percent. This correlation also holds for middle-income countries such as Mexico. 30 ¶ Among the options for agricultural development, support for smallholder farmers is the most promising path for poverty reduction. TheWorld Bank states, “Improving the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of smallholder farming is the main pathway out of poverty in using agriculture for development.” And smallholder farmers in Mexico are especially in need of assistance. After decades of declining support from the Mexican government and increased competition from subsidized U.S. producers under the North American Free Trade Agreement small-Mexican farmers have found it increasingly difficult to make a living.

### Answers to: Mexican Economy Growing

**[ ]**

**[ ]** **Economic growth in Mexico has left small farmers behind – development aid is key to close the gap.**

**Wainer, immigration policy analyst for Bread for the World Institute, 11**

(Andrew, Development and Migration In Rural Mexico, Bread For The World Institute, Briefing Paper, Number 11, http://www.bread.org/institute/papers/briefing-paper-11.pdf)

The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the culmination of the economic liberalization that began in the 1980s. NAFTA was touted as a Mexican job-cre ation program that would slow immigration. But **NAFTA’s policies reinforced support for large, export-oriented producers at the cost of small farmers, and rural employment continued to diminish**. **Between 1991 and 2007 Mexico lost 20 percent** (2.1 million) **of its agricultural jobs.** The loss of rural jobs and the inability to generate income impacted family farms in particular: non-salaried agricultural family employment declined 58 percent between 1991 and 2007. Many of these displaced farmers ended up in the United States, sometimes working in U.S. agriculture as field laborers. ¶ After NAFTA, the operation of the Mexican small family farm became the vocation of older Mexicans, while youth migrated to the cities or the United States. Almost a quarter of rural Mexicans ages 15-24 in 1990 had left by 2000. Throughout 30 years of increasing emigration, the Mexican government also has done little to slow the exodus. Its leading program for small agricultural producers—PROCAMPO—does not target areas of high migration. ¶ Although the Mexican government is primarily responsible for addressing the country’s rural poverty, **the United States can provide critical support for programs that address migration pressures at their source**. Because of its potential for long-term impact, such a strategy requires commensurate, sustained policy attention and resources. Furthermore, **by supporting economic development projects with rural Mexican organizations, Mexican government agencie**s—particularly at the local and regional levels—**can be drawn into development projects that reduce migration pressures**. **A comprehensive, smallholder-based approach to development would by its very nature generate rural employment**. **Without support for Mexico’s small and medium farmers, the country’s rural economy will continue to be increasingly dependent on migration and remittances**. While the link between supporting smallholder farmers and poverty reduction is proven, the next logical step with respect to its impact on migration pressures is less recognized.

### Answers to: Aid Won’t Solve – Mexican Farmers Can’t Compete with US Subsidies

#### [ ]

**[ ]** **With assistance Mexican farmers can compete against even subsidized, US food**

**Wise, Director of Policy Research at Tufts University’s Global Development and Environment Institute, 2012**

(Timothy A., Growing Out of the Food Crisis: Mexican Smallholders Key to Food Sovereignty, October 10, 2012, http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/GC50Oct12Wise.pdf)

Since prices spiked in 2007-8, **policy-makers have rediscovered small-scale farmers**. Where the Washington Consensus treated them as unproductive, an anachronism in the modernizing global economy, suddenly they were once again “stewards of the land.” Raising their productivity, **closing the “yield gap**” – the difference between current and attainable yields using readily available technologies – became one of the pillars of the global response to the new food crisis. In theory, anyway. In our new study, we documented that this **is an attainable goal**. **We showed that small-scale Mexican corn farmers can close a yield gap estimated at 43% or more, and they can do so relying on existing technologies by investing in good old-fashioned farmer-led extension services**. This would eliminate Mexico’s 10 million ton annual deficit, which it now fills with $4 billion worth of imports from the United States. And it would improve resource use while increasing resilience to climate change. ¶ **Rising agricultural prices**, combined with growing import dependence, **have driven Mexico’s food import bill over $20 billion per year** and increased its agricultural trade deficit. The current drought in the United States is making this situation worse, with maize prices setting new record highs. Three million producers grow most of the country’s white maize, which is used primarily for tortillas, and more than 59 native maize landraces that are basic ingredients of nearly 600 food preparations. Yield gaps are estimated at 43% on rain-fed land, compared to just 10% on the country’s larger irrigated farms. **Most of the country’s small to medium-scale maize farmers are operating at less than 50% of potential**

### Answers to: Aid Won’t Solve - High Demand for Drugs

**[ ]**

[ ] They have it backwards – drug production is extremely prevalent because of widespread rural poverty.

Gautreau, School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa, 2012

(Ginette Léa, To Rid the World of the Drug Scourge: A Human Security Perspective on the War on Drugs in Colombia and Mexico, Paterson Review of International Affairs (2012) 12: 61–83, http://diplomatonline.com/mag/pdf/Gautreau\_-Human\_Security\_and\_War\_on\_Drugs.pdf)

Both Colombia and Mexico bear high levels of poverty, unemployment, and economic inequality. These socio-economic conditions, along with weak political and judicial institutions, foster an environment in which drug cultivation and trafficking are not only possible, but for many have become attractive or necessary options to meet basic needs. It is estimated that over 80,000 Colombian families rely on illicit crop cultivation for their livelihoods (UNODC 2011a). The economic incentive is clear: “[A]s long as the price for coca leaves is ten times as high as that for cocoa, coffee, and rice for Andean farmers, they will continue to cultivate it” (Diego Garcia Savan in Wells 2006, 60). In this sense, drug trafficking effectively provides economic security, simply defined in the UNDP report as “assured basic income” (UNDP 1994, 25). Those without economic security often accept any work they can find, including informal work, badly paid, or unproductive work. Informal employment could be as high as 50 per cent in Colombia and 30 per cent in Mexico (World Bank 2012), which undoubtedly leads to increased economic insecurity and related problems such as criminal activity and migration.

### Answers to: Not Enough Water

**[ ]**

[ ] The plan can make farmers competitive and self-sufficient even with coming water problems

Wise et al., Director of Policy Research at Tufts University’s Global Development and Environment Institute, 2012

(Antonio Turrent Fernández, Timothy A. Wise, and Elise Garvey, Achieving Mexico’s Maize Potential, GDAE Working Paper 12-03, October 2012, http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/wp/12-03TurrentMexMaize.pdf)

Mexico now runs a production deficit of roughly 10 million mt/year and an import bill for maize of more than $2.5 billion/year. This review has demonstrated that Mexico has the potential to regain self-sufficiency in maize relatively quickly based on existing technologies and without relying on controversial transgenic maize varieties. Turrent’s surveys remain the most comprehensive guide to Mexico’s maize potential, suggesting that within 10-15 years Mexico could increase annual production from current lands to 33 million/mt; irrigation and infrastructure projects in the southern part of the country could add another 24 million mt/year. This would be more than enough to meet Mexico’s growing demand for maize, estimated to reach 39 million mt/year by 2025 (FAPRI 2011). Additional research confirms the viability of these estimates. ¶ Following the prevailing international consensus, public investment should go where the yield gaps are the greatest, among small-to-medium-scale farmers. This is also where private investment is scarce and where market failures are prevalent. Indeed, the most promising improvements identified in this review came from the provision of basic farmer-led extension services on rain-fed lands using existing technologies. Such programs do not rely on the introduction of new improved seeds and they have been proven to improve resource use and promote conservation. In fact, researchers recently published in Nature a study estimating that closing yield gaps through improved nutrient and water management could increase production by 30% while reducing inefficient use of inputs (Mueller, Gerber et al. 2012).

#### Answer to: Aid Won’t Solve – Interferes with Democracy, which is Key to Long-Term Success

**[ ]**

[ ] The kind of assistance we provide will make farmers self-sufficient and reduces aid dependency

ActionAid, an international charity for children’s education, 2012

(Real Aid: Ending Dependency, https://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/doc\_lib/real\_aid\_3.pdf)

The kind of aid that helps support dramatic decreases in aid dependence is what ActionAid calls real aid – that’s aid which empowers poor women and men to realise their rights, and reduces inequality. It might do this directly, by supporting smallholder farmers, empowering women or building schools. Or it might do it indirectly, by supporting tax systems, better governance or economic development. It is accountable, transparent from beginning to end, and gets the most out of every dollar spent. It supports developing countries to make their own decisions. Substandard aid, however, does not do this – and there’s still a lot of it out there.