

México

Panel on “Corn stunt spiroplasma”

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Current situation of “Chicharrita” (*Dalbulus maidis*) in Mexico



- The current situation in Mexico is starting to get concerning, especially for corn farmers.
- Yield reduction: Stunting caused by Chicharrita can significantly reduce the height of corn plants, leading to lower ear production.
- Economic impact: Farmers, especially in the most affected regions such as Bajío and other corn-growing areas of the country, have reported significant losses, which affects both the local economy and food security.



Current situation of “Chicharrita” (*Dalbulus maidis*) in Mexico



- Affected regions identified so far:



- **234K Ha affected on different levels.**

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Actions towards “Chicharrita” situation in Mexico



- Some companies and organizations have started programs to control the Chicharrita, which include:
 - The use of insecticides and agricultural practices that seek to reduce the spread of this pest.
 - However, currently the control options have been ineffective due to the rapid reproduction and dispersal of the Chicharrita.
 - Meetings with state agriculture and plant health officials and experts on the pest to alert them on the problem and ask for their Support.
 - Product evaluation: Essays to test efficacy and best application times of several registered (in Mx) products.
 - Monitoring with yellow traps
 - Trainings for growers



Actions towards “Chicharrita” situation in Mexico



- Expert working group under CONACOFI leadership (Consejo Nacional Consultivo Fitosanitario) to analyze the current situation and give recommendations to SENASICA (Mexico’s NPPO).
 - Working with state plant health committees to include this pest in their pest surveillance programs
 - Declaring a state of emergency to explore integrated pest management methods that combine cultural, biological and chemical practices and have authorization to use new generation products to control this pest.
 - Development of a **technical document** about the pest, to share information to key stakeholders (Growers, companies, government, others).
- Internal working group at AMSAC to collect more information about what companies are seeing and doing out in the field and share experiences with the same pest in other countries such as Argentina.

