Characteristics of conventional agriculture

Uses unsustainable practices such as burning, heavy use of chemicals, frequent tillage, and low replenishment of nutrients.

This leads to the loss of productivity, profitability, and ecosystem services.

La Frailesca in Chiapas currently produces 3 tonnes of maize per hectare per year; they used to produce 10-12 tonnes per hectare per year.

How does burning residue impact the health of the soil?

It eliminates soil organic matter, releasing greenhouse gases, increases soil erodibility, and leads to forest fires of important nearby habitat.

Characteristics of conservation agriculture and agroforestry

Leave maize and bean stubble on the soil surface, use less agrochemicals, grow cover crops, and do not burn the soil.

Increased productivity, lower vulnerability to drought, greater profitability, and greater amounts of ecosystem services like water infiltration.
Healthy & productive agriculture

MAIZE AND COVER CROP STUBBLE
maintains moisture in the soil

DON’T BURN CROP STUBBLE
You burn money and your maize crop is affected by drought

In 1ha you produce 7 tonnes of maize

In 2020, the cost of burning crop stubble equals $4,500 mxn considering only 5 nutrients

SOURCE: CIMMYT

LEAVE STUBBLE ON THE GROUND
DON’T BURN, HAVE HEALTHIER CROPS

Benefits

Productivity
Drought damage
Fertilizer costs
Profitability
Forest fires
Climate impacts

Arturo and María Luisa, from Ejido Nuevo México, increased their productivity by eliminating burning and adopting Conservation Agriculture.

3-4 ton/ha ↓ 7-9 ton/ha

DON’T BURN! WIN FOR PEOPLE. WIN FOR NATURE. WIN FOR AGRICULTURE.