Maize

Mexico has been growing corn for thousands of years since planting the first maize (or corn as it is also known) in the world. Corn is a staple of the Mexican diet—corn tortillas, tamales, sopes, atole, pozole and much more. About 40 percent of Mexico’s agricultural land was used for the production of corn, mostly by subsistence farmers on 12 acres of land or fewer.

The United States also grows corn, and it can be found in everything from animal feed to soda to cornflakes to fuel. U.S. corn farmers receive large subsidies from the federal government to produce corn. Corn subsidies in the United States totaled $84.4 billion from 1995 to 2012.¹