Spanish Agricultural Vocabulary

Madeline Frazier, SCSC 421, International Agricultural Research Centers – Mexico, Study Abroad, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University

The concept of Spanish vocabulary is quite simple because it shares some basic similarities with English in the regards that once you have the basic vocabulary word you can add many different suffixes to the end to create similar words. For example the word seed in Spanish is semilla, and to make it seeder you change the ending and the word becomes sembrador. However, there is a distinct divide between words and terms that have been around for decades, if not centuries, and those that have been more recently developed and are basically translations from other languages, like English. Many words in Spanish are cognates, or generically alike and similar in spelling and meaning, to words in English. The crops that originated in areas where Spanish is the native language have cognates in English because the names have stuck from when the crops were first introduced into the United States and other regions.

Words with similar bases and different suffixes:
- Seed : Semilla
- Seeder : Sembradora
- Nursery : Semillero
- Crop : Siembra
- Seed breeder : Fitomejorador
- Seed breeding : Fitomejoramiento
- Harvest : Cosecha
- Combine : Cosechadora
- Plow (v) : Arar
- Plow (n) : Arado

Literal Translations:
- Stem rust : Roya del tallo
- Leaf rust : Roya de la hoja
- Yellow rust : Roya amarilla
- Low yields: Bajos rendimientos
- Green Revolution : Revolución verde
- Glutenin : Glutenina
- Gliadin : Gliadina
- Microorganism : Microorganismo
- Cold chambers : Cámaras frías
- Water well : Pozo de agua

Other Vocabulary:
- Agriculture : Agricultura
- Greenhouse : Invernadero
- Corn Smut : Huitlacoche
- Field : Campo
- Farmer : Campesino
- Wild : Silvestre
- Development : Desarrollo
- Dwarf : Enano
- Native : Nativo

Plants:
- Maiz : Maíze
- Beans : Frijol
- Wheat : Trigo
- Oats : Avena
- Cotton : Algodón
- Squash : Calabaza
- Tomato : Jitomate
- Vanilla : Vainilla
- Cacao : Cacao
- Jalapeño : Jalapeño

Machinery:
- Tractor : Tractor
- Combine : Cosechadora
- Tiller : Labranza
- Mower : Cortadora
- Sprayer : Pulverizador
- Plow : Arado
- Seeder : Sembradora
- Fertilizer : Fertilizadora