Mexico is noted for its extensive and rich geological, orographic, and environmental variation, and is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. In addition, this area was the site of the settlement and development of numerous indigenous groups, many of whom are still present and represent the main cultural wealth of the country. The development of this cultural wealth in a mega-diverse landscape also led to the heterogeneous use of local resources, leading to the generation of at least 100 crop species, many of which exist today in various national and global areas. Chief among these are maize, cacao, papaya, nopal, tomato, tobacco, vanilla, cotton, maguey, beans and tomatillo, among others.

In the case of maize, Mexico is where the largest amount of botanical and archaeological evidence regarding its use and knowledge has been found, confirming that maize originated in this territory. The wild relatives of maize are thought to have been domesticated through the intervention of the ancient inhabitants of Mexico.
Mexico as a world center of domestication and origin of cultivated plants

It is thought that human groups in Mesoamerica conserved and reproduced or favored teosinte varieties that differed little by little, from small increases in maize from four to eight rows of grains to the great diversity of maize that currently exists, especially in Mexico, Guatemala, and also in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

The importance of this crop in the diet drove its expansion throughout the Americas.

So by the time the Europeans arrived, maize was possibly the principal crop at almost all latitudes where its cultivation was viable, from southern Canada to southern Chile. Agriculture through crops as productive as maize in Mexico or the potato in Peru, favored the development of advanced and sophisticated civilizations such as the Aztec, Zapotec, Maya and Purepecha in Mexico or the Inca empire that covered a large part of what is now Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Northern Chile.

This region of South America is now recognized as an important center of diversification of maize, while not being strictly its center of origin.