

Foodorama

Letter # 14: Bioplastics and monarchs!

By Foodorama, January 28, 2019



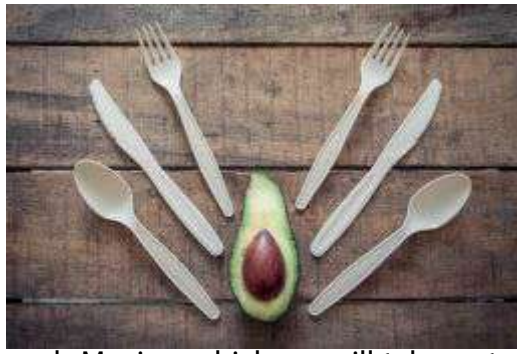
Hi everyone! This week, we shot our first topic on sustainable food in Mexico and more specifically in Morelia where we met Scott Munguia, founder of Biofase. Biofase is a company that manufactures avocado kernels, bioplastics, for making biodegradable cutlery and straws.



At first, they made the plastic resin, the raw material for confectionery cutlery and straws. They can either sell this granulated plastic resin to other companies or manufacture cutlery (fork, knife and spoon) and straws. Bioplastics represent less than 1% of the plastics market in Mexico ... but why so little, while it allows us to preserve our environment? Mainly because of the cost. In fact, bioplastic is about 20% more expensive than petroleum-based plastic! But according to Scott, it's just a question of time for it to be cheaper. Once the technologies to create bioplastics will be more developed and known, the costs will be lower.



Yet, bioplastics are a great invention! For example, a it only needs 240 days for a bioplastic fork to degrade against 400 years for a "normal" plastic fork. Be careful, this is not going to say that we can throw them into nature! Because even if it will take less time to disappear, we must preserve our beautiful planet and its landscapes



We continue our journey to reach Mexico, which we will take us to climb passes at 10,000 feet altitude ... beware, the nights become really cool!



But it also allows us to reach the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, a kind of butterfly that (like us) migrate Canada winter to Mexico winter to join the good weather. This is one of the few butterflies that colony migrate and move in groups of millions of individuals and on distances up to 2,500 miles twice a year: from August till October to South (Mexico) and in spring to North (Canada). One of the most curious aspects of Monarch migration is that their journey from South to North is multi-generational, but this trip from North to South is done in one. The reasons for this migration, and how the butterflies find the same place as their predecessors, remain partially enigmatic.



Now, a little riddle: what is this construction for?



See you soon for new adventures! Sylvain and Kalima

