

# AAINews

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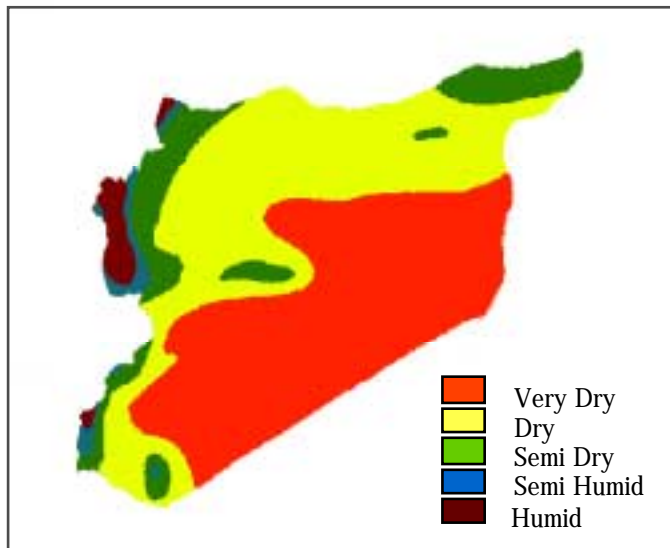
## Maize in Syria

During summer in Damascus, you can find a lot of stands selling cactus seeds, pistachio nuts, maize, etc. And what attracts me most among them is the smell of boiled maize. People seem to enjoy maize boiled in a huge pot. However, those boiled maize are taste-less and hard to chew, just like chewing gum. (It will definitely help you develop your jaw muscles!) And their grains are small and whitish, compared with Japanese corn.

Encouraged by the request from a Japanese women group in Damascus, we sowed seeds of Japanese honey corn in our small rental farm at the end of May. They grew big enough by mid-July and we harvested them with Japanese children and JOCV (Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers) members. The harvests were distributed to other Japanese and also to the owner of our farm. He seemed very surprised and said, "I have never eaten sweet maize like this."

Although the Japanese maize did not grow tall due to the climate difference, everybody enjoyed our organic farmed, no pesticide used sweet maize. We are planning to do it again this year to see everybody (especially children) feeling happy.

(Reported by Onuma in Damascus)



Bio-Climatic Regions of Syria

Stands of boiled maize in Damascus

