

David Rees. Introduction to Political Economy 2025. Group 5.
Academic Writing

The History of Tomatoes

Ever since I was young, which is now quite some time ago, I have loved tomatoes. Sowing tomatoes, growing tomatoes, eating tomatoes, cooking tomatoes. But where do they come from? As Mirza points out (2024), we can find the origins in Mesoamerica¹ and the region of modern-day Mexico. Over half a billion tonnes of tomatoes are produced every year (Smith, 2021).

“Tomatoes belong to the Solanaceae family, which includes other plants like potatoes, peppers, and eggplants” (Mirza, 2021)

Maybe ESSCA² could put a greenhouse onto the often-flooded roof and produce its own tomatoes? I grow many types of tomato including cherry tomatoes, standard tomatoes, beef tomatoes for stuffing and other exotic varieties with different colours.

Bibliography

Beyer, Greg. *The History of the Tomato. The Fruit that Spread Round the World*. The Collector.com. April 7, 2024.

Mirza, Shalra. *Origin of Tomatoes. The Ancient American Plant and its Culinary Significance*. History Cooperative. 2021

Smith, Andrew. *The Tomato in America*. University of Illinois Press. 2001.
Available at <https://historycooperative.org/origin-of-tomatoes/>

¹ **Mesoamerica** is a region in North and Central America

² **ESSCA** is a business management school in France