



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-eighth Session

18 - 22 July 2022

Update on progress made under the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

Ms Marcela Villarreal
Director
Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU)
Tel. +39 06 570 52346

I. Background

1. The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems¹ (from now on "Global-Hub") was launched following the endorsement by Members at the 27th Session of the FAO Technical Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 2020.
2. The Global-Hub's goal of respecting, preserving, and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food systems across the world, is to be achieved through the establishment of a learning space where co-creation of knowledge takes place.
3. These processes of co-creation of knowledge, bringing together Indigenous and Non-Indigenous experts, universities, research centres, United Nations and Indigenous organizations, have generated evidence that has been useful in influencing policy discussions on agrifood systems, biodiversity and climate action.
4. The Global-Hub's work is based on four pillars: (1) knowledge-bearers; (2) online knowledge repository; (3) strategic research and synergies; and (4) technical advice in policy-making.
5. One of the innovations brought by the Global-Hub, and established as one of its core principles, has been the blending of conventional science with Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge at an equal level of respect, consideration and validity.
6. The important role of observation and oral transmission has resulted in Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems capable of understanding natural cycles, biodiversity and ecosystems. The resulting Indigenous Peoples' food systems built upon these knowledge systems through languages, cosmogony, and culture that practiced unique territorial management able to generate food while protecting 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity.
7. The Global-Hub's collective work in documenting and presenting the game-changing nature of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems has attracted new institutions with hands-on experience.
8. Since its establishment, the six founding members – The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, the Center for International Forestry Research, World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), and FAO – have been joined by:
 - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
 - the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO);
 - the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty (TIP);
 - the Sámi Parliament;
 - Gaia Amazonas;
 - the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC);
 - the Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA);
 - INFOODS;
 - the Universities of Massey, Monash, Cambridge, Greenwich (through its Natural Resource Institute: NRI) and McGill (through its Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment: CINE); and
 - the Ārramāt Project.
9. Today the Global-Hub gathers 20 organizations, is hosted by FAO and its secretariat is coordinated by the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit (PSUI).

¹ www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/global-hub/en

II. Technical contributions and achievements

10. Publication of the *White/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems*² in 2021) (from now on *The White/Whipala Paper*). The paper, recognized as a key reference document by the Scientific Group of the UN Food Systems Summit, presented evidence on the game-changing nature of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems. *The White/Whipala Paper*, drafted by the Global-Hub from 60 Indigenous and non-Indigenous contributions submitted by 39 organizations and 10 individuals in six socio-cultural regions, made recommendations to the five Action Tracks of the UN Food Systems Summit.

11. Exchanges of knowledge, technical discussions, and coordination in the frame of the UN Food Systems Summit. To share Indigenous Peoples' views, the Global-Hub organized two Exchanges of Knowledge with the Scientific Group, four technical discussions with the Action Tracks and two meetings with the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) and the Summit Secretariat. The Global-Hub and Indigenous leaders presented *the White/Wiphala Paper* at 25 dialogues organized by the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit.

12. Rethinking hierarchies of evidence for sustainable food systems³. The Global-Hub, under the leadership of the University of Cambridge, published in *Nature Food* an article in November 2021 about the lack of inclusiveness in policy-making of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge. The article drew attention to the need to expand what is currently accepted as evidence if agrifood systems are to be made efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

13. Science Days. The Global-Hub participated in two technical discussions: "The importance of plant genetic resources in the context of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: the role of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture"; and "the White/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' food systems: Indigenous Peoples' contributions to food system's thinking and sustainability".

14. UN Food Systems Pre-Summit. The Global-Hub participated in three affiliated sessions, where the *White/Wiphala paper* was presented to Members.

15. High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). The Global-Hub contributed to the e-consultation on "Data collection and analysis tools for food security and nutrition" in February 2022, alerting about the need for more interculturality in data collection and analysis.

16. Indigenous Women and the Development, Application, Preservation and Transmission of Scientific Knowledge. The Global-Hub contributed to the annual report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in March 2022.

III. Next steps

17. Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. In September 2021, Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Spain, UNPFII, Indigenous organizations, and FAO created the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. The Global-Hub has agreed to technically support and strongly advocate for the Coalition's work.

18. Internal working groups. The Global-Hub has organized working groups to support the School-meals, Agroecology, and Indigenous Peoples coalitions, and to work on new metrics for food-biodiversity, nutrition, and improved hierarchies of evidence for policy-making.

19. Recommendations and technical support. The Global-Hub provides recommendations and technical support to: the International Year of Artisanal and Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture; the FAO Nutrition Strategy implementation; the Indigenous Biocentric Restoration Initiative; the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE); the United Nations Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals; the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the

² www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4932en

³ www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/news-article/en/c/1456167

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the International Network of Food Data Systems (INFOOD); the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; and the United Nations Decades of Ecosystems Restoration and of Family Farming, among others.