



and respect in managing their food systems, which are intrinsically linked to culture, identity, and languages. The way in which indigenous peoples manage their food systems could therefore provide lessons for improving sustainability in food systems in general and for protecting biodiversity, helping increasing the resilience of ecosystems they inhabit.

- **Without land, territories and natural resources indigenous peoples are vulnerable** - Indigenous peoples' relationship with their lands, territories and natural resources carry unique social, cultural, spiritual, economic and political dimensions. These relationships are crucial to indigenous peoples' identity, cultural viability and survival. Although the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) recognizes that indigenous peoples hold rights to the lands they have traditionally used, often they are forcefully displaced from their territories. One of the main causes of marginalization of indigenous peoples all over the world derive from the violation of their right to their traditional land and territories.
- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent for indigenous peoples to decide over their natural resources** - FPIC is an internationally recognized human right standard that stipulates that indigenous peoples should be consulted and their free, prior and informed consent given to any legislative or administrative measures, including FAO activities, projects and programmes, that will affect their lands, territories, resources and livelihoods.
- **Empowering indigenous women to overcome triple discrimination** - Indigenous women often suffer a triple discrimination: because of being women, indigenous and poor. This crosscutting discrimination affects all spheres of life and exacerbates inequalities. Despite their key role as custodians of seeds, traditional knowledge, and ecosystems, they suffer from wide range of rights violations both inside and outside their communities. FAO believes it is paramount to empower indigenous women so they are better able to demand recognition in equal terms with men.
- **Indigenous peoples traditional knowledge for climate adaptation** - Indigenous peoples are among the first populations to face the direct consequences of climate change, owing to their dependence upon, and close relationship with the environment and its resources. Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by indigenous communities, including marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, and discrimination. However, indigenous peoples hold answers to climate change challenges, contributing to the resilience of the ecosystems they inhabit and drawing on ancestral knowledge to cope with its consequences in creative ways.

1.2. External advocacy

In order of continue strengthening FAO's engagement with indigenous issues at global and national levels, our team engaged in the following international events and conferences.

1.2.1. Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Side event: "Follow up on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: Development of a National Plan on Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador"

May 2016, UN Headquarters, New York

This event provided the opportunity to showcase as a best practice the way FAO has been working with the Government of El Salvador and networks of indigenous peoples to elaborate a National Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in the country. The event counted with the testimonies from the



government, indigenous peoples' organizations (CADPI, IWGIA), as well as UN agencies that supported the process.

1.2.2. Global FIMI School event

May 2016, New York

The Global Leadership School of Indigenous Women is a programme targeting indigenous women leaders from different countries. Through the school, women learn about human rights, indigenous peoples' rights and indigenous women's rights; theoretical tools and communication skills among others. The school also include the opportunity to take part in one of the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). For the first time, FAO was invited to give a lecture to the participants, which focused on indigenous food systems.

1.2.3. National Leadership Schools of Indigenous Women

Philippines, Panama, Paraguay and El Salvador (2016)

Capacity building was one of the major topics identified in FAO and indigenous peoples joint workplan, in particular targeting indigenous women. In this line, we have devised the Leadership School of Indigenous Women, an initiative we are implementing with the International Indigenous Women Forum (IIWF-FIMI). It consists in a School where indigenous women learn about human rights, food security and advocacy skills during a 10-month course. In the last phase of the course, the participants prepare advocacy plans to improve the food security situation in their communities. The best plans will be selected for implementation at a later stage.



1.2.4. Indigenous Fellowship Programme

July 2016, OHCHR, Geneva, Switzerland

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme is a comprehensive human rights training programme that was established by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the context



of the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (1995-2004). The programme contributes to build the capacity and expertise of indigenous representatives on the UN system and mechanisms dealing with human rights in general and indigenous issues in particular, so they are in a better position to protect and promote the rights of their communities at the international level. For the first time, FAO was invited to deliver a presentation about the Organization's work with indigenous peoples.

1.2.5. Terra Madre Salone del Gusto 2016

Panel: "Biodiversity, Resilience and Global Challenges: How the Indigenous Food Systems Can Inspire Positive Solutions"

September 22-26, Torino, Italy

This event provided the opportunity to discuss about indigenous food systems and how they can contribute to expand the food base of maize-rice-wheat and support dietary diversity. The importance of indigenous food systems and their benefits, as opposed to commercial agriculture, was highlighted. In addition, the discussion revolved around the technical assistance that is needed to preserve and promote indigenous food systems.

FAO provided examples of the work done in the context of quality of products and geographical indications, particularly in Latin America. Geographical indications can be a tool to protect indigenous products, their traditional knowledge and practice, as well as to increase the availability of a varied number of produce in the markets and support indigenous peoples' bio-cultural heritage for this and the future generations.

1.2.6. High-level event in the side-lines of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues Annual Meeting

Panel: "*Indigenous peoples' land governance and food systems*"

October 4, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

Organized by FAO, IFAD and ILC, the workshop was an opportunity to inform and build awareness on the inextricable link between governance of land and natural resources, and protection of indigenous food systems; discuss current challenges to secure indigenous peoples' land rights and related threats to the maintenance of their food systems; and engage with relevant actors, providing an opportunity for dialogue and reflection for Rome based UN Agencies, Member States, Academia, NGOs and other interested organizations. Moderated by ILC, the event featured remarks from indigenous representatives and experts on specific issues. The event also included a short speech by Berta Caceres, daughter of the Honduras environmental activist and indigenous leader Berta Caceres who was assassinated in March 2016.

[Event webcast](#)



1.2.7. High-level event on the launch of the Free, prior and informed consent manual

Event: “Free, prior and informed consent: an indigenous peoples right and good practice with local communities”

October 6, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

The objective of the event was to reflect on the importance of free prior and informed consent in FAO’s and partner organization work when dealing with indigenous peoples and local communities.

The event consisted of an interactive discussion with indigenous peoples, partner organizations, resource partners and FAO. The manual on how to implement free prior and informed consent, was officially launched. This manual is the result of a joint collaboration and over one year of work by FAO, the IFRC, Action Aid, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, AECID, and GIZ.

[Event webcast](#)

1.2.8. Committee on World Food Security 43

Side event: “*Connecting indigenous food systems to markets: the Maori experience in New Zealand*”

October 17-21, FAO, Rome, Italy

For the first time in 40 years, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) hosted a side event about indigenous peoples and their food systems. This space provided a unique opportunity to share experiences of how indigenous peoples can utilise their resources, knowledge and food production methods to engage into markets in a manner that embraces their traditions and culture.

Organized by FAO and the Government of New Zealand, the event featured the first-hand experience of the Maori tribes that have brought their foods to national and international markets. During the discussion, the use certification methods as a way to capture added value was of particular relevance, as well as the positive outcomes obtained.



1.2.9. International Year of Pulses - Global Dialogue

22-23 November, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

The Global Dialogue provided an opportunity to discuss about indigenous food systems, and in particular about the prominence of pulses in indigenous diets.

The Global Dialogue is a forum for various stakeholders in the pulses sector, to discuss the issues and the challenges related to the production, consumption and trade of pulses and generate a set of recommendations for concrete action and follow-up beyond 2016.

1.2.10. International symposium on sustainable food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition

Session 3.3: “*Empowering women as key drivers of food system change*”

1-2 December, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

The International Symposium explored policies and programme options for shaping the food systems in ways that deliver foods for a healthy diet, focusing on concrete country experiences and challenges. In this context, Maria Luisa Duarte, Cultural Advisor, Institute for the Indigenous Peoples of Paraguay, the Republic of Paraguay and participant to the FAO-FIMI school for indigenous women provided an overview about indigenous women’s role in biodiversity protection and transmission of food traditions.

[Event webcast.](#)



1.2.11. Articles on the media

- [La FAO realiza curso sobre gobernanza responsable](#), La Estrella de Panama, *February*
- [Indigenous women represent Philippines in global leadership school](#), SunStar, *March*
- [Los Guna, una historia de éxito en la lucha contra el hambre](#), Naciones Unidas Video, *April*
- [Los indigenas son baluartes en defense de la tierra](#), El Pais, *May*
- [Los “drones buenos”](#), El Pais, *May*
- [Indígenas panameños usan drones para proteger los bosques](#), Latin Correspondent, *June*
- [Panama's indigenous tribes launch drones to fight deforestation](#), Reuters, *June*
- [FAO e indígenas abordan manejo de recursos naturales](#), Agencia Efe, *August*
- [Drones vigilan bosques en las comarcas indígenas panameñas](#), TVN Noticias, *September*
- [¿Y a nosotros quién nos pregunta?](#), El Pais, *October*
- [Líder juvenil indígena: "Muchas veces niegas tu identidad o vives violentado"](#), Agencia Efe, *October*
- [La cooperación al desarrollo, mejor en la lengua de los indígenas](#), El dia, *October*
- [ONU advierte que los países siguen sin hacer consulta previa a indígenas](#), La razon, *October*
- [La ONU destacó al Perú como uno de los países que hace consulta previa](#), RPP Noticias, *October*
- [1000 cups of tea - the Maori experience](#), CFS, *October*
- [Indigenous Women in the Philippines Participated in FAO-FIMI's Program](#), Tebtebba, *November*

1.3. Internal advocacy



To raise-awareness on the importance of mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues in the work of the organization, a series of "Open talks" have been carried out throughout the year. These events featured experts on indigenous peoples, Indigenous representatives themselves or FAO colleagues with extensive experience working with indigenous peoples. They provided an opportunity for FAO colleagues in HQ to have a better understanding of the issues affecting Indigenous Peoples.

1.3.1. Mike Robson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh

Title: "FAO Bangladesh work with indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts"

May 3, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

The FAO representative presented the work supported by the European Commission in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a post-conflict area in South-East Bangladesh inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. Since 2013, FAO is working in remote areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts providing capacity development assistance and inputs to small ethnic communities practising a traditional system of shifting cultivation called "jum". Through this work, FAO established a dialogue with the indigenous communities and their representatives, the government authorities and the civil society working in the region.

1.3.2. Vishnu Rama Savara, Minister for Tribal Development in Maharashtra State

Title: "Scheduled tribes, Adivasis and Indigenous peoples in the State of Maharashtra: work and challenges"

May 17, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

1.3.3. Hector Cisneros, Forestry Officer in FAO Peru

Title: "Experiences in the Andean region with indigenous peoples communities"

July 4, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

1.3.4. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Title: "Indigenous peoples and FAO's work: challenges and opportunities"

July 18, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

During her participation to COFO, the UN Special Rapporteur provided an overview of her recent country visits in relation to the rights of indigenous peoples, highlighting priorities and actions required.

1.3.5. Dali Angel, Representative of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

Title: "The challenges of indigenous youth: lands, identity and ancestral knowledge transfer"

September 29, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

Indigenous Youth can play a critical role in moving forward the indigenous peoples' agenda. Dali Angel presented some of the issues that indigenous youth around the world have to face, for example in the context of education and food systems that are culturally sensitive.

1.3.6. Dr Jose Zanardini, indigenous peoples' expert from the Catholic University of Paraguay and Parviz Koohan, Director of the World Agricultural Heritage



Title: “Indigenous Food Systems for the 21st century”

November 11, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

Indigenous food systems can play a critical role in ensuring food security. Their potential stems from the holistic and sustainable approaches to food and agriculture that Indigenous Peoples have developed, practised and perfected throughout the centuries. During this open discussion, keynote speakers Dr Jose Zanardini and Parviz Koohafkan will share their insight on the benefits and challenges of indigenous food systems in the 21st century.

[Event webcast](#)

1.3.7. Maria Luisa Duarte, indigenous leader from Paraguay who attended the FAO-FIMI leadership school for indigenous women

Title: “Forging future leaders: an indigenous women school”

November 30, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

The open talk was an opportunity to share information about the work the indigenous women schools supported by FAO and FIMI. Maria Luisa provided her feedback about the school, as well as her views about the role of indigenous women, and the challenges and the opportunities ahead.

1.4. Advocacy material developed

1.4.1. Infographic “Indigenous peoples can feed the world”

- Infographic “[Indigenous Peoples can feed the world](#)” and animated “[Indigenous Peoples can feed the world](#)” for social media

1.4.2. Infographic “[Indigenous Peoples poster](#)”

1.4.3. Videos

- [Victoria Tauli-Corpuz on indigenous peoples and climate change](#)
- [Celebrating Food Day](#)
- [Forest Rights Act for Scheduled Tribes in India](#)
- [How can indigenous peoples contribute to the world’s food security?](#)
- The three mechanisms of indigenous peoples in the UN system.
- Connecting indigenous foods to markets: the Maori experience.
- [FAO project with indigenous peoples in Panama](#)
- [La Escuela de Liderazgo de Mujeres Indígenas](#)

1.4.4. Videos for social media

- Protecting indigenous peoples' land rights is key for climate change action - Erika Yamada, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Free, prior and informed consent and participation of indigenous peoples in development actions. Alvaro Pop, Chair of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



- The role of indigenous women and their empowerment, Tarcila Rivera, Member of the International Indigenous Women Forum.
- Present challenges of indigenous peoples worldwide, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- [Indigenous Women](#)
- [Indigenous Food Systems](#)

1.4.5. Cards for social media



Cards developed for social media and other outreach materials can be accessed at:

<https://trello.com/b/3tKwi0LM/united-nations-and-indigenous-peoples-outreach-material-from-across-the-un>

1.4.6. FAO website

- In Action, [Using indigenous knowledge to reverse land degradation in Angola](#)
- Media, [Indigenous peoples central to efforts to combat climate change](#)
- Media, [Putting Indigenous Peoples' rights at the center of development](#)

1.4.7. Other publications

[A better world: actions and commitments to the sustainable development goals](#). Includes a chapter about the Leadership School of Indigenous Women by FAO and FIMI.

1.4.8. Intranet articles

- [Implementing FPIC](#) An interview with Dan Gustafson, DDO explains the importance of implementing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) across FAO's work
- [Indigenous Peoples](#) The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) and Free prior and informed consent (FPIC)
- [COFO and World Forest Week](#) The 23rd session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the 5th World Forest Week (WFW) are taking place at headquarters this week



- [Community forest rights](#) India's Forest Rights Act recognizes indigenous and community forest lands
- [Indigenous peoples empowerment](#) A cohort of 20 indigenous women in the Philippines will attend courses on leadership and gender empowerment as part of a joint collaboration between FAO and the International Indigenous Women's Forum

Pillar 2: Coordination

As coordinators of FAO's work with Indigenous Peoples we are implementing the following five main liaisons and monitoring activities.

2.1. The Inter Agency Support Group of the United Nations

The Inter Agency Support Group of the United Nations (IASG) groups together twice a year the Indigenous Peoples' focal points from all UN agencies. The main role of the IASG is not only to mainstream the work of indigenous peoples inside the different UN organizations but also to provide support to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The 2016 annual meeting was held in Rome from 3rd to 5th October 2016. The event was jointly organised and hosted by FAO, IFAD and ILC. The IASG discussed, among other matters, key issues related to the global, regional and country level implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples launched in May 2016 and the development of a work-plan of activities aligned to the six SWAP action items. The meeting provided an opportunity to identify convergences between the different actions undertaken by the member agencies, as well as an opportunity to discuss about the linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators.



2.2. FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples

We chair and convey the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (IDWG). The IDWG is composed of technical experts from forestry, seeds, livestock, statistics, gender, partnerships, investment, legal and fisheries. This body serves both as a network as well as a coordination body that enables FAO units to work with OPCA in the implementation of the 2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. During 2016, the IDWG was convened 4 times.

2.3. Working group on Indigenous Food Systems



In February 2015, indigenous peoples requested FAO to create a working group on indigenous food systems. Co-chaired by the Indigenous Peoples team in OPCA and the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), this working group dwells on the expertise of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Biodiversity, the International Network for Food Data Systems (INFOODS), and FAO technical divisions on nutrition, trade, seeds, agroecology, emergencies and forestry.

2.4. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is the UN forum where indigenous peoples' delegates gather once a year to discuss indigenous issues. With half of their representatives appointed by member states and half by indigenous leaders, the UNPFII is today, along with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the most representative UN body where indigenous matters are discussed. FAO along with other UN organizations participates in the UNPFII debates and experts meetings.

2.5. Task force on Free Prior and Informed Consent

The Free, Prior and Informed Consent' task force was created by the indigenous peoples team to ensure the smooth implementation of FPIC inside FAO. Composed of the units working on Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, Fisheries, Voluntary Guidelines, Emergencies and Forestry mainly, it ensures that FAO technical units will implement FPIC in those projects and programmes affecting Indigenous Peoples.

2.6. Indigenous Peoples caucus

As explained above, the indigenous peoples team in OPCA coordinates with this indigenous peoples caucus in order to share information and monitor the implementation of the FAO Policy of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

2.7. Development of a database of contacts

A database of contacts has been developed and allows advanced searches by region, country, organisation and language, among others. The database is stored in the [Indigenous Peoples' team shared drive](#) and is to be updated with new contacts following events and country missions.

2.8. Support to drafting of national plans on Indigenous peoples' issues

In 2016, the indigenous peoples team was involved in:

- Missions to Honduras to support the development of a national action plan on indigenous peoples.
- Facilitation of the programme related to the development of the national action plan on indigenous peoples.
- Facilitation of dialogue in Guyana on the development of a national action plan on indigenous peoples.
- Review of the Paraguay Country Programming Framework, which led to having indigenous peoples placed as one of FAO's priorities in the Country, and support to the revision of a national legislation on FPIC.

2.9. Support coordination between CSM and UNFPII

In 2016, the Indigenous Peoples' team supported the establishment of a dialogue between the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the UNFPII through:



- Ensuring the participation of the UNFPII Chair in the CFS.
- Facilitating meetings between UNFPII and CSM.
- Organizing a side event during the CFS, having the Chair of the UNFPII as panellist.
- Organizing presentations by CFS and CSM during the IASG.

2.10. Support the development of a Regional IASG in the Asia Pacific region

FAO supported the development of a regional IASG in the Asia Pacific region by facilitating dialogues at regional level, particularly between FAO and ILO.

2.11. Establishment of a platform and workplan for indigenous peoples and FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Indigenous Peoples' team facilitated the development and organization of a meeting in Panama from 18-21 September between indigenous peoples organization and the representatives of the FAO regional initiatives in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The results of the meeting were:

- The creation of a coordination group composed by five indigenous leaders.
- The identification of contact points with the indigenous youth in the region.
- The development of a set of activities to enhance collaboration in the context of the regional initiatives.

Pillar 3: Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a right that pertains to indigenous peoples throughout the world allowing them to give or withhold consent to an activity that may influence their livelihoods and customs, which has also emerged as an international human rights standard derive from the collective rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and to their lands, territories and other properties.

FAO has aligned its core guiding documents with the principle of free, prior and informed consent and is in the process of ensuring all personnel developing projects know how to implement FPIC effectively.

3.1. Finalization of the FPIC manual

The [Manual on Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(FPIC\)](#) outlines essential ways to ensure indigenous peoples, can give or withhold their consent to interventions proposed in their lands and territories and do so free of coercion, prior to any decisions being made, and with the necessary information presented to them in a culturally appropriate way.

The manual - launched by FAO Deputy Director-General Daniel Gustafson and Alvaro Pop, Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues — is the result of one year of collaboration between FAO and partner organizations including Action Aid, Action Against Hunger, Agencia Española de Cooperación International para el Desarrollo (AECID), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GiZ), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and World Vision.

3.2. Development of FPIC training material and workplan

Building on the consultative Workshop entitled “Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Capacity Development Programme” held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 9-10 July 2015, and the development of the FPIC Manual with a number of FAO partners, the Indigenous Peoples' team with



support from OHRC is developing a set of learning modules. The learning modules on FPIC will be part of an e-learning capacity development programme, but will also be available as a hardcopy manual and PowerPoint presentations that can be used for face-to-face workshops.

These learning modules aims at providing FAO and partner organizations working all along the development continuum (from preparedness, emergency rehabilitation and development) with the tools required to enable them to work more effectively, on the basis of their own experience with indigenous peoples and to thoroughly implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent when required.

The learning modules are designed for staff working in a wide range of organizations including international organizations, donor agencies, multilaterals, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

The learning modules – including a webinar, a face to face training, and an e-learning – will be ready by early 2017. In the meantime, the team is planning the roll-out of capacity development at HQ and decentralised offices level.

3.3. Participation in PPRC to provide feedback and technical assistance to project formulators and budget holders in relation to indigenous peoples and FPIC

The Indigenous Peoples' team is being involved in the development, appraisal and implementation of project proposals affecting indigenous peoples through the new project cycle 2015. So far, the team has provided technical assistance to a number of project formulators based in HQ and at decentralised office level – the request for similar assistance, which may involve also missions to country offices, is expected to increase in future.

Pillar 4: Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT) call upon States to recognize and protect legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and consider adapting their policy, legal and organizational frameworks to indigenous peoples' tenure systems.

In partnership with different indigenous organizations, and in collaboration with the tenure team in FAO, we are developing specific programmes aimed at strengthening indigenous peoples' capacities towards the recognition and protection of their tenure rights and customary tenure systems, jointly exploring practical actions to implement the VGGT.

4.1. Capacity development programmes on the application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) for and with indigenous peoples

4.1.1. India Programme

July 2016

In partnership with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Indigenous Peoples' team and the Land Tenure team in FAO have built a one-year capacity-development programme specifically built around the most common challenges faced by indigenous peoples. Its aim is to explore how they can use the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in support of their land tenure rights. In July 2016, a national training took place in New Delhi.

4.1.2. Central America programme

February 2016 FAO



In partnership with Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) this programme trained 25 indigenous representatives on how to use the VGGT to address indigenous peoples' tenure issues. Coming from Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras, the indigenous experts discussed on how to engage in the policy dialogue in their respective countries to improve land access and rights for indigenous communities. The discussions will include the results from the research and community dialogues that each of the participants is carrying out since February.

CADPI and FAO are using this hands-on experience to develop a methodology of application of the VGGT for Indigenous Peoples that takes into consideration their communal tenure systems, traditional and customary rights, and access to natural resources. The main lessons learnt are being incorporated into an Indigenous Peoples manual on the VGGT, which, along with the translation of the VGGT into Miskitu and Q'eqchi, are some of the tangible results of a unique discussion on indigenous peoples' tenure systems in Central America.

4.1.3. India programme – Ekta Parishad

November 2016

In partnership with Ekta Parishad, FAO is working to increase awareness regarding indigenous peoples' (Adivasis) rights to land and forests in India by strengthening the use of the Forestry Rights Act, promoting its implementation in conjunction with existing national legislation as well as with the use of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) and in particular the implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The work is ongoing and will be finalised in early 2017.



4.2 Capacity development and advocacy on the use of drones to support land mapping

In October 2016, the Indigenous peoples' team took part in a workshop about knowledge and good practices in using drones. The team shared the experience of FAO Panama in collaboration with



indigenous communities with mapping forests via the use of drones in the context of REDD+. The use of drones in the context of indigenous people, open tenure and VGGT is an area of interest that can be expanded in 2017.

Pillar 5: Indicators for food security

FAO is advocating for the collection of disaggregated data that reflects the situation of indigenous peoples in particular in food security, and encouraging national statistical services to work jointly with indigenous peoples for the collection of data in indigenous communities to support the development of sound development policies.

In particular, analyzing indigenous peoples' food insecurity would allow FAO- and governments- to improve upon methodologies, develop new tools and move forward practically to find effective and inclusive solutions to hunger.

In March 2016, the Statistical Commission of the UN endorsed the global indicator framework for monitoring progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Within this, Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) has an indicator (2.1.2) to measure the Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This framework provides an opportunity to strengthen our work with food indicators.

Pillar 6: Indigenous food systems

FAO considers that indigenous peoples with their traditional knowledge, livelihoods and food systems have many of the answers to the problems of the world food security. Indeed, scientific evidence and development based nutrition projects have shown in the recent years that indigenous foods are particularly nutritious, rich in key nutrients such as Vitamin A, Iron, or Zinc. Indigenous foods are also climate resilient, and adapt to their environment, making them a good source of nutrients in climate challenged areas. Altogether, indigenous food systems, through their foods and production system could be essential in the contribution to world food security.

Of particular relevance is the nutritious value of indigenous foods. While some of them are known and have been extensively analysed in terms of micro and macro nutrients, others remained considered as nutritious but no proper nutrition composition analysis has been undertaken.

FAO has started the coordination of the analysis of the food composition of several indigenous foods from the seven socio-economic indigenous regions. In collaboration with the Nutrition division, a pilot project has been led in North-East India, in the Khasi hills of Meghalaya, to determine the food composition of several indigenous foods. It showed important results on the content of some essential micronutrients and minerals that the regional diets are lacking and which could therefore be considered in FAO programmes to implement the food security of indigenous peoples in the region.

Currently, FAO is seeking to strengthen this line of work and trying to put together a bigger initiative to continue gathering evidence that could lead to a better understanding of how indigenous food systems and the ancestral knowledge on which they are based, maintain a balance between food production, culture and language, biodiversity, and management of the resources.



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

In 2016, indigenous food systems have received prominence in the review process of FAO's Strategic Programme, making indigenous food systems particularly relevant for the achievement of the Organization's strategic objectives and of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.