PRESERVING, STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOOD AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)



Presented by Kamaljit Sangha
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Objectives of the report

1. Preserve and promote functioning Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
2. Restore and strengthen Indigenous Peoples' food systems that are under pressure or disruption.
3. Identify lessons that can inform the transformation of other food systems.

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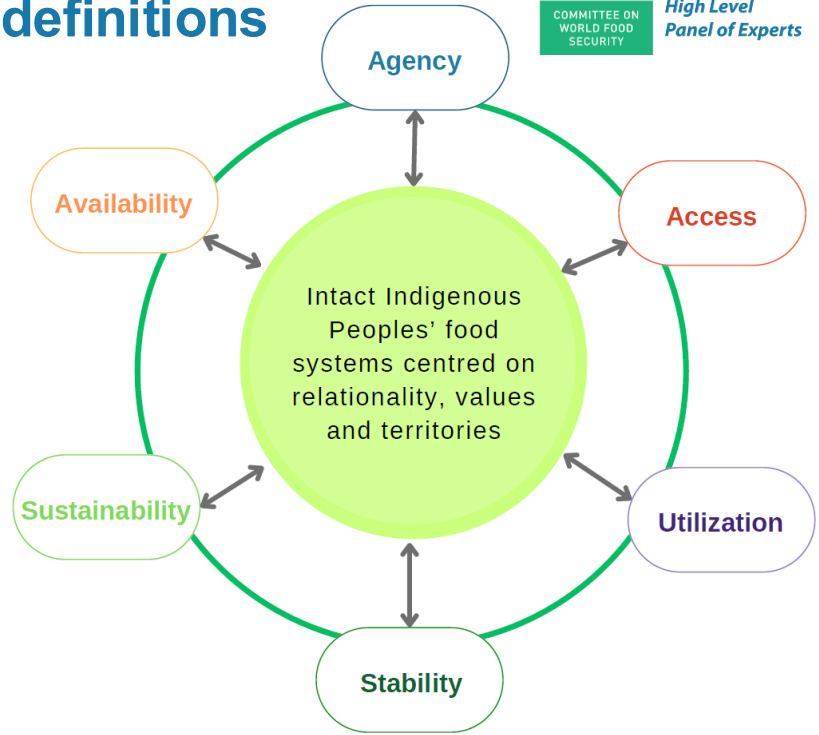
Outline of the report - Chapters

1. Indigenous Peoples' food systems: **concepts and definitions**
2. Indigenous Peoples' food systems **context, drivers of change, consequences and opportunities**
3. Understanding the **value** of Indigenous Peoples' food systems
4. **Land, water, and territorial rights** as the foundation of Indigenous Peoples' food systems
5. **Co-creation of knowledge**
6. **Global outlook** on Indigenous Peoples' food systems and **future food systems**
7. **Conclusions and recommendations**

Chapter 1. Concepts and definitions

Indigenous Peoples' food systems are centred on **relationality, peoples' values, and their rights to territories.**

All these contribute to the six dimensions of food security in an interconnected and interactive manner.



Chapter 2. Context, drivers of change, consequences, opportunities

Indigenous Peoples' food systems are diverse, and characterized by:

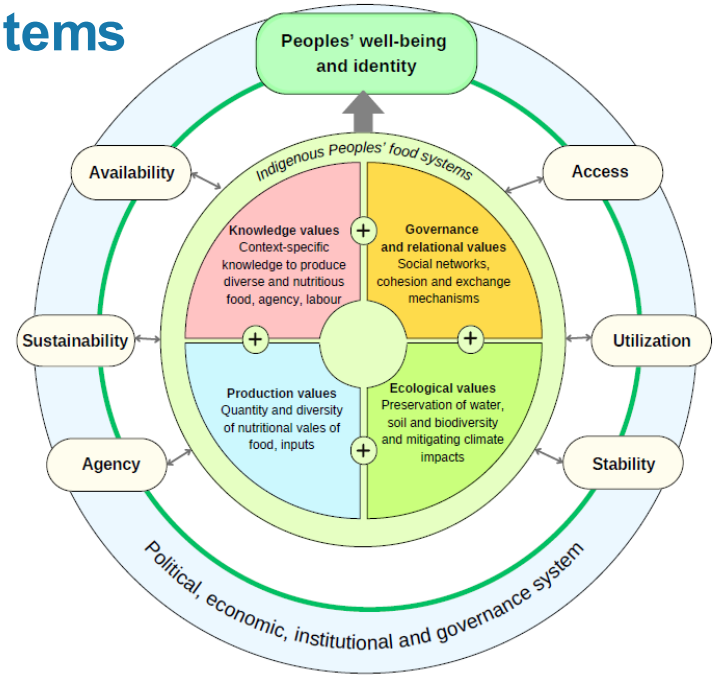
- Socioecological livelihood configurations (forest-based, agrarian, mobile herding and pastoral, water and fisheries-based food systems)
- The condition of functionality (territorially rooted/intact, pressured, hybrid, fragmented, or externally dependent)
- Drivers and the impact pathways
- Consequences of disrupted systems

Chapter 3. Understanding the value of Indigenous Peoples' food systems

Proposes a valuation framework built on:

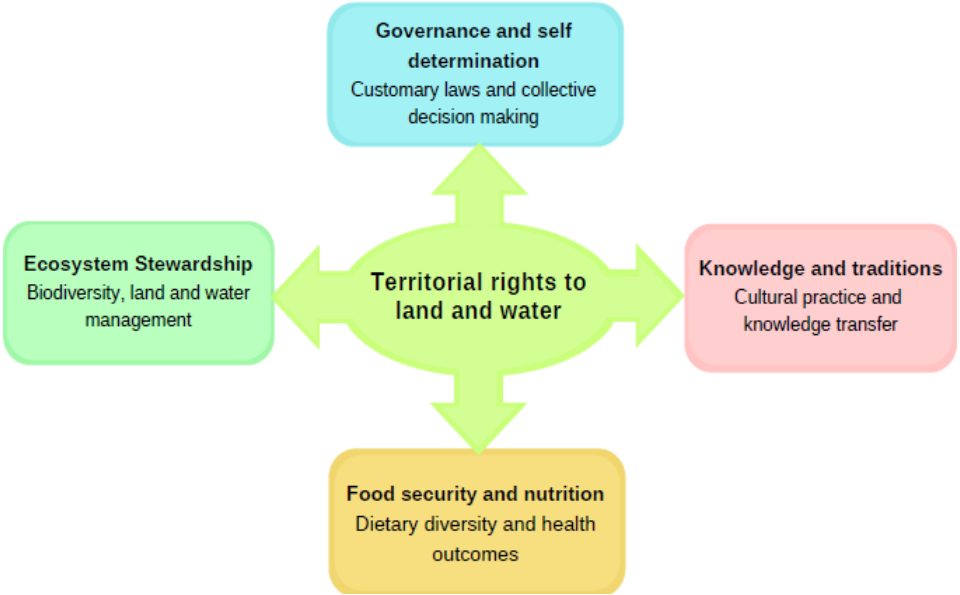
- Production values
- Knowledge and well-being values
- Governance and relational values
- Ecological values.

All these contribute to the six dimensions of food security.



Chapter 4. Land, water, and territorial rights

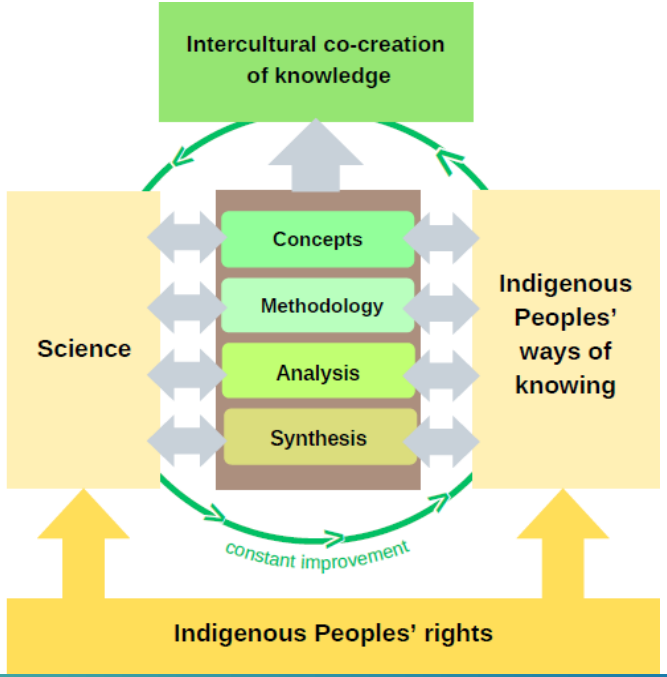
- Land, water and territorial rights are foundational for Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- They shape governance, agency, ecological stewardship, knowledges and traditions, and food security and nutrition.



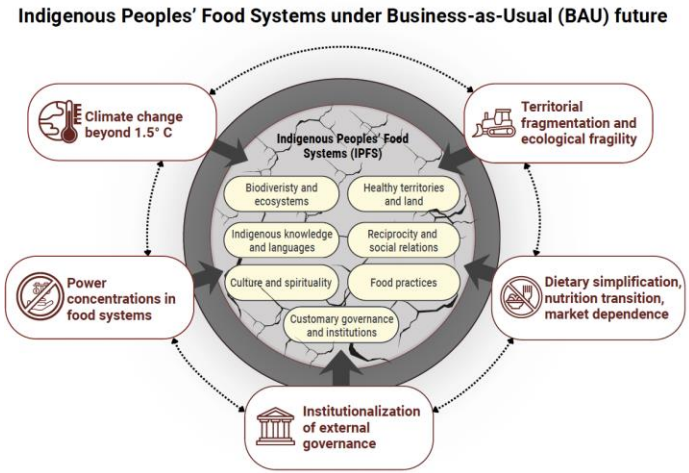
Chapter 5. Co-creation of knowledge

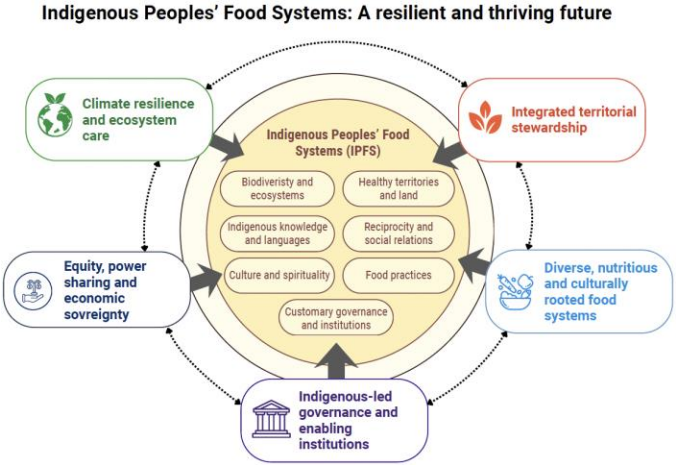
Bridging science and the Indigenous Peoples' ways of knowing to co-create knowledge.

- A broader knowledge-policy interface.
- Indigenous Peoples having the agency to fully participate as **rights holders and knowledge holders.**



Chapter 6: Global outlook on Indigenous Peoples' food systems and future food systems





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Recommendations



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1. Recognize the value of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems

- Recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights holders.
- Recognize Indigenous Peoples' food systems as living, dynamic systems that require Indigenous Peoples' governance.
- Recognize the well-being and identity of Indigenous Peoples as foundational for achieving food security and nutrition.
- Incorporate the benefits of Indigenous Peoples' food systems such as nutrition, biodiversity, resilience into sustainable production policies.
- Develop and utilize metrics to value Indigenous Peoples' food systems considering all their undervalued benefits.

2. Improve Indigenous Peoples' food security and nutrition outcomes

- Address all forms of malnutrition.
- Ensure access to diverse and nutritious diets.
- Reduce dependence on ultra-processed foods.
- Strengthen intergenerational transmission of knowledges.
- Gather evidence on Indigenous Peoples' food security and nutritional status.
- Integrate Indigenous Peoples' foods into dietary guidelines, nutrition programmes and public procurement.

3. Secure Indigenous Peoples' collective territorial rights and governance authority

On territorial integrity and governance

- Legally recognize collective rights and customary governance systems to lands, waters, and resources in national and international law.
- Ensure Indigenous Peoples' participation and co-management in land and water governance.
- Ensure participation of Indigenous Peoples in conservation, biodiversity and climate action.
- Fully implement the right of Indigenous Peoples to consultation and guarantee their free, prior and informed consent in all actions affecting them.

On agrarian and aquatic reforms

- Protect Indigenous Peoples' territories (land and water).
- Prevent displacement by land-use change and acquisitions.

4. Support Indigenous Peoples' food systems and territorial economies (i)

On reciprocity-based exchange

- Recognize reciprocity-based practices (exchange, mutual aid, collective harvesting) that contribute to food security.
- Support Indigenous Peoples-led provisioning systems (production, harvesting, fishing, hunting, processing, storage).
- Strengthen reciprocity-based economies.
- Establish community infrastructure for storage and value addition.

4. Support Indigenous Peoples' food systems and territorial economies (ii)

On knowledge-based practices

- Recognize Indigenous Peoples' role in managing and conserving agrobiodiversity.
- Legally protect the right to save, use, exchange and govern seeds and other genetic materials.
- Support practices in conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources.

On fair and non-extractive markets

- Facilitate market systems that support Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods without undermining food sovereignty.
- Promote public procurement from Indigenous Peoples' producers.

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5. Enable Indigenous Peoples-led knowledge systems

- Recognize Indigenous governance institutions as legitimate authorities.
- Promote co-creation of knowledge between Indigenous Peoples' and scientific systems.
- Formalize Indigenous Peoples' participation in knowledge-policy interfaces.
- Promote inclusive education systems that includes Indigenous Peoples' knowledge.
- Support intergenerational and vernacular transmission of knowledge.

6. Align food systems' transformation agendas with Indigenous Peoples' priorities and rights

- Ensure that food systems' transformation agendas do not displace or marginalize Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Ensure accountability and coherence among UN, development and intergovernmental agencies and programmes in relation to Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Encourage the CFS to share this report and its recommendations with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other bodies representing Indigenous Peoples.
- Increase direct, long-term, flexible funding mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples' food systems.

7. Address gender, youth and intergenerational justice

- Integrate gender, youth and intergenerational perspectives into Indigenous Peoples' food systems policies.
- Promote initiatives led by Indigenous women and youth, addressing intersectional and multiple dimensions of inequalities.



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8. Ensure data and knowledge sovereignty and governance

- Ensure free, prior and informed consent in research and dissemination of knowledge on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Protect sacred, medicinal, genetic and ceremonial knowledge from appropriation.
- Establish UN protocols and codes of conduct for Indigenous Peoples' knowledges
- Support data platforms and territorial monitoring.
- Review regulatory frameworks on genetic resources and protect traditional knowledge from patents.



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9. Prioritize climate adaptation strategies for Indigenous Peoples to ensure food security and nutrition

- Ensure that climate, conservation and biodiversity policies integrate Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Apply appropriate environmental and social safeguards to all climate and biodiversity initiatives affecting Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Support Indigenous Peoples-led adaptation and conservation strategies, and monitoring of climate impacts, biodiversity loss and water quality.

10. Design and implement fair standards and inclusive regulations

- Apply accountability mechanisms for corporations operating in Indigenous Peoples' territories.
- Prevent commercial and industrial harm to Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- Ensure that market standards, certifications and regulations are inclusive of Indigenous Peoples.



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Thank you!

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