



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Contributing to SDGs through quality linked to geographical origin Indigenous Peoples, local communities and traditional knowledge

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Working for  #ZeroHunger



What are the issues?

1. Although indigenous peoples represent **6.2% of the world's population**, they represent **19% of the extreme poor**.
2. There is evidence that **market economy affects negatively indigenous peoples' food systems**:
 - Unhealthy market food increasingly available
 - Adoption of unsustainable production activities that damage the ecosystem

Why indigenous peoples have difficulties reaching the market?

1. Indigenous peoples' food systems present **unique and common characteristics** in terms of natural resource management:
 - Subsistence food systems that are not inserted in value chains/commercial food systems
 - **Food generation vs food production**: seasonality, enhancement of natural cycles and biodiversity, maintenance of the balance of the ecosystem, low external energy inputs
2. **Indigenous peoples' values** often conflict with values carried by the market economy
 - Biocentric vs anthropocentric
 - Embodied in traditional knowledge, culture, spirituality, cosmogony
 - Foods carry many dimensions: nutritional, medicinal, social, emotional, spiritual, etc.





What are the opportunities?

- There is an increasing demand worldwide for more nutritious and quality food, produced in line with values of respect for the environment and people' livelihoods and well-being.

In 2017: FAO and Bioversity International signed an agreement to produce a study on labelling and certification schemes for indigenous peoples' foods. Follows a recommendation that indigenous peoples' representatives made to FAO in 2015.

Objective: To explore the role of these tools in creating favourable economic conditions for exchange of biocultural products in respect of indigenous values, cultures, and identity.

- How to facilitate indigenous peoples' access to the market, how to ensure that indigenous peoples create added value out of it, and without losing the cultural and environmental dimensions of the system?
- What are the values indigenous peoples want to share and how are they protected?





Labelling and Certification Schemes for Indigenous Peoples' foods



LABELLING AND CERTIFICATION SCHEMES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FOODS

Protecting and promoting indigenous peoples' values



Vegetable merchant in the Adivasi style market in Odisha, India ©Living Farms/Devi Sarangi

FINAL DRAFT



To be released soon:

- FAO-Bioversity International publication
- With technical contributions from **ESN and Forestry divisions**



Supporting continuity of indigenous practices

All the schemes reviewed upheld cultural practices, norms and/or values of indigenous peoples.

Most cases involved marketing traditional foods that had strong roles in indigenous culinary practices and cosmogony.

- In several cases the use of these foods and their associated practices were declining and were given a renewed importance through the marketing initiative.
- We also looked at one case of an artisanal textile product: t'nalak cloth made by T'boli weavers

The preservation and exchange of traditional knowledge was notable in several schemes, especially through the process of developing the standard.

- The production protocol for **Sateré-Mawé Waraná** was defined through a collaborative process by the indigenous producer cooperative CPSM with support from Slow Food. The protocol embodies traditional practices for transplanting, cultivating and processing waraná.

Use of local language for documenting the standards supports the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, while serving also as a form of protection for intellectual property

AIMU'EHAP WARANA ETIAT SATERE
Y'WANIA PE, AIKOTĀ ME HET
TUWEMOREREP AMIKAWIANO WO
"WARANA OK SATERE-MAWE EHAP"



Protocolo de produção do "Pão de Waraná Sateré-Mawé"
Denominação de Origem Protegida

CPSM 2008



Wikimedia commons



Geographical indications support differentiation of quality products from indigenous territories

-In the case of t'nalak cloth, the collective trademark awarded to the group of 800 women weavers (T'nalak Tau Sebu, TTS) prevents other producers from selling cloth under the same name.

- Traceability is realized with serial numbers and seals attached to the final products

Evidence of how much income was generated was not available for all cases. Several cases were quite new but other schemes had operated over a considerable amount of time, suggesting a certain economic viability.

All the cases reviewed had **aims beyond profit** such as to promote use indigenous foods in the local area and community food system.

- The GI for **Northern Neuquen Creole Goat** did not continue in the long run because of weak market linkage



Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines 2017





Indigenous peoples' participation and leadership

To encourage continuity of indigenous values and practices, initiatives should be implemented under the primary leadership of local indigenous institutions, or otherwise in close collaboration with strong community engagement

Involvement of indigenous producers in defining the standards and marketing strategy themselves:

- allows a greater balance of power along the whole value chain
- provides better scope for communities to negotiate sufficient benefits from their production
- enables identification of products, development of the marketing narrative and commercialisation strategy in alignment with the unique indigenous values of the community

An indigenous-led process that is inclusive of all groups implied in the initiative helps to avoid violations of indigenous values and social conflict





Stakeholder support and enabling environment

- Participation of multiple stakeholders is helpful to address the complexity of technical and legal requirements and to facilitate market linkages.
- In supporting a sustainable initiative, NGOs, Research Organizations, Universities, and other actors can:
 - provide **technical support** to help in addressing challenges for fulfilling volume, safety standards, as well as keeping production costs low enough to make profit.
 - support **capacity building of indigenous peoples' institutions** to ensure equitable sharing of benefits and prevention of undesired social and environmental consequences
 - contribute to **raise awareness** among indigenous communities and consumers about the wealth and uniqueness of indigenous practices, and how market activities can harmonize with environmental and social sustainability
- The role of governments is also important in fostering an enabling environment
 - The economic struggle of indigenous peoples is not independent from trade and agricultural policies; several initiatives were clearly positioned as a resistance to neo-liberal free trade policies, which threaten and have undermined indigenous economies.
 - Recognition of indigenous people's **rights to their territories** and their inclusion in decision-making regarding territorial and economic development was a foundation for successful initiatives



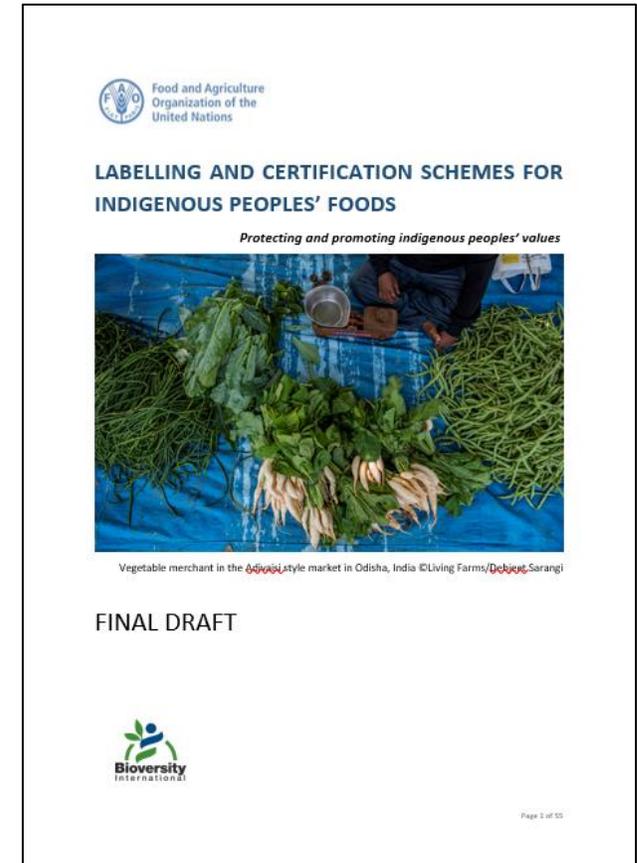


Check out the upcoming publication

Upcoming publication:

- Review of 12 case studies
- Guiding questions for indigenous communities in considering to engage in similar marketing initiatives
- Policy recommendations to Member States, FAO, private sector, researchers, indigenous peoples' organizations and other actors to **enhance conditions of success for these kinds of initiatives**, in respect to indigenous peoples' rights to development.

The report aims to enable indigenous peoples to continue contribute to further discussion, exchange and awareness raising to enable indigenous to be innovators of sustainable markets in favour of biodiversity and nutritional security.





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Thank you!

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