

***FAO-oriGIn Series of Webinars on “Contributing to SDGs through quality linked to geographical origin”***

***Sustainable use of wild collected products***

***12 November***

**Florence Tartanac - Opening speech**

It is my great pleasure to open this webinar on behalf of the Food and Nutrition Division of FAO, together with Sven, on such an interesting topic, the Sustainable use of wild collected products through Geographical Indications processes.

I will let Sven to say more about the wild collected products and their strong link to the preservation of natural resources, the need for local governance to manage their ecosystem and the source of income they represent for rural families.

What I would like to highlight is their importance when talking about food, for nutrition and healthy diet: not only the wild collected food products are nutritious (fruits, mushrooms, honey, aromatic herbs...) but also, due to their local biodiversity, they provide a wealth of specific nutrients and ensure diversification of the diet while also providing functional components.

The use of GI could represent a way to protect them but also to give value to these products on the market and then to facilitate the access to these products to consumers.

Indeed the synergies between a territorial strategy building on GI and the category of wild collected products is an emerging area of work which deserves lots of our attention because of the multiple benefits they can provide on the different pillars of sustainability: economic, social, environmental and governance, the four pillar of the Sustainability Strategy for GI developed by ORIGIN and FAO.

Since 2007, FAO implements a specific approach to support member countries in their implementation of GI so to unleash their potential for sustainable development and sustainable food systems.

The development of a coherent GI sustainability strategy is a natural evolution of this vision, in order to enhance the contribution of GIs to the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.

Since 2017 we are working with Origin to support GI stakeholders and their associations interested in developing their own sustainability strategy. A key step of this collaboration was the development and adoption by oriGIn members of the *Sustainability Strategy for Geographical Indications (SSGI)* in October 2017.

As explained yesterday by Luis Samper (for those of you who also attended the webinar), the strategy has three main stages: Prioritize, Assess and Improve. Some tools and guidelines are now being developed. This webinar series is also part of this strategy to raise awareness and develop knowledge on GI sustainability.

The webinar of today will be a great opportunity to learn from the different presentations about best practices around the world on GI processes to maximize benefits from wild collected products . I encourage all participants to contribute to the discussions and to share their experience, to propose synergies among projects and highlight recommendations for practitioners, academic and public authorities for increased benefits from GI on wild collected products!

The conclusions and recommendations will be presented during the final webinar on 2 December to build a global roadmap.