

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD

Regional consultation workshops 2016:

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth

Introduction

The Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is a concrete way for IFAD to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives.

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth, will be the overall theme for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD, scheduled to take place at IFAD Headquarters in Rome on 10 and 13 February 2017, in conjunction with the Governing Council. This will also be the theme for the regional consultation workshops that will be organized in preparation for the global meeting in November and December 2016.

The **second global meeting** of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD took place in Rome in February 2015. At the meeting, indigenous peoples' representatives underlined their commitment to:¹

- Work with IFAD to document and scale up sustainable livelihood practices.
- Build alliances with partners that are working on issues related to sustainable livelihoods and food systems, including producer and consumer associations, the fair trade community and the Slow Food movement.
- Continue to work together, across countries and regions, to share good practices for strengthening resilience and to ensure intergenerational continuity of indigenous food systems and sustainable practices.

→ The global Indigenous Peoples Forum meeting is the culmination of a broader process

In preparation for the second global meeting of the Forum in 2015, regional workshops took place in late 2014 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific in order to identify regional recommendations for further strengthening the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.

The theme of the second global meeting was *Indigenous peoples' food systems and sustainable livelihoods*.

Proceedings of the second global meeting and the regional consultations are available at <https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/c455660d-303e-4863-ae0e-82e85c6c7bd2>

The indigenous peoples' representatives recommended that IFAD design targeted initiatives for indigenous women and youth in order to promote

¹ See the full text of the Synthesis of Deliberations of the global meeting at: <https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/b4d499ad-9217-4007-a893-31b6911b327f>

activities related to traditional economies and marketing in IFAD-funded projects. Initiatives recommended included skills development, intergenerational dialogue, leadership training, participation in decision making, and increased access to appropriate technology.

These recommendations echo the outcome document of the **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** held in 2014, which recognizes the importance of the role that indigenous peoples can play in economic, social and environmental development through traditional sustainable agricultural practices, access to markets, secure land tenure, social services, knowledge, and appropriate and affordable technologies. Their role will contribute to the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to improve and develop their economic conditions (articles 21 and 23), and the ILO Convention 169 and the Convention on Biological Diversity, both of which promote indigenous economic systems.

The new **IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, in line with the 2030 Agenda**,² commits to leave no one behind, and reaffirms IFAD's commitment to indigenous peoples' self-driven development. The Strategic Framework states that IFAD will pro-actively support indigenous peoples, as part of its target group, in developing their skills and assets to benefit from emerging economic opportunities, while respecting and enhancing their traditional livelihoods, occupations and knowledge. IFAD's interventions and its targeting of indigenous peoples will be improved by conducting more in-depth socio-cultural and vulnerability analyses of different target groups and by integrating specific indicators on their well-being to capture impacts and results.

The new Strategic Framework recognizes women, indigenous peoples and youth as priority groups for inclusive rural transformation and sustainable development. Investing in and harnessing the potential of rural youth will be essential to sustain dynamic rural economic growth in the future. IFAD will pay closer attention to identifying and creating rural employment and enterprise options appropriate to them in the farm and the non-farm sectors.

The **Evaluation Synthesis Report**³ on IFAD's Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, indicated that *"with regard to access to markets by indigenous peoples, the findings on outcomes are mixed. There has been a general increase of 'value chain' projects in IFAD's portfolio, some of which involve indigenous peoples. The relevance of a 'value-chain approach' to indigenous peoples' well-being, especially to their traditional production systems, has not been understood well. There is some sense of discomfort among indigenous peoples about external support for promoting market-oriented (mainstreamed) production without due consideration of indigenous food systems and traditional knowledge and practices, their relationship with the environment, and their collective actions and social*

² IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025. Link: <https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/edb9b9d4-664e-42dc-a31e-db096e6a71b5>

³ Prepared in 2015 by the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation. Link: https://www.ifad.org/evaluation/reports/evaluation_synthesis/tags/indigenous_peoples/8371915

structures. This is an area which would benefit from further research and analysis of experiences."

All of these recent developments point to the importance of understanding, from the perspective of indigenous peoples, what their economic empowerment entails and how IFAD can support them through its investment instruments. Therefore, it has been decided that ***economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth***, will be the overall theme for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples

"In the last decade, concerns about indigenous peoples' development have included the issue of consolidating cultural and political rights, and identifying indigenous peoples as agents of change and drivers of economic actions to a more comprehensive development with identity. Although in many countries indigenous peoples actively participate in economic development, the impact on improving their well-being is usually not effective."⁴

The traditional and local economic systems of indigenous peoples are characterized by a diversity of small-scale, family-based economic activities, along with regulation of territories, sustainable use of natural resources, and social responsibility within the local communities. These are integral aspects to indigenous peoples' lives. However, their economic systems are under increasing pressure to conform to a globally defined agenda. Traditional systems focus on supplying the basic needs of the local community by barter trading and marketing any subsistence production surplus. The focus of the global economy is on supplying the demands of others. This balance is now shifting, with an increased demand for cash, and with an increasing number of indigenous peoples' communities moving away from subsistence production to more commercial forms of production.⁵

"Whereas this has provided opportunities for some, it has meant severe challenges for many, and very few indigenous peoples' communities seem to have genuinely profited from their integration into the market economy. Instead many have lost precious resources such as agricultural lands to loan schemes and contract farming schemes. As a result, in many areas and territories, indigenous peoples' communities have not had the means to develop local markets."⁶

"Access to markets is still limited, and communities that want to market their goods very often have to operate through third parties who take the biggest

⁴ Draft report: "Exploratory Study on Indigenous Peoples and the Private Sector: Collaboration experiences". Prepared by Eileen Mairena C., contributed by: Rainiero Romero and Jorge Servin

⁵ Article by J. Lasimbang (AIPP): "Indigenous Peoples and Local Economic Development": [http://pro169.org/res/materials/en/development/IPs%20and%20Local%20Economic%20Dev elopment.pdf](http://pro169.org/res/materials/en/development/IPs%20and%20Local%20Economic%20Development.pdf)

⁶ Ibid.

piece of the pie. Indigenous producers have very little control over the pricing of their goods, as their bargaining power is limited and they are subjected to the fluctuations of the market. Despite years of experience and numerous efforts to form cooperatives, the situation of most indigenous peoples' communities has deteriorated." ⁷

For IFAD to improve its development effectiveness in working with indigenous peoples, it is therefore important to discuss how to create market relations and income generation opportunities in which indigenous peoples can play as equal partners and for which the value of their products includes the value of the heritage and knowledge of the people who produce them. Training is clearly a priority – in downstream processing, value addition, marketing and promotion of products (including creation of niche markets with fair trade or other certifications), and forming functional cooperatives and producer groups to create markets.

Indigenous peoples have identified another priority: the promotion and legal recognition of traditional occupations and practices. "In the past years, discrimination against such occupations has resulted in significant loss of income and traditional knowledge. For instance, condemning rotational/shifting cultivation as destructive to the environment has resulted in loss of lands and violation of the rights of indigenous peoples in many countries in Asia, when in fact shifting cultivation is now recognized as one of the most sustainable forms of land use."⁸

The private sector has an important role to play. A successful partnership between the private sector and indigenous peoples should be measured by the impacts that this relationship has on the local communities, the environment of indigenous territories and the protection of the identity, culture and rights of indigenous peoples' communities.⁹ Too often, this does not happen, and displacement occurs in the name of development and markets. What role can IFAD play to foster a dialogue between the private sector and indigenous peoples to empower their communities as equal partners in the equation?

To foster initiatives that promote the integrated economic development systems of indigenous peoples will be a crucial and sustainable global contribution. The sustainable use of natural resources, which is embedded in the indigenous peoples' economic systems, can steer future practices toward making communities more resilient at the global level.

A focus on women and youth

"Indigenous women throughout the world are among the most marginalized groups, suffering discrimination not only on the basis of sex and race, but also on

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Draft report: "Exploratory Study on Indigenous Peoples and the Private Sector: Collaboration experiences". Prepared by Eileen Mairena C., contributed by: Rainiero Romero and Jorge Servin

the basis of their cultures and class. The complex interaction of factors such as colonialism, globalization, nationalism, and top-down policies and paternalistic approaches to development have resulted in a social and economic environment that has been limiting for indigenous women.

Moreover, with the erosion of collective/community ownership of land and natural resources as well as the evolution of institutions that recognize the essence of patriarchal private property, indigenous women often forfeit their rights to land and natural resources to the male members of their communities. In many countries, indigenous women play a crucial role in small-scale trade and business and do have control over financial transactions. But still, the custodians of their properties, and even liquid assets, are the male members of their families. Women have to seek permission and guidance to invest their earnings in business ventures or education or to buy goods. For these reasons, among others, applying gender perspectives to indigenous peoples' economic and social development is paramount to make a difference in the approaches and strategies designed to empower and advance indigenous peoples' communities."¹⁰

Similarly, young indigenous people are faced by a number of challenges. "As the young guardians of 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity handed down to them by their forefathers, indigenous youth will play a critical role in sustainable development, long-term food security, and responding to climate change while safeguarding the earth's ecosystem. But to do so, they will need to overcome some daunting social hurdles and development challenges. Despite some of the advances in the policy arena, indigenous peoples' communities and their youth continue to face discrimination and exclusion. For instance, young indigenous women are especially disadvantaged – as women, as indigenous and as youth – affecting their opportunities to enter the job market and their ability to make decisions about their reproductive lives. Indigenous youth must be regarded as assets, as they are powerful messengers of their communities."¹¹

There is also a need to acknowledge, research and address the growing "identity crisis" among indigenous youth that has led to a decline in their wellbeing. The loss of cultural identity is a major contributing factor to the increasing rate of

"Pastoralists have much to offer in terms of unique indigenous knowledge, economic contributions, cultural diversity and more. In order for pastoralists to realize their full potential, misconceptions need to be corrected and supportive policies and programmes put in place. There is an increasing body of scientific research that demonstrates that pastoralists and pastoralism make significant contributions to local, national and regional economies. For example, research in Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya and Zimbabwe comparing the productivity of pastoralism to ranching all came to the same conclusion: pastoralism consistently outperforms ranching, and to a quite significant degree. Whereas commercial cattle ranching tends to specialize in only one product – meat – pastoralism provides a diverse range of outputs including meat, milk, blood, manure and traction which, when added up, is of greater value than meat alone. The high productivity of livestock in pastoral systems not only supports millions of pastoralists but also contributes significantly to other sectors in national and regional economies in Africa."

Source

http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/IA_3-09.pdf

¹⁰ Gender and Indigenous Peoples' Economic and Social Development. UN briefing note No.2. Link: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/BriefingNote2_GREY.pdf

¹¹ Paving a way forward for indigenous youth. IFAD Social Reporting Blog. Link: <http://ifad-un.blogspot.it/2016/05/paving-way-forward-for-indigenous-youth.html>

suicides and self-harm. Additionally, youth are often economically marginalized; their lack of economic opportunities and access to resources pushes them to migrate from their communities as part of large rural exodus.

There is an unprecedented and alarming depreciation of intergenerational knowledge transfer, leading to the loss of traditional ecological knowledge that has long enriched bio-cultural diversity, food systems and medicines among indigenous peoples. In working towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative for indigenous youth to take up this knowledge and put it into practice.

Finally, as it was recently highlighted by the UN Youth Envoy, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, at the 15th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the following are three key issues for working with indigenous youth:

- **First** is to ensure that young indigenous peoples have a voice not just in their communities but also at a global scale and starting at the United Nations. Therefore, there is a need for further advocacy at the grassroots and international levels.
- **Second** is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Youth Envoy calls for further collaboration with UN partners on strategies to tackle self-harm and build upon the wellbeing of young indigenous peoples, with programmes and projects that address the growing challenges that indigenous youth are facing.
- **Third**, there is a need to further expand partnerships with indigenous youth and tap into their knowledge and expertise in order to push for policies that will reach the local level. Supporting the aspirations of groups like the Global Youth Indigenous Caucus needs to be strengthened and replicated.

IFAD's experiences working with indigenous women and youth

Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth, is key to IFAD's work. In fact, IFAD has already generated important experiences, such as with the Comprehensive Women Cooperative 4 Pinos, R.L., in Guatemala, or in partnership with Slow Food¹², in creating Presidia in IFAD-funded projects, three directly involving indigenous peoples (one in Argentina and two in Colombia).

Similarly, a number of projects financed through the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) have demonstrated how economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth can be built on the cultural assets of local communities. Examples of such initiatives are with the Hmar communities in

¹² Grant completion report prepared by Slow Food

Tumuaka area, India, working with women and youth business groups; and in Peru with indigenous women artisans in the Andean highlands in the Lambayeque Region.

The focus of the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is an opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD staff to capitalize on their experiences and further strengthen their collaboration.

The regional workshops

In preparation for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD, regional workshops will be organized in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

Objectives

Within the overall focus on economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth, the specific objectives of the regional workshops are to:

- ✓ Exchange knowledge and experiences on good practices on indigenous peoples' economic empowerment that value and build on their distinctiveness, traditional knowledge, cultures and natural resources as assets.
- ✓ Identify the challenges that indigenous peoples face in pursuing economic empowerment, in terms of their identities, knowledge and aspirations.
- ✓ Identify opportunities for strengthening good practices as sustainable solutions for the future, and the corresponding elements for regional strategies to enhance IFAD's support to them.
- ✓ Analyse and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the theme of the 2017 Forum.

The regional workshops will also:

- Assess the progress of implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples adopted in 2009.
- Review the recommendations made at the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD (2015) and assess the progress of the recommendations and regional action plans adopted.
- Visit a project financed by IFAD or IPAF (depending on proximity and availability of resources).
- Prepare the regional participation in the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

Time frame and organization

The **Asia** regional consultation is being organized by Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).

The workshop will take place in Cambodia on 22-26 November 2016.

The **Pacific** regional consultation is being organized by the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) and IWGIA. The workshop will take place in Fiji on 21-22 November 2016.

The **Latin America and Caribbean** regional consultation is being organized by Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) and IWGIA. The workshop will take place in El Salvador on 23-27 November 2016.

The **Africa** regional workshop is being organized by IWGIA. The workshop will take place in Congo Brazzaville in December 2016.

All regional consultations will be organized in cooperation with IFAD country offices and IFAD staff.

Participants

Expected participants in the regional workshop are:

- Representatives of regional and sub-regional networks/constituencies of indigenous peoples (to be selected by the members of the steering committee in consultation with their regional and sub-regional networks/constituencies). They will represent 40 per cent of participants.
- Representatives from IFAD-funded projects in the regions and sub-regions (to be selected by country programme managers). They will represent 20 per cent of participants.
- Member(s) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- Member of IPAF co-management organization at the regional level (FIMI in LAC, Kivulini in Africa, and Tebtebba in Asia; possibly the IPAF Coordinator should represent the organization)
- Two Members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

All participants must be familiar with IFAD's investment projects and the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and be knowledgeable and/or engaged on the ground on the theme of the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD. Geographical balance within the region must be ensured, as well as the different ecosystems and livelihood systems (pastoralists, fisher folk, hunter and gatherers). Gender balance and the participation of youth will be ensured.

IFAD country programme managers and officers are strongly encouraged to participate in the regional consultations. IFAD staff are expected to cover their travel and accommodation costs. Project staff are welcome to participate in the regional consultations, provided they can cover the costs of their travel and accommodation.

Capturing good practices from IFAD-funded projects

Selected indigenous participants from IFAD-funded projects will be asked to submit a form that requests a brief description of cases of relevance to the overall theme, which the participants can share at the workshops.

The good practices should build on successful experiences from indigenous communities, groups of indigenous women and youth who have been empowered economically through IFAD-funded projects and initiatives that value and build on the distinctiveness of indigenous peoples, their traditional knowledge, cultures and natural resources as assets for their economic empowerment.

Third global meeting of the Forum

The third global meeting of the Forum will take place in Rome on Friday 10 and Monday 13 February 2017, in conjunction with the 40th session of the IFAD Governing Council (14 and 15 February 2017). The 40th session will host an indigenous peoples' panel with selected participants from the Indigenous Peoples' Forum.

On the occasion of the third global meeting of the Forum, the President of IFAD, Mr Kanayo Nwanze, will inaugurate a permanent room at IFAD dedicated to indigenous peoples. To decorate the room, representatives from the regional consultations are invited to offer handicrafts that represent their cultures and identities. They are welcome to do so by filling the attached form describing the items they wish to offer.

As requested by participants in the previous global meetings of the Forum, a space will be available at IFAD for an indigenous market.

Items for The Indigenous Peoples' Place – IFAD HQ

ITEM 1

Article/Object:

Material:

Indigenous Peoples group:

City/Village:

Country:

Author:

Dimensions (in centimetres)

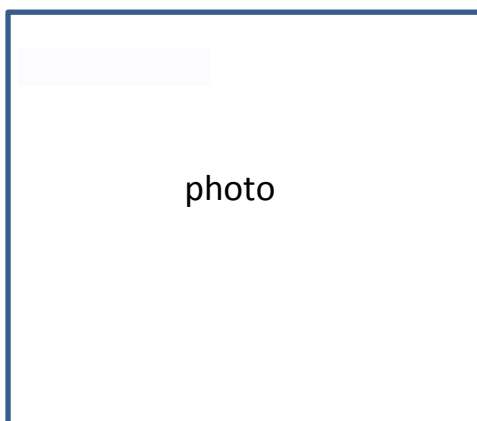
Height=

Width=

Depth=

Weight=

Provide a description of the item, its cultural value and the community who produced it:



ITEM 2

Article/Object:

Material:

Indigenous Peoples group:

City/Village:

Country:

Author:

Dimensions (in centimetres)

Height=

Width=

Depth=

Weight=

Provide a description of the item, its cultural value and the community who produced it:

