IFAD at COP26

Indigenous-led climate adaptation for sustainable food systems, where are the resources?

11 November | Time: 14.00 to 15.30 GMT

Wolde Gossa Tadesse
Board member of IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility

Wolde Gossa Tadesse is member of the steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum and board member of the Indigenous Peoples’ Assistance Facility (IPAF) at IFAD. He has served on other boards such as Dir Biyabir in California and Porini Association in Kenya. From the community of dere Chencha in Gamo he has several years of field experience as an ethnographer among southern Ethiopian pastoralists and cultivators of the Omotic area as well as pastoralists around Lake Chew Bahir and holds a PHD in Social Anthropology at LSE.

Jyotsna Puri (Jo)
Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department at IFAD

Jo leads the organisations strategy work in IFAD’s key areas targeting agriculture, climate, gender, nutrition, youth and social inclusion. She has worked previously at the Green Climate Fund, 3ie, UNEP, the World Bank and UNDP. She is also adjunct associate professor at Columbia University, New York.

Mai Thin Yu Mon
Program Director for the Indigenous Peoples Development Program of Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)

Mai Thin Yu Mon is the youth representative from Asia in the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD. She is also the Program Director for the Indigenous Peoples Development Program of Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO). She represents youth to the Executive Council of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP). A young and prolific human rights activist, she is an inspiring emerging Chin woman leader. She is member of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC).

Mirna Cunningham
Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, and as Board Member of the Indigenous Peoples’ Assistance Facility

Mirna Cunningham, indigenous Miskita from Nicaragua, worldwide known indigenous rights activist, former chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and current President

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of the Center for Indigenous Peoples’ Autonomy and Development, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. In 2014, Cunningham was nominated as Special Advisor to the President of the United Nations General Assembly to advice on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. She serves as Chair of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum at IFAD, and as Board Member of the Indigenous Peoples’ Assistance Facility (IPAF).

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
Member of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an indigenous Mbororo woman from Chad. She is expert in indigenous peoples’ adaptation to climate change, traditional ecological knowledge, and climate change mitigation strategies. She is member of UNPFII and has been the Co-Chair of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change during COP20, COP21, COP22, COP23, that lead to a significant recognition of indigenous peoples’ role in the fight against climate change. She founded the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT).

Jessica Vega
Cochair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, GIYC

Jessica Vega is a young indigenous female from the Mixteco People in Mexico. She studied political science and public administration at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Jessica is a promoter and trainer in Human Rights for Red de Jóvenes Indíneas LAC, which is an Indigenous Youth Network in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is Cochair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, GIYC.

Denisa Livingston
International Councillor for the Indigenous Network A member of the Diné people, representing the Global North

Denisa Livingston (Diné) is a food justice organizer of Diné Community Advocacy Alliance, Slow Food International Indigenous Councilor of the Global North, Ashoka Fellow, steering committee member of the Slow Food Turtle Island Association

Anders Oskal
Secretary General, World Reindeer Herders Association

Anders Oskal is the Secretary General at the Association of World Reindeer Herders and also is the Executive Director of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry in Guovdageaidnu/ Kautokeino, Norway. Oskal is a reindeer herding Sámi from Northern Norway, with a Master of Science in Business Administration specialized in Innovation Economy. He also is an Executive Committee Member of the Arctic Economic Council. Oskal was also a co-author of the IPCC AR5 WGII released in 2014. Prior to his current position, he worked for a number of years with business development in reindeer herding.
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Polina Shulbaeva
*Coordinator for IIFB, CBD process*
She works at the Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and is coordinator for IIFB at the CBD process

Dr Seu’ula Johansson Fua
*Kaumatua Parekura, Chairlady, MORDI Tonga Trust*
She is a Tongan academic and educational researcher. Her research explores how indigenous concepts of leadership can be tools in education systems across the Pacific region. She is currently Director of the Institute of Education at the University of the South Pacific.

Chris Honahnie
*Food Sovereignty Program Co-coordinator for the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC)*
Christopher Honahnie, Hopi and Dine (Navajo) Nations, is the Food Sovereignty Program Co-coordinator for the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC). His background is rooted in traditional Hopi dry-land agriculture. Christopher has been active in participating in various tribal, national, and international food sovereignty conferences and trainings

Joan Carling
*Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples’ Major Group (IPMG) for Sustainable Development*
Joan Carling is an indigenous activist from the Cordillera (Philippines) working on indigenous issues at all levels for more than 20 years. (2008-2016). Carling has been appointed by the UN Economic and Social Council as an indigenous expert of UNPFII (2014 – 2016), former Secretary General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), and member of the Advisory Council of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

Helen Magata
*Communications specialist (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education)*
Jenifer Magata is a Communications Officer with vast experience gained through working at Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education). She has also previously worked as a project development officer on social welfare and development issues affecting indigenous peoples

Stig Traavik
*Director of Climate, Energy & Environment, NORAD*
Director of Climate, Environment & Renewable Energy in Norad – the Norwegian Govt Agency for Development Cooperation. He is a former Ambassador to Indonesia having more than 25 years of international diplomatic experience in Indonesia, Afghanistan, Ivory Coast, and the UN/WTO. Stig was a Special Envoy for Norway’s International Forest and Climate initiative from 2018-2020.