



**Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD**  
*The value of indigenous food systems: resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic*

## **Indigenous Peoples' Week**

**From 8 to 12 February 2021**



Concept note

### **Indigenous languages for eradication of hunger and support of indigenous food systems**

**Day: 9 February 2021**  
**Time: 14.30 – 15.30 (CET)**

## Description of the event:

The 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages concluded with several important recommendations for the upcoming International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032). One of the strategic recommendations outlined in the [Strategic Outcome Document](#) of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages and the [Los Pinos Declaration](#) (Chapoltepek) emphasized the role of language as a cross-cutting phenomenon that encompasses and transcends all spheres of life, including the agriculture and indigenous food systems.

The right to food is one of the fundamental human rights which protects all human beings to live in dignity, free of hunger, food security and malnutrition. Over centuries, indigenous peoples have cultivated their lands and territories passing their traditional knowledge about the maintenance, preservation and restoration of their local ecosystems from one generation to another through their languages. There are intricate connections between health, land, knowledge of plants, foods, healing herbs, cosmology, mental, spiritual, cultural and social wellbeing, and that indigenous language users are the custodians of this knowledge.

Many recent important studies emphasized that the realization of indigenous peoples' rights to food depends not only on their access to and control over the natural resources and land, but food sovereignty and sustainability nowadays could be ensured by providing access to technology-based information services in languages understood by local population. Studies also provide solid arguments that digital technology improves the livelihoods of agriculturists and farmers through increased agricultural productivity and enhanced access to information for community supported agriculture which is provided through e-tools, resources and services such as geographic information systems, e-commerce, computer-controlled devices and other. Smart mobile applications in particular are widely used by the farmers for social communication, health emergencies, management of crops, contacting experts for getting agricultural advisories and other aspects. This is why it is important from one side to make sure that new technological solutions are developed in accessible and indigenous languages friendly manner, and from another side efforts would be taken to increase farmers' confidence and skills in using ICTs, as well as improvements would be made to support supply power and provide better network connectivity.

The side event aims to create a space for a dialogue for expansion of our understanding, sharing good practices, and reflection on future development of the Global Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. The event will establish strategic linkages with other ongoing International Decades such as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).

## Agenda:

- 14:30-14:40**      **Opening and introduction to the IDIL2022-2032**
- Dr Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Advisor for Communication and Information, Universal Access to Information Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO
- 14:40-15:00**      **Linkages between indigenous languages and indigenous food systems**
- Mr Bipin Kumar Jojo, Professor, Centre for Social Justice and Governance, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (India)
  - Mr Carlos De la Torre Postigo, Expert in rural development in the Andes, technical extension appropriate to native cultures, rural businesses and adaptation to climate change in high Andean area (Peru)
- 15.00-15:10**      **Towards e-community supported agriculture and food systems**
- Mr Neelam Kerketta, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)
- 15:10-15.30**      **Creating synergies and partnerships**
- Mr Yon Fernández-de-Larrinoa, Chief, Indigenous Peoples Unit, Partnerships and UN collaboration Division, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
  - Ms Antonella Cordone, Senior Technical Specialist in Nutrition, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
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### How to participate:

To access the event please visit/register ([LINK HERE](#))

### Point of contact:

UNESCO Secretariat for IDIL2022-2032

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### Interpretation provided:

English, French and Spanish interpretation will be broadcasted [with original audio here](#).