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Linking indigenous knowledge with transformation processes of sustainable food systems - follow up to the UN Food Systems Summit 2021 and responding to Food Crises



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Vice-President of Welthungerhilfe, GFFA, Berlin, January 20th, 2023 --- Panel 14, Keynote ---

bmel.de  



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INDIGENOUS VOICES

Who are indigenous peoples?

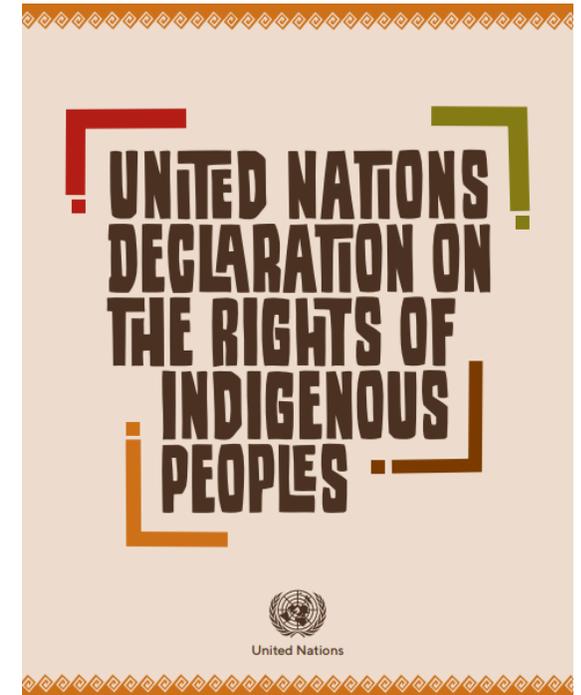
More than 370 million indigenous people spread across 70 countries worldwide. No official definition of “indigenous” by UN. Understanding of this term based on the following:

- ✓ Self-identification as indigenous peoples at the individual level and accepted by the community as their member.
- ✓ Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies
- ✓ Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources
- ✓ Distinct social, economic or political systems
- ✓ Distinct language, culture and beliefs
- ✓ Form non-dominant groups of society
- ✓ Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

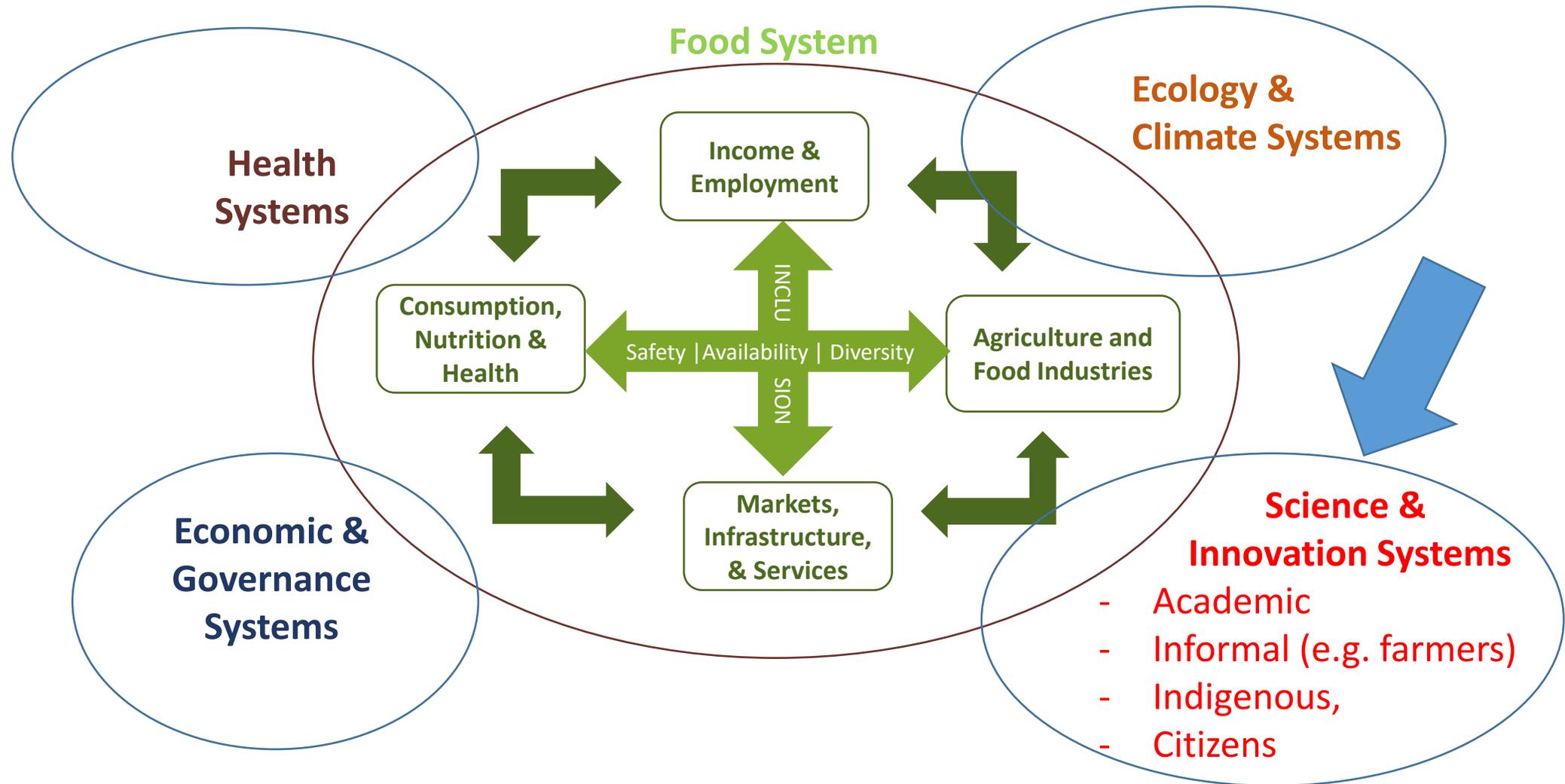
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) adopted by the UN General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007

“Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Article 31 1. “Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.”

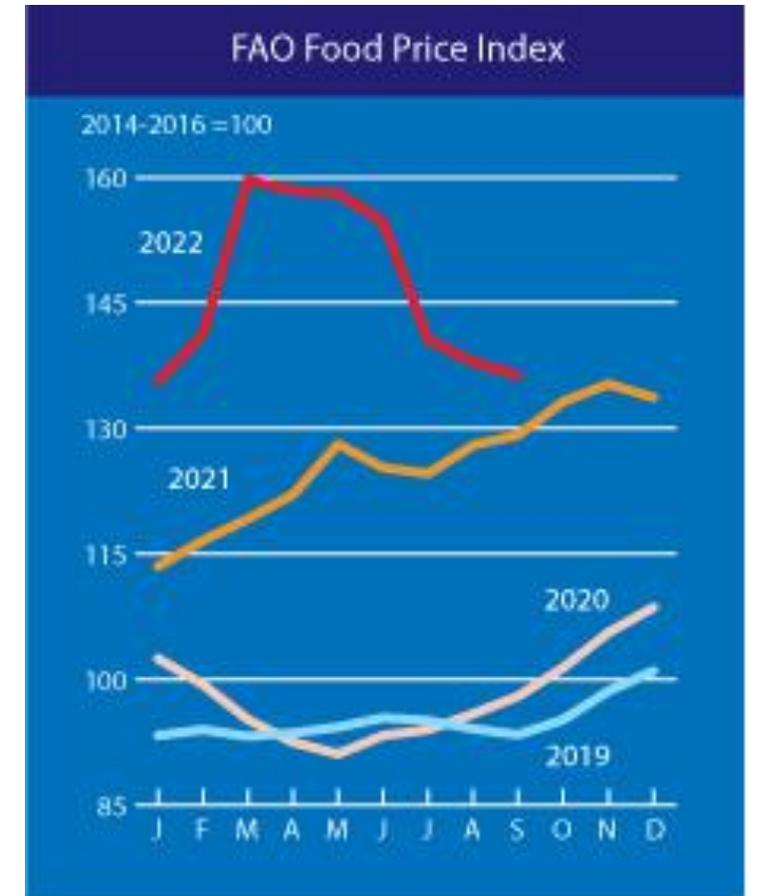


Food Systems and related Systems



The multi-dimensional food crisis and main Impacts on Indigenous Peoples (!)

1. **! Covid19**, weak health and disrupted food systems,
2. **! Climate change** destroys food systems **resilience**
3. **Wars** add to uncertainty and hinder **trade**,
4. **! Food price** inflation – hunger and healthy diets unaffordable,
5. **High energy prices and raw material (fertilizer) costs** constrain agriculture and food industries
6. **! Accumulated debts** cut social protection and nutrition programs,
7. **! Destruction of nature**, erosion of biodiversity and food security



<https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

Global food price inflation is mainly driven by cereal and vegetable oil prices

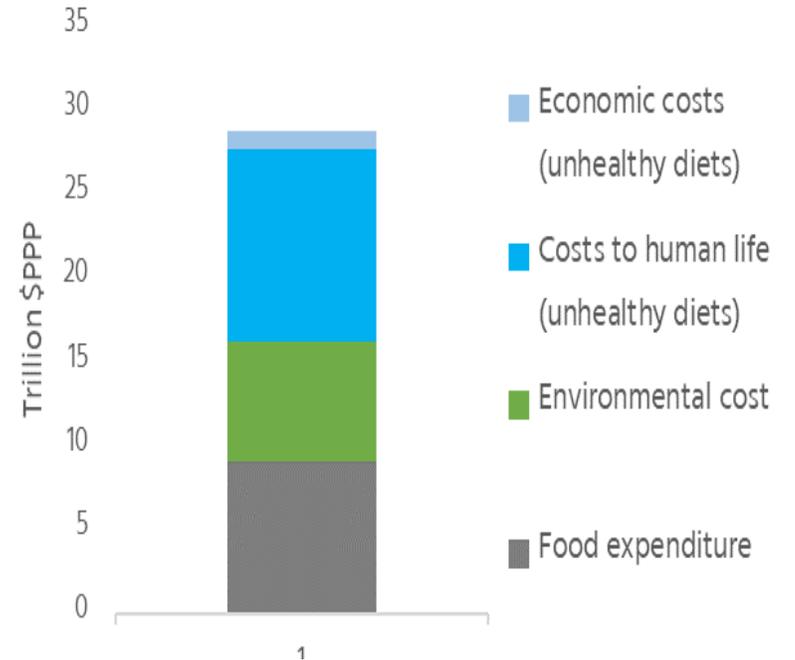
TRUE COSTS OF FOOD – Indigenous food systems undervalued

Market prices do not take into account...

- benefits of affordable or healthy food
- costs of unhealthy or unsustainable food

➤ **Sustainable & healthy food is too expensive**

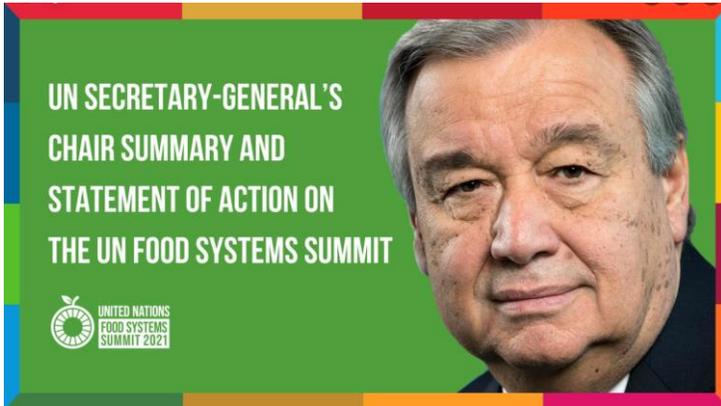
➤ **Unsustainable & unhealthy food is too cheap**



Food Costs:
9 trillion US\$ in markets
28 trillion US\$ the true cost
per annum

Source: S. Hendriks et.al. 2021. [The True Cost and True Price of Food](#). A Brief for the Scientific Group UN FSS

UN Food Systems Summit 2021 – prepared countries for crisis, but lacked global action



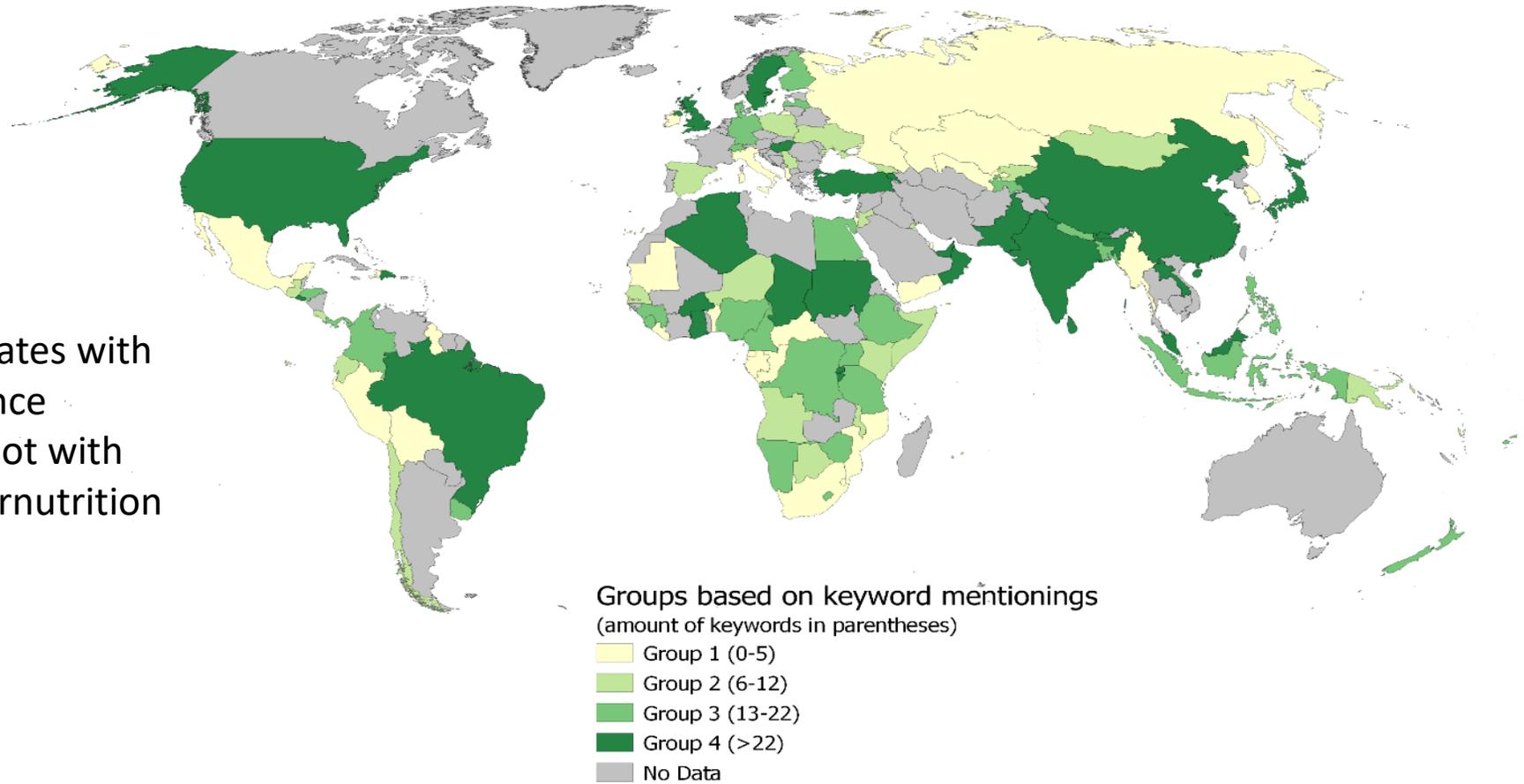
“**Five action areas** to help inform the transitions needed to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda:

- (1) Nourish All People;
- (2) Boost Nature-based Solutions;
- (3) Advance Equitable Livelihoods, Decent Work and Empowered Communities;
- (4) Build Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stresses; and
- (5) Accelerating the Means of Implementation”

118 Countries developed plans
(National Pathways)

**UN FSS National Pathways reports:
Countries' attention to science, research, innovation and technology (SRTI) for food systems**
- Analysis based on SRTI keyword mapping from available National Pathways reports

SRTI strongly correlates with countries' governance effectiveness, but not with prevalence of undernutrition



What attention to Innovation, knowledge, indigenous peoples in national pathways ?

Innovation & Knowledge: 111 of 117 Countries: 95%

Countries noting Indigenous Peoples Food Systems: 36%

- Africa: 33%
- Americas: 56%
- Asia: 28%
- Europe : 19%
- Oceania: 58%

Some big countries with (yes) or with out (-) noting their Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems

- Brazil: -
- India: yes
- China: -
- Indonesia: yes
- Nigeria: -
- USA: -
- Russia: -

Linking Science and Indigenous Peoples Knowledge: noted differences (UNFSS Indigenous Peoples' Wiphala Paper 2021)

Indigenous Peoples food systems...

1. knowledge and practices, have been and continue to be marginalised in policy-making.
2. cannot be characterised according to dominant conceptualisations of food systems that are presented as linear value chains.
3. are embedded in a biocentric approach intimately tied to nature
4. promote the equitable distribution of resources and power and support Indigenous identities and values.
5. knowledge, practices and worldviews differ from western science and provide a valuable contribution to current debates on sustainable food systems.
6. occupy over a quarter of the world's land, and their food systems can help preserve global biodiversity.
7. provide nourishment and healthy diets.
8. are themselves a game-changing solution

The 7 key investments for innovation in sustainable food systems and their linkages to indigenous knowledge

1. A bundle of policy and institutional **innovations to end hunger and increase availability and affordability of healthy diets** and nutritious foods
2. **De-risk food systems** and strengthen resilience, in particular for climate-neutral, climate-positive, and climate-resilient food systems
3. Innovations for efficient and fair **land, credit, and labor arrangements**
4. **Bioscience innovations** for peoples' health, systems' productivity, and ecological wellbeing
5. Technology-based and policy innovations for productive **soils, land and water, and to protect the agricultural genetic base and biodiversity**
6. Innovations for sustainable **fisheries, aquaculture**, and protection of coastal areas and oceans
7. **Digital innovations** for efficiency and inclusiveness of food systems and rural communities

All 7 are of relevance for linking indigenous knowledge with all other ways of innovation

Scientific Group for the UNFSS 2021 J von Braun, K Afsana, L Fresco and M Hassan. 2021. Food systems: seven priorities to end hunger and protect the planet. *Nature* 597, 28-30 (2021) <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02331-x>

Two Priorities for Action in Support of and Partnership with Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems

- 1. Policy positioning:** Inclusion of indigenous peoples' perspectives in UNFSS National Pathways, if they want so. And considering transnational and own pathways of indigenous peoples for the way forward.
- 2. Learning and knowledge sharing:** Partnership with science communities in countries and internationally and join in advanced exploration of indigenous food systems contributions to healthy diets, biodiversity, resource protection (with and versus other food systems in the same contexts).