



Voicing indigenous food sovereignty in the global North: Concerns and struggles in Sweden, Finland, Russia and Canada

1-2 of December 2021
CET time zone ● Online

The workshop is organised within the framework of SLU Future Food funded project ***Reindeer herding: An indigenous food system in transition.***

Register to the workshop here: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5ltcOqtrToqG9fLfV2xDNEJqbrwmwvcv-Q>

Wednesday the 1st of December

09:00-09:15 **Welcome to the workshop**

Ildikó Asztalos Morell and **Izabel Nordlund**

Part 1 **Indigenous Food Systems**
Moderator: Elena Bogdanova

09:15-09:30 **Indigenous food sovereignty struggles in the north**

Globalisation of the food system as well as increasing exploitation of natural resources creates diverse challenges for maintaining indigenous food systems. Indigenous food sovereignty concerns not only the struggle for maintaining traditions but provides knowledge for sustainable futures.

Ildikó Asztalos Morell, *associate professor in rural development, Division for Rural Development, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*

09:30-09:45 **Exploring a right to traditional food and food systems of Indigenous peoples with a focus on the European Arctic**

Traditional food systems (TFSs) consist of activities in which food is collected or produced locally from available natural resources, shared and consumed locally as part of customary food practices, and processed for wider distribution within and beyond the local region. For Indigenous peoples, traditional food systems play an essential role, as the food practice is not meant to produce food for only physical consumption only; it is also about maintaining traditional culture

and cultural identity around food practices. The presentation will offer an insight into the protection and promotion of traditional food systems of the Arctic Indigenous peoples through the lens of human rights and human security.

Kamrul Hossain, *Director of the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law and Research Professor at University of Lapland*

09:45-10:00 **Break**

10:00-10:15 **Slow Food Sápmi - Traditional Saami food**

Is the green transition a threat against the traditional Saami food culture?

Anneli Jonsson, *chairperson, Slow Food Sápmi*

10:15-10:30 **Reindeer Herding as a Part of Saami Heritage in the Kola Peninsula**

Reindeer herding is a part of Saami culture that is to be maintained and supported by the government. Indigenous knowledge should be disseminated via media, educational programs and strengthening collaboration of the Indigenous communities in the Arctic.

Valentina Sovkina, *Director of the Kola Sami Radio*

10:30-11:00 **Panel discussion**

11:00-11:30 **Mingle in Break Out Rooms with speakers from part 1**

11:30-13:00 **Lunch**

Part 2 Value Chain and Technological Challenges

Moderator: **Ildikó Asztalos Morell**

13:00-13:15 **Food sovereignty of the Indigenous Peoples in the Russian Arctic: challenges for reindeer herding**

Reindeer herding as being both a profitable business and part of the traditional culture of the nomadic Indigenous peoples in the Russian Arctic is facing many the challenges. Strengthening the position of reindeer herders in the food value chain could contribute to securing healthy, accessible, and culturally appropriate food for local communities and reindeer herders, while promoting the desired lifestyle of the given group. The presentation will aim to highlight the dependencies of Indigenous peoples on the reindeer produce—exporting “food value chain” and explore how the independence of reindeer herders could be increased in these export chains and how provision of their products to local communities could be secured.

Elena Bogdanova, *Research Professor, NARFU, Archangelsk*

13:15-13:35 **Digitalization in the reindeer value chain as a means of promoting food security: Emphasis on Russian Murmansk and Finnish Lapland regions**

The presentation will be exploring the role of digital solutions to improve marketing opportunities for reindeer as culturally appropriate food, ecologically and sustainably produced in the Arctic regions of Russian and Sweden.

Bamidele Raheem, *Senior Researcher, Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority at University of Lapland, and*

Maxim Shishaev, *professor at Murmansk Arctic State University and chief researcher at Kola Science Centre of RAS*

13:35-13:50 **Challenges for small scale businesses in processing reindeer meat**

Small scale family businesses processing venison often integrate reindeer herding with processing and marketing products. A small scale enterprise needs to engage with diverse activities that are locally anchored.

Andreas Lidström, *Viltprodukter, Vilhelmina*

13:50-14:00 **Break**

14:00-14:20 **Reclaiming circular food production requires new technology**

Sápmi Innovation AB and the Industrial Design unit at Luleå University of Technology present experiences based on the ambition to develop reindeer slaughter and cutting in a "green" direction. New ideas about, among other things, food are discussed like never before. Based on traditional knowledge, one can get far. But the methods for slaughter, cutting and processing must be in sync with the requirements and expectations that exist today. This means that new technology is needed, ie newly developed equipment and methods.

Annelie Päiviö, *Dálvvadis ekonomisk förening Jokmökk Sámi Innovations* and
Maria Udén, *professor at Luleå University of Technology*

14:20-14:40 **Food strategies in the northern regions of Sweden and Sami food futures**

Regional food strategies are to show long-term goals for the development of the food sector yet lack insights from an indigenous food perspective. The presentation reflects on how Sami food interests are reflected in the strategies.

Robin Eriksson, *student at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*,
Isak Falk-Eliasson, *student at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*, and
Ildikó Asztalos Morell, *Associate professor at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*,
supervisor

14:40-15:10 **Panel discussion**

15:10-15:35 **Mingle with participants of part 2**

15:35-15:45 **Break**

Part 3 **Culture, Heritage and Food Sovereignty**

Moderator: Bamidele Raheem

15:45-16:00 **Pathfinders for the Future? Indigenous Rights and Traditional Knowledge in Sweden**

This lecture presents an analysis of the development of a Saami argumentation regarding their rights and role in the governance of land and biological resources in Sápmi since 1992. Departing from local understanding of rights to national policy via international negotiations.

Håkan Tunón, *senior research officer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences*

16:00-16:15 **Indigenous Food Sovereignty - Exploring Indigenous Food Systems**

A discussion about the effects of colonization and food insecurity in Indigenous food systems. How cultural reconnection is key to taking back our traditional food systems on and off reserve.

Dion Nelson, *Indigenous Facilitator at The Alex Community Food Centre*

16:15-16:30 **Food security and food sovereignty issues facing First Nations in Canada**

Jodi Calahoo-Stonehouse is Mohawk and Cree from the Michel First Nation and executive director of the Yellowhead Indigenous Education Foundation. She will discuss food security and food sovereignty issues facing First Nations in her region of Treaty 6 Territory in Canada and gives an account of aquaponic and vertical garden projects at the Yellowhead Tribal College.

Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse *Executive Director of Yellowhead Indigenous Education Foundation Canada*

16:30-17:00 **Panel discussion**

17:00-17:30 **Mingle with participants in part 3**

17:30-17:45 **Break**

17:45-18:15 **Keynote speaker: Dawn Morrison**, *Secwepemc, Founder/Curator, Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty*

Our Food is our Relative: From Production to Regeneration

This Keynote presentation will introduce and apply a Decolonizing Food System: Cross Cultural Interface Framework to appreciate and inquire into the diverse expressions of food sovereignty in Indigenous food systems. The presentation will explore key points in the cross cultural interface where potential for transformational learning lives in Indigenous Food Systems networks. The presentation will appreciate and build on the analysis and insights gained in conversations with subsistence hunters, fishers and gatherers who are challenged to protect, conserve and restore the remaining in tact ecosystems that have provided us without food since time immemorial.

Moderator: Ellacarin Blind

18:15-18:45 **Discussion**

Thursday the 2nd of December

08:30-09:00 **Reflections from yesterday in breakout rooms**

Part 4 Nutrition and Health

Moderator: Kamrul Hossain

09:00-09:30 **Keynote speaker: Lena Maria Nilsson**, Associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and global health, Lávvuo - Research and Education for Sámi health, Umeå university

Consumption of traditional Sámi food and health

The traditional diet in Sápmi is based on wild plants and animals available in this Arctic area. The Sami people are known to be the healthiest indigenous population worldwide. If this, fully or partly, can be explained by dietary factors, it is unclear. This presentation summarizes current knowledge on the health aspects of some dietary patterns, food items, and preparation techniques of relevance in Sápmi.

09:30-10:00 **Discussion**

10:00-10:10 **Break**

10:10-10:30 **The Impact of Traditional Nutrition on Human Health and Adaptation to the Arctic**

The nutrition of indigenous people of North of the Western Siberia is characterized by a significant share of traditional foods in the diet. Eating local products, a person receives a ready-made set of macro-, microelements necessary for adaptation to adverse factors of the Arctic. Currently, high consumption of traditional foods is typical only in the season of fishing or slaughter of deer, out of season, consumption of foods rich in easily digestible carbohydrates increases. Due to climate change, the seasonal fishing of local fish, and traditional migration routes are disrupted, and the consumption of traditional food is reduced.

Sergey Andronov, Ph.D, MD, Senior Researcher, Laboratory for Studying the Mechanisms of Physical Factors Action, Center for Testing and Examination of Natural Healing Resources, National Medical Research Center for Rehabilitation and Balneology, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation and

Andrey Lobanov, Ph.D, MD, Head of the Laboratory for Studying the Mechanisms of Physical Factors Action, Center for Testing and Examination of Natural Healing Resources, National Medical Research Center for Rehabilitation and Balneology, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation

10:30-10:45 **Golleguolli - Traditional fishing in Sápmi**

The project "Golleguolli", the Gold of the Fish, aims to make the Sámi wild-caught fishery visible and raise what challenges the traditional Sámi fishing will have in the future. The project is carried out in collaboration with Slow Food Sápmi and with the support of the European Agricultural Fund.

Ellacarin Blind, National Ass: Of the Sámi people in Sweden, SSR, and Slow Food Sápmi

10:45-11:00 **Helena and Peter Andersson Renbiten**, Idre Sameby

11:00-11:30 **Panel discussion**

11:30-12:00 **Mingle in Break Out Rooms with speakers from part 4**

12:00-13:00 **Lunch**

Part 4 Holistic View on the Animal, Human and Nature Relations

Moderator: Lena Maria Nilsson

13:00-13:15 The impact of pasture resources on reindeer meat production

Various factors affect the productivity of reindeer husbandry and limit the supply of reindeer meat. In addition, meat quality can be affected by the access to natural pasture and need for supplementary feeding.

Birgitta Åhman, *professor in reindeer husbandry, Swedish University of Agricultural Science*

13:15-13:30 From forests, via lichen to reindeer products - an industrial, ecological and socio-cultural food web

The presentation will explore the link between industrial forestry, its consequences on forest conditions and the resulting effects on key reindeer winter grazing resources.

Per Sandström, *associate professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Science,*

13:30-13:40 Break

13:40-14:00 Reindeer herding, Dialogue and Encounters in the Arctic

Mika Aromäki and Janne Nakkaljärvi *Sámi Education Institute (SAKK), Inari, Finland*

14:00-14:15 The impact of competing land uses on reindeer husbandry in Sweden

Depending on natural pastures as resource reindeer access to pastures is vital for the reindeer husbandry system. Historical and new exploitation threaten reindeer use of these pastures.

Anna Skarin, *professor in reindeer husbandry, Swedish University of Agricultural Science*

14:15-14:45 Panel discussion

14:45-15:15 Mingle in Break Out Rooms with speakers from part 4

15:15-15:30 Break

Part 5 Summing Up and Looking Ahead

15:30-15:45 Summary of the project, reflection about ethic and cooperation.

Ildikó Asztalos Morell and Elena Bogdanova

15:45-16:15 Discussion of future needs for cooperation and ending of the workshop

16:15-17:00 Closed meeting for the project group

For more information contact Izabel Nordlund izabel.nordlund@slu.se and Ildikó Asztalos Morell, project leader, ildiko.asztalos.morell@slu.se, SLU, Department for Urban and Rural development,

Read more about the project here: <https://www.slu.se/en/departments/urban-rural-development/research/rural-development/ongoing-projects/indigenous-food-system-in-transition/>