



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION: A PATHWAY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

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CHALLENGES TO SELF DETERMINATION

- Mass evictions, militarization, dispossession from their lands and exploiting of natural resources without consent.
- Intimidation and threats to human rights defenders inform of arrests, death, victimization, persecution.
- Non-compliance of the states to enforce laws and policies on indigenous peoples rights.
- Lack of legal recognition, and exclusion from decision-making processes.
- Climate change and environmental destruction disproportionately impact Indigenous territories, undermining traditional food sources.



THE LINK TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND FOOD SECURITY

- For indigenous communities, food is not just a commodity. **It is sacred and is part of our relationship with the earth, with our ancestors, and with future generations.**
- When indigenous peoples have control over their land and natural resources, they thrive:
 - **We protect biodiversity through traditional farming and foraging systems.**
 - **We adapt to climate change using indigenous knowledge.**
 - **We feed our communities without depending on external aid or exploitative systems.**
- Many Indigenous Peoples are reviving their agroecological food systems because they are more resilient to climate change and provide more nutritious diets than modern food systems.



THREATS TO FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND FOOD SECURITY

- Today, many indigenous communities continue to face hunger, not because of lack of knowledge, but because of **lack of access to land, water, forests, and the freedom to make decisions about them.**
- In recent years, indigenous communities have faced dispossession from their territories, prompting them to seek justice through the legal system. Despite receiving positive judgments, they continue to endure significant human rights violations. Additionally, other indigenous communities have experienced frequent militarization, resulting in extreme poverty that forces them to rely on food relief.
- For the Ogiek, recent years have shown both progress and pain. The 2017 **African Court ruling** and **2022 reparation ruling** affirmed our land rights. But implementation has been slow. Until these rights are respected and protected, food insecurity and poverty persist.

Let's be clear: there can be **no food security without land security and land rights** and no food sovereignty without self-determination.



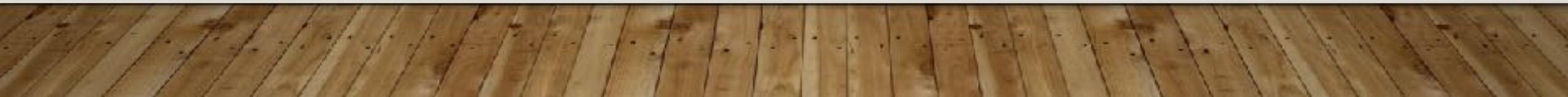
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- Food systems are being driven by **political agendas with introduction of Genetically Modified crops**
 - **Colonial policies imposed on foreign agricultural methods** for fast growing crops, which disrupts traditional practices, and criminalized cultural expression. These policies limits Indigenous governance, leading to food insecurity and environmental degradation.
 - **Increase use of hazardous chemicals** have led to rise in health related cases and interference of traditional food systems

Food sovereignty goes by affirming the right of people to define their own food systems, rooted in culture, ecology, and self-governance. For Indigenous Peoples, sovereignty is critical it allows them to grow, gather, hunt, and prepare food in ways that are sustainable and culturally meaningful.



Indigenous Vegetables and Ogiek honey. Photo by OPDP





RECOMMENDATIONS

As we mark International Day of World Indigenous Peoples we:

- **Advocate for the full implementation of laws, policies, court rulings and decisions** that protects IPs land and territories to guarantee their self determination
- **Enactment of new laws and regulations to promote indigenous food systems agroecological practices.** *Currently we are working with the counties on agroecology projects to support in production of organic food systems*
- The need to include indigenous peoples voices in **decision making processes at all levels**
- The need to advocate for **legislation governing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** for all projects conducted within indigenous peoples' territories.

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Launch of Agroecology Case study. Photo by OPDP

- Crucially, Indigenous voices must be at the center of policy development to ensure that solutions are grounded in their lived realities
- **Advocating for recognition of Indigenous Food Systems** including Agroecology, agrobiodiversity and conservation agriculture.
- Governments should **invest in Indigenous-led food and land initiatives** to promote the production of organic food that is healthy for consumption.
- Philanthropic and international organizations can support **capacity building trainings, seed-saving and preservation, and food education projects based in traditional knowledge.**



CONCLUSION

- Indigenous Peoples should be actively involved in the policy-making process through comprehensive consultation.
- Indigenous Peoples need to innovate and preserve their food systems by enhancing marketability and adopting sustainable production methods.
- Recognition of Indigenous Peoples knowledge in fostering adaptation strategies to climate change, the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources and enable smooth generational renewal and gender equality in farming systems.



Agroecology product exhibition. Photo by OPDP



THANK YOU

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