

Indigenous Foods Knowledges Network

Key Project Contact(s):

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Project Website Urls & Social Media Accounts:

<https://ifkn.org/>

Project Objectives:

Goal: The goal of the Indigenous Foods Knowledges Network (IFKN) is to develop a network in the Arctic and US Southwest comprised of Indigenous leaders, citizens, and scholars (both Indigenous and non-Indigenous) who are focused on research and community capacity related to food sovereignty and resilience, and who will collectively work to promote and carry out research that 1) utilizes the Indigenous research processes, 2) embraces and respects Indigenous Knowledge systems, and 3) supports Indigenous communities. See IFKN's [charter](#) to learn more about our guiding principles and specific goals. Methods: In-person meetings where we spend time on the land learning from demonstration projects; Zoom meetings and webinars; blog and satellite gatherings at conferences. Broader impact: Our network is building connections between Indigenous scholars and practitioners by focusing on concrete solutions and creating a space for shared learning and inspiration.

Keywords:

Indigenous Food Sovereignty, Governance, Arctic, Indigenous Knowledge, Networks, U.S. Southwest

Progress to Date/Future Plans: IFKN has hosted 3 in-person meetings at the in Gila River Indian Community (March 2018), Tohono O'odham Nation (March 2019), Nay'dini'aa Na'Kayax (June 2019) and sent a delegation to the Festival of Northern Fishing in Torino, Finland (September 2018). In the spring of 2018, IFKN invited nine Indigenous Peoples from both regions to be part of the Steering Committee. IFKN has written a charter (Spring 2018) and published a commentary in the [Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development](#) (December 2019), and has a profile piece in [Witness the Arctic Community Highlights](#). IFKN members have presented about the Network at various venues such as the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting. r. IFKN has hosted two webinars this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have suspended in-person meetings this year, but we plan on continuing the webinars and investigating other ways to stay in touch.

Highlights or Expected Outcomes: IFKN has found that meeting on the land facilitates deeper conversations and understanding of the relational foundation of food sovereignty than would occur in a conference room. Participants learn about each other's work, which can be helpful in their own work in their own communities. Commonalities have been found in multiple areas such as land and water rights and the key role of governance in limiting or facilitating community efforts. There is power in bringing together multiple Indigenous scholars in one space. The Network is yielding new connections and initiatives within as well as between regions - participants have spent time with each other at other meetings & endeavors.

NNA Community Collaboration and Research Coordination: It would be helpful to connect with other projects who are working with Indigenous communities to learn how they building relationships with Indigenous Peoples and implementing Indigenous research methods. If other projects have a significant focus on food and leadership from Indigenous communities, we may be interested in scheduling a webinar so we can exchange learnings.

Advice for Overcoming NNA Project Challenges: A strong component of our success has been to have an Indigenous steering committee and to invite community partners to plan and host our gatherings. Collectively developing a charter at the beginning of our work helped create a strong framework based on Indigenous, community-centered values.