

## **Report on Recent Activities to IUNS**

### **IUNS Task Force on Traditional, Indigenous and Cultural Food and Nutrition (2013-2017)**

**October 4, 2015**

#### **Members of the Task Force**

Co-chairs: H.V. Kuhnlein (Canada/USA) and T. Longvah (India)

Members: D. Markowicz Bastos (Brazil), R. Belahsen (Morocco), T. Delormier (USA), N. Ene-Ebong (Nigeria), E. Falahi (Iran), M. Iwasaki (Japan), S. Lemke (Germany/UK), M. Roche (Canada), S. Sirisai and S. Chotibooriboon (Thailand); Chief Bill Erasmus (Dene Nation, Canada) is an honorary member of the Task Force.

#### **Planning a Task Force Meeting in India to be held November 8-9, 2015**

A meeting of Task Force members attending the International Food Data Conference and/or the Indigenous Terra Madre 2015 meeting will be held November 8-9 in Shillong, India. Expected to attend are the Co-Chairs Kuhnlein and Longvah, R. Belahsen, T. Delormier, N. Ene-Ebong, S. Lemke, S. Sirisai and S. Chotibooriboon, and Chief Erasmus. The agenda of the Task Force meeting will focus on preparation of a publication and planning for the IUNS meeting in 2017 in Argentina. Dr. Longvah has graciously managed travel and arrangements for this meeting.

#### **Research undertaken to support the Indigenous Terra Madre 2015 (ITM2015) meeting in Shillong, India November 2-7, 2015**

A focus of Task Force members at the ITM2015 is to contribute to the topic of culture and food security in indigenous communities that are led by women who have inherited resources and community authority. To this end, Drs. Longvah and Kuhnlein have participated with Bioversity International colleagues for research on nutritional status, food biodiversity and food security among the Khasi and Chakhesang villages in NE India. The research will be presented at the ITM2015. Drs. Delormier and Sirisai will also present data from their research on the topic from the Iroquois and Karen indigenous populations.

#### **Planning for attendance and publication release at the IUNS meeting in Argentina, 2017**

The research activities noted above will be written as chapters in our planned publication for presentation at the IUNS meeting in Argentina in 2017. Other Task Force members are preparing and conducting research in their respective areas for contribution of additional chapters. We expect a full book publication of 12 – 15 chapters. The tentative title of the book is "Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: Gender Roles, Biodiversity and Food Security."

#### **Other Task Force Activities**

Drs. Kuhnlein and Longvah were in Rome, February 2015 for several related meetings related to Task Force activities. We met with Dr. Larty at FAO, and with colleagues at Bioversity International, and the FAO based Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Group. Drs. Kuhnlein and

Delormier made brief presentations at the IFAD Indigenous Peoples' Forum and Dr. Kuhnlein was part of a panel presentation for the IFAD Governing Council.

Dr. Kuhnlein continued with preparation of the web publication on Traditional Animal Food Resources of Indigenous Peoples in North America that has been in process for several years with colleague Dr. Murray Humphries of CINE, McGill University. The publication includes data of traditional food species identifications, habitat, cultural uses and nutrient composition. Agreement for publication has been reached with the GRID-Arendal group, a subsidiary of the United Nations Environment Program, based in Norway. Publication is anticipated for 2016.

Dr. Kuhnlein participated in a Skype conference call with the IUNS Executive on April 9, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Kuhnlein

October 5, 2015