

Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition Report Form 2018



IUNS
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

Task Force Chair/s

Gina Kennedy, Senior Scientist, Bioversity International

Task Force Members

- Harriet Kuhnlein, Steering Committee (Prof Emeritus, McGill University, Canada)
- Thingnganing Longvah, Steering Committee (Senior Scientist, National Institute of India, India)
- V. Prakash, IUNS Representative (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, India and Vice-President IUNS)
- Bee Chotiboriboon, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (INMU), Thailand
- Namkolo Covic, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Ethiopia
- Treena Delormier, School of Human Nutrition, McGill University, Canada
- Rebecca Kanter, Department of Nutrition, University of Chile
- Patrick Maundu - Kenya Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (KENRIK), National Museums of Kenya
- Nasrin Omidvar, School of Nutrition Sciences and Food Technology and National Nutrition & Food Technology Research Institute, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Iran

Summary of Activities in 2018

The major activities of the IUNS Task Force in 2018 were:

- Identification and recruitment of task force members
- Task Force session at ANEC
- Task Force session at SLAN
- Plenary session and participation in 100th Centenary of NIN
- Representation at other events

Report of Activities and Achievements in 2018

- **Identification and recruitment of task force members and activity planning**

Notification of approved continuation of the Task Force was received from IUNS in March 2018. Identification and recruitment of task force members began shortly thereafter taking into account geographic representation, gender balance and scientific leadership on the topic. The task force is comprised of nine task force members and one IUNS representative, including seven women and three men, with members from Africa, Asia, North and South America and the Near East. Task Force members have been in regular email communication, participated in one skype conference call and met face to face during the events as described below.

- **Task Force session at ANEC**

IUNS Task Force members, **Dr. Kennedy** and **Dr. Covic** submitted a concept note to the 8th African Nutrition Epidemiology Conference to hold a plenary session on the topic of Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity in African food Systems. The proposal for a symposium was accepted by the ANEC planning committee and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations agreed to co-sponsor the event together with the support of the Task Force and Bioversity International. The symposium entitled “Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity in African Food Systems for Healthy and Sustainable Diets” took place on the first day of the 8th African Nutrition and Epidemiology Conference (ANEC VIII) conference in Addis Ababa October, 2018. Dr. Covic chaired the session, which featured a keynote speech on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition delivered by Dr. Victor Wasike Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization and National Project Coordinator of the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) Project in Kenya. Dr. Wasike drew examples from the BFN project, implemented in Vihiga County of Kenya as well as Brazil, Turkey and Sri Lanka. Panel members including Florence Tonnoir, from FAO Ethiopia, Beatrice Ekesa from Bioversity, Uganda and Tamene Taye, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ethiopia provided their insights and experiences on Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity for African Food Systems.

One-hundred and five (105) participants attended the session, from 69 different organizations, including NGOs, international organizations, government, and universities. The symposium gathered insights on research relevant to traditional and indigenous food biodiversity and shared results and impact of revitalizing these foods to improve dietary intake, nutrition and sustainability of food systems. Symposium flyers and banners displaying the IUNS logo were produced. Blogs about the event can be found on the FAO <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1156048/> and Bioversity <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/news/detail/bioversity-research-showcased-at-anec-viii-in-addis-ababa/> websites. A symposium report and copies of promotional materials prepared are also available upon request.

- **Task Force session at SLAN**

Dr. Kanter and Dr. Kuhnlein submitted a concept note to the organizing committee of the XVIII Latin American Society for Nutrition (or SLAN for its acronym in Spanish) for a session entitled "Traditional and indigenous food systems knowledge to improve dietary and nutritional sustainability". The session was accepted by the SLAN planning committee and took place in Guadalajara, Mexico in November 2018. The theme of the XVIII SLAN was "Healthy Diets for a Sustainable Planet." and thus, quite in line with the mission of the task force. Dr. Kanter chaired the session and provided a presentation. Presentations were also given by Luis Alberto Vargas from UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) and Krysty Meza from the Research Institute of Nutrition in Peru. Dr. Vargas presented on promoting the value of traditional and indigenous food systems in Mexico. Krysty Meza presented on behalf of Hilary Creed-Kanashiro the association between agrobiodiversity and dietary diversity and adequate micronutrient intake amongst Peruvian women in Huanuco, Peru. Rebecca Kanter presented on recovering traditional dishes in Chile's Metropolitan region to increase the acceptability of more sustainable diets. Despite many overlapping sessions at SLAN, the symposium had full attendance. The presentations were conducted in Spanish.

- **100th Centenary of NIN**

Dr. Longvah organized the end year 100th Centenary celebration of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad under the theme "Aligning food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition" November, 2018 at NIN, Hyderabad. The Centenary conference explored policies and programme options for shaping the food systems for healthy diets and improved nutrition, based on country experiences and challenges. The conference was attended by many IUNS representatives, including IUNS President **Catherine Geissler** and Vice President and Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition Task Force Representative **Vish Prakash** as well as Task Force Members **Gina Kennedy** and **Nasrin Omnivadar**. The topic of Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems was high on the agenda and included a Keynote lecture by Dr. Ann Tutwiler, Director General Bioversity International and a plenary session on Biodiversity for sustainable food systems and healthy diets organized by Dr. Kennedy. Other plenary sessions of relevance to the task force included , Food-based strategies for improving micronutrient status and Transitioning toward Nutrition sensitive food systems.

- **Task Force Representation at other events**

Dr. Kuhnlein received an Alumni Achievement Award from The Pennsylvania State University's College of Health and Human Development on November, 2018. During her acceptance remarks she highlighted her leadership of the IUNS task force. Dr. Kuhnlein also participated the Planning Committee of the Native American Nutrition Conference 2018, and as a panel member in a workshop presented by the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Global Obesity Roundtable on October 9. Traditional and Indigenous food systems formed part of the agenda of topics discussed at both of these events.

Dr. Prakash was the Chair of the 19th IUFOST World Congress which was held in Mumbai, India. The Congress featured the latest science being deliberated with five plenary addresses, One Distinguished Lecture, Thirty one Special Addresses and nearly 260 Invited Talks in about 70 Scientific Sessions. There were 15 Sessions on Nutrition and applied Nutrition. Two Plenary talks on Midday Meal in Schools in India feeding 120 Million Children everyday with Traditional Foods supplemented were particular highlights of the congress with relevance to our Task Force.

Several awards were given to Young Scientists and Career Awardees.

Food Safety and Nutrition Security were addressed in many sessions. The Networking of Academia, Industries and Regulators was also highlighted in many sessions in the Congress addressing Stunting, Maternal malnutrition and Traditional foods how it can combat Nutritional maladies from a traditional wisdom remedies. The next Congress is scheduled at New Zealand during 2020.

Dr. Omidvar chaired and organized a one day symposium at the School of Nutrition Sciences and Food Technology in June, 2018. The Symposium was entitled Nutrition and sustainable development. Many activists from NGOs and scientist from agriculture were invited to present and take part in the discussions. There were presentations on traditional agriculture and its effect on women empowerment and biodiversity. Also, role of anthropological investigations in food security and identification of natural resources were discussed. The presentations were in Farsi, but the abstracts are available in English. Dr. Omidvar presented a plenary lecture at the 13th Iranian Nutrition congress on "How Sustainability issues fit into Dietary guidelines". Dr Omidvar will supervise PhD research study in south-east Iran that will measure rural food system sustainability in the region.

In looking forward to 2019, we plan to seek funding for a face to face writeshop to develop the methodology and outline for a series of papers on Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition to be published as a journal supplement. Email exchange on potential themes for the supplement occurred in 2018 and we have a funding lead for financing the supplement. We will also begin planning for the Task Force symposium at the IUNS meeting in Tokyo in 2021.