

Sustainable Diets

Task Force Report Form 2024



Task Force Chair/s

Stineke Oenema

Active Task Force Members

- Sandro Dernini, Forum on Mediterranean Food Cultures, Italy
 - Kunchit Judprasong, Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University, Thailand
 - Mark Lawrence, Deakin University, Australia
 - Jennie Macdiarmid, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
 - Farah Naja, American University of Beirut, Lebanon
 - Penina Vatucawaqa, National Food and Nutrition Centre, Fiji
 - Lesley Macheka, Marondera University of Agriculture, Zimbabwe
- Barbara Burlingame was assigned co-chair from the IUNS council

Ex officio: Harriet Kuhnlein, ex-Chair of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems TF
(No changes from last year's list.)

Has your objective(s) as a task force been modified since the original proposal? If so, please provide brief justification.

The objectives have not been modified.

Have the activities to be undertaken been modified since the original proposal? If so, please provide brief overview and justification.

The activities have not been adapted since last year's report.

Brief overview of activities since last annual report

The group organised a series of webinars jointly with the task force on Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition: Food and Knowledge Systems: Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Diets and Evidence.

The webinars were titled “ Participatory methods to document traditional and indigenous people’s food systems and traditional knowledge to promote healthy and sustainable diets” and “ Indigenous perspectives in research on indigenous people’s food systems”. The webinars took place 24th May and 2nd July and were convened at the Ag4Nut online platform. The number of participants/viewers was respectively 235 and 122.

The collaboration with the FENS Task Force on Mediterranean Networking of FENS on the Mediterranean Diet continued. In June, a two day workshop of the Med Diet Joint Task Force was held in Rome, linking the Task Force on Mediterranean Networking of FENS, the Sustainable Diets Task Force of IUNS and the Sustainable Mediterranean Diet Unit of CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies). The meeting identified challenges to cope with the erosion of the Mediterranean Diet. The challenges include limitations of using “health-derived scores” to describe the four sustainability dimensions of Mediterranean Diet (low environmental impact, positive economic return for local communities, high socio-cultural value, better health and nutrition. This joint task force also submitted a proposal for a symposium at the IUNS-ICN 2025 Congress on “Measuring and promoting adherence and sustainability of the Mediterranean Diet (MedDiet): Rationale, proposition and challenges”.

The task force liaised with the World Public Health Nutrition Association, both as part of workshops and the conference in June. The TF members with presentations and sessions about governance for nutrition and sustainability; transformation of food systems for sustainability and health, reforms to food standards, programmes to support healthy and sustainable food systems, and linking nutrition to food systems.

The task force commented on the request for inputs for the High Level panel of experts’ (HLPE) report on “Building resilient food systems”. Comments called for holistic approaches, looking at food systems, not merely at value chains; indicating the opportunity to change food systems, looking at opportunities in the food environment; looking at the need to change the metrics that are currently used to measure “ healthiness” and “sustainability”; the role of ultra-processed foods and; opening up to lessons from indigenous food systems. The comments built on papers from various of the task force members (e.g. B. Burlingame, M. Lawrence and others).

The task force submitted a proposal for a seminar at IUNS-ICN in Paris 2025.

The task force started planning together with the indigenous food systems task force for a new task force to take on duty after the upcoming ICN in Paris, 2025.



Please list any successes accomplished during this period (aligned with proposed measures of success from original proposal, or include justification for modifications).

The various work streams mentioned above as well as earlier work, will be presented at a last seminar during ICN, when the task force will conclude in its present form.

The increased collaboration with the indigenous food systems task force proved to generate good energy and new ideas, both task force will conclude in their present forms but will join forces and focus on new research areas that are based on the newly found joint basis.

Please mention your plans for the coming year and how they have been adapted based on success to date (if appropriate).

The task force plans to continue with the preparations for the seminar at the IUNS-ICN in Paris, as well as contribution to various other seminars and workshops.

The task force will also submit, together with the taskforce on indigenous food systems and nutrition a proposal for a new joint task force. The new proposed task force will look at sustainable diets and cultural identities with a territorial lens. Biodiversity is a central concept as well as the consumer's acceptability of sustainable/territorial diets.