



ARCTIC CENTRE
University of Lapland

**Food (in)Security in the
Arctic: Contribution of
Traditional and Local Food
to promote Food Security
with Particular Reference to
the European High North.**

Final Workshop Report 2019.

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“Food (in)Security in the Arctic: Contribution of Traditional and Local Food to promote Food Security with Particular Reference to the European High North” project team has gathered for the third time from 26th to 27th of August at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland. This was the final workshop of the project in which participants presented drafts of chapters’ contribution to the upcoming book, and discussed the future cooperation possibilities.



Participants were from the Arctic Centre (University of Lapland), Arctic Research Centre (Umeå University), University of Helsinki, Uppsala University, The University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway, University of Hannover, University of Toulouse, Altai State Technical University Siberia, Murmansk Arctic State University, French National Research Center, Rovira i Virgili University, University of Montreal, Lund University and Mälardalen University.

The workshop has brought sixteen thought-provoking academic presentations focusing on numerous aspects of food (in)security as applicable to the Arctic. Participants approached their topics from diverse angles including human rights, political science, biology, economics, and ethics. Such variety of fields provided a multidisciplinary character of the workshop. The workshop was followed by the discussion on the forthcoming book, which will constitute the outcome of the project.

The project is hosted by the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland and funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Principal Investigator of the project, Research Professor Kamrul Hossain is also the lead of UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law.

Project development:

Food (in)Security in the Arctic project has had the kick-off meeting in Stockholm on 13th October 2017. That gathering served to introduce the project and its objectives. During that meeting, participants discussed their potential individual academic contributions to the project. More information about the first workshop can be found under the following link: <https://www.arcticcentre.org/loader.aspx?id=5f12e50e-e4bc-4fc5-9f6d-4e4d999412a7>.

The second workshop of the project was held on 11th of October 2018 at the Arctic Research Centre (Arcum), at the Umeå University, Sweden. During that meeting, participants discussed the progress of their research and presented drafts of chapters to be included in the upcoming book. More information about the second workshop can be found under the following link: <https://www.arcticcentre.org/events/Workshop-in-Umea-2018/q4lxjdv5/44f19a26-d269-4d32-ab88-c3dae3dddb17>

Day 1:

Summary of the panel sessions:

The workshop started with the welcoming words by the Principal Investigator of the project, Research Professor and the lead of UArctic Thematic Network on Arctic Law, Kamrul Hossain (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland). He summarized previous workshops and explained the methodology of the last meeting. He underlined that the mutual understanding of the co-authors topics is crucial for the coherence of the book as well as the network cooperation. Hence, the participants were expected to present papers of other project partners and comment on them.

Following that **Laura Siragusa** (University of Helsinki), introduced to the audience the results of her fieldwork held in Northwest Russia. Her presentation titled *Tea and 'mayo: vignettes from my fieldwork in Northwest Russia* addressed the change of nutritional habits among Veps people and

communities living in the Kola Peninsula. She underlined that Russians have different criteria of "good" food, which mainly means tasty and affordable.

Session 1:

The first session chaired by Gudmundur Alfredsson (Lund University), started with the presentation of **Corinna Casi**, who gave a presentation on Johana M. Castilla's (Arctic University of Norway) chapter, titled: "*The Role of Stockfish in Local Food Security: Traditional Knowledge, Transmission and Change in Lofoten, Norway*". Casi referred to what stockfish is and highlighted its importance for local communities also in terms of their economic security. She focused on methodology, used by the author, which constituted a combination of participatory observation and ethnographic study.

The next talk by **Johana M. Castilla** covered Assi Harkoma's (Arctic Centre, University of Lapland) chapter titled "*Traditional Pasture Management as a promotor of Food Sovereignty*". Castilla started with explained the human rights approach to food sovereignty and difference with food security. In this context, she referred to the overgrazing problem in Sápmi area, which triggered a discussion on reducing the reindeer population. She pointed out that such limitation will infringe upon not only right to food of indigenous peoples living in this area but also their right to culture.

The third speaker, **Assi Harkoma** reflected on Moeko Minagawa's (University of Toulouse) study titled "*How Food Safety Policy Can Contain the Rights of Indigenous People to Food*". Harkoma discussed the concept of ethics of care in addition to the human security approach to examine the food security of reindeer herders. The whole discussion has been put within the context of the Chernobyl disaster, which affected also the traditional Sami area.

The last presenter in the session **Moeko Minagawa** (University of Helsinki) expanded the chapter of Corinna Casi, related to "*Food and Identity in the High European North: Philosophical Reflections on Sami People Food Culture*". **Minagawa** concentrated on of food ethics, food sovereignty and food security, as analytical tools which help to make a connection between values like dignity, identity and well - being of indigenous peoples and their traditional livelihoods.

Session 2:

The second session chaired by Lena Maria Nilsson (Arctic Research Centre –Arcum - Umeå University) started with a presentation of Peter Bjerregaard (University of Greenland). He explored his topic, namely “*Dietary issues in contemporary Greenland: dietary patterns, food insecurity and the role of traditional food among the Greenland Inuit in the 21st century*”. His presentation involved the study on food preferences, and the predominance and social diversification of food insecurity. Bjerregaard posed two questions, why Inuit do not consume their local foods more often despite the opinion that it is the most preferable. The second question addresses the nature of food insecurity in Greenland: is its limitation to access local food or not having any food at all.

The second presenter **Ildiko Astalos Morell** (Mälardalen University) touched upon issues addressed by Kamrul Hossain & Noor Jahan Punam (University of Lapland) in their chapter “*Human rights begin with breakfast: Maintenance of, and access to, stable traditional food system with a focus on the European High Arctic*”. **Morell** reflected on the importance of the right to food, with special reference to traditional food systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in the European High Arctic. She highlights that together with the deterioration of the environment and climate change, access to local food is threatened, which impacts on fundamental human rights.

Following this presentation, **Sylvie Blangy** commented on Ildiko Astalos Morell’s (Mälardalen University) study titled: “*Traditional nutrition of indigenous people in the Arctic zone of Western Siberia: challenges and impact on food security and health promotion*”. Blangy brought up the issue of how traditional nutrition is an effective tool and remedy for adaptation to cold and geomagnetic activity for the indigenous population. She reflected on the significant tendencies of reindeer herding in the High North and their impact on food security and food sovereignty.

The last presenter of this session, **Olga Musina** (Altai State Technical University Siberia) introduces her own topic: “*Patent Literature Report: Contribution of the Domestic European High North Applicants’ Activity to promote Technological (In)Dependence in Food Industry with Particular Reference to the Cheese-Making Industry*”. Musina drafted the situation in Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Russia. She touched upon concerns related to patent ownership rights granted to foreigners, on the example of the cheese industry. She views the low activity of domestic applicants and the relatively high of foreign ones as a cause of insecurity in the food industry.

Session 3:

The third session was chaired by Thora Herrmann and it began with a presentation by **Hinnerk Gnutzmann** where he reflected upon Victoria Soldevila's chapter titled: "*Food security from a food regimes perspective*". He spoke about the challenges of food security on the basis of the food regimes approach, highlighting the emerging food regime, namely, the Third food regime. He emphasised on the difficulties posed by the Third food regime which has been unfolded by the recent food crises to address problems of food insecurity in the Arctic.

The second presenter in this session was **Victoria Soldevila**. She presented Maxim Shishaev's chapter: "*Food security in the western sector of the Russian Arctic zone: Current status and ontology-driven information support*". She brought up the discussion on food security issues in the western part of the Russian Arctic accounting for the information support tasks. She reflected on how the chapter specifically considers the issues of existing relevant data sources with regards to local food and food security problems faced by indigenous and the local population.

In the third presentation, **Maxim Shishaev** reflected upon Christer Pursiainen's chapter: "*Arctic food crisis management*". He summarised the key issues considered in the chapter and focused on the futuristic question asked within the chapter 'what if a serious food crisis were to hit the Arctic'? He presented on the phases of crisis management and the state of art of Arctic crisis management. He specifically considered three probable food crisis scenarios including radiological fallout and contamination, animal disease epidemics, and the impact of oil spills on fisheries. He indicated that the chapter suggests that the existing crisis management cycle approach could provide a structure for a more holistic approach.

The final presentation of the session was by **Christer Pursiainen** where he brought up the issues discussed by Hinnerk Gnutzmann in his chapter titled: "*Food Security and Fertilizer Supply: The Role of Arctic Deposits*". He discussed the correlation between food security and fertilizer supply specifically focusing on mineral fertilizers namely, phosphate and potash. With regards to the Arctic region, the chapter provides a review of the available phosphorus reserves and how it contributes towards ascertaining food security.

Session 4:

The fourth session was chaired by Maxim Shishaev and the first presentation in this session was on Lena Maria Nilsson's paper "*Some reflections on Swedish food strategies from a Sami and an Arctic perspective*" by **Anne Ouma**. She reflected on the issues dealt with in the chapter and highlighted how the general consideration is that the European North is a food secure area. This security depends on food import

and national and international trade. She emphasised on the low level of food sovereignty in Sweden. The national food strategy which was agreed upon by the political parties of Sweden is one of the key focus of this presentation. She outlined Nilsson's reasons for claiming for future food strategies for a sustainable food strategy for Sápmi/Northern Sweden to be agreed upon in collaboration amongst the Swedish government and the Swedish Sami parliament.

The second presentation of the session was on Thora Herrmann & Sylvie Blangy's chapter: "*Shaping the Future of Food Security and Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Arctic: Community-led Initiatives as Innovative Response*" by **Lena Maria Nilsson**. In her presentation, she pointed out that the fast socioecological changes across the Canadian North including colonialism, climate change and presence of contaminants in traditional foods have caused ruptures in human-environment interactions leading to health risks and a dietary change in the food system of Indigenous communities. She reflected on the 'chronic problem of food insecurity in this area which adversely affects the majority of Inuit and First Nation households. She pointed out that, to deal with this problem, the Inuit and First Nation communities have brought about an array of community-based food initiatives. She further spoke about the three case studies analysed in the chapter to examine their contribution to improving food sovereignty.

The third presentation was by **Thora Hermann** on Dele Raheem's chapter, titled: "*Bridging Food Security Gaps in the European Arctic region through the 'Internet of Food'*". She introduced the issue of food security gaps and noted that to achieve sustainability, changes to the food supply chains are needed. She pointed out that detailed information is required for consumers to make informed choices. In order to do so, she suggested, from the outline of the chapter that the food industry make use of the benefits of the internet to account for the food security gaps.

The final presentation of the day was by **Dele Raheem** on Anne Ouma's chapter: "*Building Traditional Food Knowledge: An approach to Food Security through North-South dialogue*". He highlighted the concept of the Talking Circle to begin the presentation as the chapter's findings are based on the views, interests, intuitions which were shared at such a forum. He indicated that the forum focused on the inclusion of indigenous communities in integrated resource management processes. It was pointed out that the use of traditional food knowledge can be deemed to be a meaningful basis for wise governance of natural resources and food systems.

Day 2:

The second day of the workshop was dedicated to discussing the details related to the book publication, along with the discussion on future cooperation possibilities. Partners of the project confirmed the willingness to further develop existing ideas and engage in possible initiatives, including workshops and meeting as well as funding applications.

Participants spoke also about, how to better promote awareness of food security in the Arctic and promote already existing knowledge.

The workshop was concluded by Prof. Kamrul Hossain's closing speech where he thanked all project partners for collaboration and presented final steps to be undertaken concerning book publication.