

Territorial Markets and Food System Transformation: Advancing Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and Human Rights

US, Canada and Indigenous Territories Dialogue

March 1, 2023

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With thanks to note-takers



INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS
ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

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Opening Remarks by IPES-Food Panel Member Molly Anderson

The IPES-Food panel comprises 23 people from 16 countries, including development economists, nutritionists, sociologists, and experienced practitioners from civil society.



Molly Anderson opened with a reminder that although we come from the territories now known as Canada, the US and sovereign Indian nations, we are all from the place known by its first peoples as Turtle Island. These people made their homes here, cared for the earth, its waters and other creatures living here, understanding that we are interdependent with the land and all of us suffer if people fail to be good caretakers. Settler peoples have not understood and acted on this responsibility, and the earth is suffering. The descendants of first peoples are still here and have much to teach us about our responsibilities. We particularly welcome the Indigenous people who are here with us today.

In the context of a growing global food security crisis, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) is organizing three regional dialogues and a literature review on the topic of 'territorial markets' to inform a forthcoming report, and to explore potential collaboration into the future. This work is follow-up to the 2021 "A Long Food Movement: Transforming Food Systems by 2045" report, written by IPES-Food and ETC Group. Other Dialogues are taking place in Latin America and in South/South East Asia. Full account will be taken of the advanced consultation and synthesis work already happening in Africa, and learnings from other regions.

We are motivated by the urgent necessity to ask the question: in a century of crisis, what food systems, supply chains/webs and markets will build the resilience necessary to nourish people around the world, sustainably and equitably?

During the COVID pandemic, we saw long supply chains fail spectacularly, yet governments continue to pour money into propping them up. While there are many issues with global food systems, this Dialogue will explore your experience with territorial markets from local to national scales, the barriers to their successful functioning, and what is needed to make them more effective. We are specifically hoping to better understand how territorial markets can contribute to food system transformation - those markets advancing agroecology, food sovereignty and human rights.

LAND BACK

These sharings from the Dialogue, challenge the conceptual framework of the work. They are offered as an opening, foundational perspective. With thanks for this contribution, and in recognition that any summary is inadequate and errors are our own.

The conceptual framing and language of this Dialogue does not represent the narrative of subsistence economies in Indigenous territories. There is a contradiction, indeed many contradictions, inherent in recognizing that the whole economy is based on stolen land. Indigenous Peoples have not been compensated, and therefore are actually subsidizing the entire market and territorial market economy. Land back is fundamental.

Indigenous peoples have been allocated only about 0.2% of the land base in the country called Canada. Indigenous peoples are continuously being reduced to privatized plots of land for agriculture and a market-oriented approach. This is not and has never been sustainable for Indigenous Peoples. Recall that Indigenous Peoples were able to live the reality of food sovereignty before the market economy. Settler colonial systems dispossessed, erased and imposed a system of genocide as acknowledged in the report of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Committee. The significant contributions of Indigenous Peoples in the early fur and food trade days in so-called Canada were not understood within a rights-based framework that was imposed by colonial government structures and processes as part of a cultural hierarchy that viewed agrarians as superior to Indigenous hunters, fishers and gatherers. This persists to the present day reality.

There is potential in the development of territorial markets as short to medium-term strategies that can reduce reliance on the global food system that has charted a highly unsustainable path in a productionist paradigm. However, there are more specific cultural and socio-political concerns identified by the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty regarding the limits of productionist paradigm at any scale, as it enables the intensification of production but fails to address the social and political injustices underlying rogue capitalism and the financialization of land, territories, and nature. For example, a large percentage of the food grown in agriculture is grown by Indigenous and People of Colour who are exploited for labor in the market-based economy.

From Indigenous perspectives, until we have turned the current system on its head and analyzed it from every angle, it is not possible to advance. It is also important to avoid a pan-Indigenous approach to understanding more deeply the ways we can work in a system of relationality towards land back and transcend the wicked systemic question of "how can we reconcile the time spent developing small-scale territorial markets in a capitalist economic framework with Indigenous subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering economies"? It is a wicked systemic problem that might be unsolvable. How to begin to transform some of the trauma and the harm that's been caused by the introduction of agriculture 12,000 years ago? Centering Indigenous solutions and strategies that are being developed for and by indigenous peoples is one necessary step.

A deeper, more meaningful approach to systems transformation calls for the creation of a more ethical space of engagement in research and development led by and for Indigenous Peoples. Transcending each of the contradictions and key points of contention that live within the interface where territorial markets meet subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering economies, would each require a PH.D. research thesis, with their own intents and purposes.

For further reading, please visit:

- *Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty, [Indigenous Food Systems Network](#).*
- *Reflections and Realities: Expressions of food sovereignty in the 4th world. In Indigenous food sovereignty concepts, cases and conversations. Setee, P. & Shukla, (Eds.) Canadian Scholars, 2020.*
- *Morrison, D. (2011). "Indigenous Food Sovereignty – A Model for Social Learning." In Food Sovereignty in Canada: Creating Just and Sustainable Food Systems, 97–113. Halifax: Fernwood Pub.*

2

CASE STUDIES OF TERRITORIAL MARKETS ADVANCING POSITIVE CHANGES

Introduction by IPES-Food Panel member Nettie Wiebe

Nettie Wiebe invited the group to move beyond the dominant view of markets as part of linear food chains of production, processing, marketing, delivery and consumption, and consider them within the more complex way in which food systems actually work - food webs. People and other elements in living food systems are dynamic, connected and interdependent in a multiplicity of complex ways.

With this framing, markets are embedded in our cultural, ecological and social structures. Participants are invited to share specific wisdom, lived experiences and knowledge about territorial markets, within their context, within their food system. When we're talking about transforming markets, we're actually talking about trying to imagine transforming the territorial food systems in which markets, of course, play a key role, and examining what kinds of markets and what kinds of interactions, what kinds of transformations, are possible.

Acknowledging the important thinking that has already informed this work, she recommended the [Connecting Smallholders to Market; an analytical guide \(2016\)](#) of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSM) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). This useful overview of territorial markets reminds us that most of the food that most people in the world consume is not bought from a supermarket linked to the global food chain. At this Dialogue, we want to deepen our understanding of localized and embedded markets, their role and potential.

Guiding question: **What are examples of territorial markets in your region that are advancing food system transformation, and which positive change(s) are they accelerating and how? (E.g. scaling out agroecology, deepening connections with traditional foodways, increasing farmer incomes, building food sovereignty, etc?)**

2.1 Indigenous foodways - restoring traditional trading/sharing routes

The tension between the market-based concept of trading and the Indigenous-informed concept of sharing is noted. Food forest communities are a way of growing and nurturing food across levels from the ground cover to the canopy, supporting community food security and helping to address climate change. Traditional foodways and trading relationships are being restored, with First Nations in Saskatchewan and northern Alberta agreeing to trade their surpluses of Saskatoon berries, apples and wild rice. Read more stories at [Transformations: Stories of Partnership, Resilience and Positive Change](#).

Meanwhile, a cooperative in Brazil is enabling both communities in Indigenous territories and landless farmers to sell more than 270 food and non-food products as raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry within a more equitable market context.

2.2 Indigenous responses to climate change and biodiversity crises

In the Northwest Territories, work with small First Nations communities is demonstrating the importance of reinforcing traditional food systems in the context of climate change, sharing as part of their food web, and the adoption of agroecology (and ideas of food sovereignty) as an ecologically and community-defined way forward when exploring how to grow food in areas where that is not customary.

Another example from the North about country food and caribou highlighted tensions between local food systems and traditionally-valued food in the context of the loss of species. Overall, finding a balance between mixed market and non-market food is a constant challenge. The local caribou herd in the NWT is in decline in some communities due to increased predation by wolves (that can travel more efficiently based on landscape change due to climate change). Caribou meat, an important traditional food, is being sourced from outside. Some have been brought in from Nunavut but there is also commercial importing of reindeer meat from Scandinavia. As this illustrates, there can be an ecological strain on the country's food system if resources are threatened by ecosystem decline.

.2.3 Hunting, gathering and sharing food for school canteens and healthcare facilities

School food programs that integrate wild game and meat are restoring Indigenous children's connection to land and culture, and supporting their food security. In one example, after the hunt by community members, kids are involved in every stage of the preparation and cooking of the meat.

In Labrador, a [Nourish anchor collaborative](#) is leveraging the Regional Health Authority to strengthen traditional food systems and raising some really challenging questions. How does the traditional economy of gathering and food sharing intersect with more market-based approaches? How do we make sure that the folks who are gathering or hunting the food are compensated appropriately?

A positive development has been the flexibility of all sides, including by food safety inspection agencies. Indigenous local governments are demonstrating buy-in by situating community freezers stocked by hunters and gatherers close to health facilities. Recognition of country food allows government grant dollars to be spent on ammunition and gas.

2.4 Advancing agroecology through shared commons and shared infrastructure

In Maine, the principles of agroecology inform how infrastructure for land and sea-based activities is being rebuilt for sharing, networking and collaboration. Initiatives include:

- an organic store supplied by 20 local producers, established in a former mine;
- a commercial kitchen in a former motel to enable processing that adds value including for blueberries (alternative to low-price corporate market) and drying, grinding and packing kelp;
- and a microbiome project for eco-friendly mycelium-based floaters for oysters.

This supports job opportunities for young farmers and fishers. It interferes with a trajectory of consolidation and corporate control of the natural resource economies of land and sea, and offers an alternative to the capture of value by low-price, high-volume markets. Reflecting on access, tenure and stewardship of the Seaweed Commons with a global network.

2.5 Re-organising market channels during Covid-19

Globally, the Agroecology Fund supported initiatives that re-organized market channels as a main strategy to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, both to provide access to farmers to sell their products and to provide food access for vulnerable people during the lockdown period. The disruption was an opportunity. Responses, many of which continued after the pandemic, included developing digital tools, innovative price setting, new producers associations in India, “food sovereignty territories” in local Indonesian markets that have attracted political interest, women organizing local markets in Africa, and “food sovereignty corridors” in Argentina.

Other Covid-19 examples of the increased use of local, traditional foods as well as the value of preparedness of local multi-actor networks, including in Antananarivo, Madagascar and small island communities, can be found [here](#).

2.6 Covid-19 and climate disruptions drive moment for purposeful farmers markets

In the wake of the pandemic and ongoing climate disruptions, civil society-led farmers markets that are purposeful - with strong social, economic and ecological goals - are emerging throughout the world. The most explosive growth is in the global South. The stature of territorial markets is growing at least in part because they continue(d) to deliver products, despite disruptions.

Flagship markets, with clear governance and capacity, are demonstrating that their role and approach is not just market-driven. They can be mechanisms for retooling the social contract, including between rural and urban and between formal and informal. Their public nature is key, they need to be managed as welcoming spaces, for those with and without resources in the cash economy. Incentive and subsidy programs like coupons are important tools in this regard. Hopefully, a vibrant cohesive, nurturing ecosystem that can more fully utilize the value of purposeful markets is emerging

These managed markets are in contrast to traditional, informal street markets, which while often vibrant, joyous and colorful, lack transparent governance and may have “produce mafias” operating. Opaque or very limited governance means they do not necessarily provide pathways toward social, economic and ecological transformations. That said, it is a journey and we need to embrace imperfection, meet people where they are, and support their steps towards more sustainable and sustaining livelihoods.

2.7 Farmers markets as an entry point to radically localize economic activity

Sixty years ago, more than 60% of food consumed in Nova Scotia was locally-grown but today 90% of its food is imported. Over 95% of seafood is exported, almost all of it unprocessed. Since there is a moratorium on seafood licenses, it is effectively impossible to establish community-based processings and the whole sector is dominated by large-scale exporters. Despite fertile soil and a long coastline, one in five Nova Scotians experience food insecurity.

Nova Scotia has the most farmers markets per capita in Canada, and learning from the work being done in British Columbia has established a nutrition coupon program. It functions as a complementary currency, with coupons equivalent to \$400,000 supporting low-income households last year. Families report greater food security, greater financial mobility and greater community belonging.

Subsidized, complementary currencies have the potential to radically re-localize economic activity when used for food and other goods and services exclusively within a territorial-sized market system. They can be viewed as a territorial form of universal basic income, which is human scale and with multiple beneficial social impacts.

Separately, the Maine Senior FarmShare program was cited as a government-funded pathway directly connecting farm food with vulnerable seniors.

2.8 Hubs and markets of distinct culturally appropriate food by people of African descent

In Quebec, a movement for food sovereignty by people of African descent is emerging. Across Canada, 40% of black families are food insecure, underscoring the need for a response and one that is culturally appropriate. Market garden producers in greater Montreal are working together to access more land and create more shared infrastructure to be better able to provide culturally appropriate food to restaurants, schools, community centers, food banks and other community institutions of people of African descent. Both a physical hub facility to store, process and prepare ready-to-serve meal preparation and a food app are planned.

Another example of Black leadership is a toolkit developed with Indigenous leaders to foster markets as a place of belonging, bringing together people who produce food and people who eat food. The more markets resemble places where people meet, connect, and share ideas, the more they will do to bring us together and bring about change in our food system and our society.

2.9 Wholesaler non-profit food hubs supplying public and community institutions

In Algonquin/Ottawa, there is an initiative to transform the local food bank distribution hub into a wholesale non-profit food hub that will be able to supply a much wider range of local, public and non-profit institutions including schools, child care centers, community agencies, group homes, health centers etc. The goal is that the food for the wholesale hub will be sourced through value-based relationships with local food producers and processors, which will allow for graduated scaling-up.

2.10 Covid-19 lens on procurement and lessons for long-term sustainable change

In New England, \$1 billion of food is bought by institutions (schools, colleges, health care, prisons, jails, child care facilities, etc) every year. Daily, about a quarter of the people in the region are connected somehow to institutions. With creativity and leadership, institutional procurement has enormous potential to transform our food system but how can we better measure if incremental changes, even exciting ones, are actually moving us towards long-term change?

Reflecting on what happened during Covid-19, which brought huge disruption, one response is to see where and why local procurement was sustainable. Really strong relationships between producers, intermediaries and institutional buyers create power within the community that surrounds the institutions. These relationships and community context foster the predictability that enables farmers to put more products in the ground and make investments that support the institutional marketplace.

Beyond purchasing, institutions can usefully "lean in" to their other roles in the food system, as educators and researchers, investors and landholders (traditional territory of Indigenous folks).

2.11 Seed and food sovereignty

Seed sovereignty is embedded in Indigenous knowledge systems and farmers' rights to freely save, exchange and sell their seeds. Laws have to be made or changed to reflect this adequately. Diverse local varieties, grown ecologically, are often produced and marketed through co-operatives.

Although not necessarily required, in many contexts local seed certification models can help to identify and price varieties appropriately. Quality assurance through participatory guarantee systems (PGS) is proving highly effective and has even been written into national seed law. For example, in Mopti, Mali, over the last three years, farmer cooperatives working with government officials have designed and implemented a PGS system for vegetable seeds, which has improved access to local seeds as well as generated income for local seed producers. This PGS system has now been nationally recognized and is helping to improve the seed law in Mali. In Yoro, Honduras, seed committees run by women and men smallholders use participatory research to ensure the production of diverse, locally-adapted varieties. They seek to strengthen farmers' rights and decision-making in the seed value chain through a local seed certification pilot and policy advocacy through national farmers' associations.

In Honduras, a microenterprise run by women starts with farmer-led participatory research and training about adaptive varieties and then controls the value chain through developing products that both improve family nutrition and generate income.



3

BARRIERS TO TERRITORIAL MARKETS AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

Introduction by IPES-Food Panel member Raj Patel

Raj Patel introduced a broad typology of barriers building on those already identified by IPES-Food, which is integrated and expanded upon below to reflect the wide-ranging discussion. Bearing in mind a remark that barriers can best be viewed as veiled opportunities, where possible below, the barrier, how to overcome it and any related supports are clustered together. Barriers are identified by a red triangle ▲ and solutions are identified by a green arrow →.

Guiding questions:

What are the barriers to more transformative territorial markets in your region, and how are they being overcome?

What is needed to support the advancement of more transformative territorial markets in your region? (For instance, structural mechanisms such as infrastructure, financing, governance, political support, and/or strategies and alliances, etc.)?



3.1 Structures, narrative and language: challenging capitalism, colonialism, dominant paradigm

There was a shared recognition that we might be replicating barriers in the discussion. The language of markets may itself be toxic to efforts towards thinking about something that breaks away from the paths that we are on. And all of this is, of course, vested through the concentrations of power we are bound into by capitalism and colonialism.

Narratives

▲ The poverty of imagination that territorial food systems are viable at large scale, which is prevalent among decision-makers at all levels.

▲ The stories that industrial agriculture tells about 'feeding the world'.

→ Build the skills to facilitate the spaces where we can create bridges, among ourselves and with decision-makers, so that we can shift the narrative to the connections between our many parts.

→ Build solidarity between those who are not served by the system with those who are purposefully undermined by the systems of oppression.

→ Power of bringing farmers and eaters together.

→ Be intentional about language, e.g. use eaters not consumers, and sharing not trading.

Challenging capitalism

▲ Whiteness as a structural barrier within a capitalist (and colonialist) system set up to favor it. Understood not just by the color of one's skin, but by the people that have embodied the characteristics or the traits of power within the system, for example, accessing government funding to support or subsidize agriculture.

→ Socialized food systems: food is an essential need for everyone (water, hospitals, roads, schools, etc. are socialized).

→ Realizing the right to food.

Challenging colonialism

▲ Stolen land

▲ Systemic barriers to keep Indigenous people out of food production, including huge discrimination and higher pricing by government and private suppliers (fuelled by assumptions of First Nations wealth), encompassing access to farmland, credit, inputs, insurance, etc.

▲ Canada is very good at insidious forms of colonialism. For example, the suite of Indigenous farm services includes loans that have significantly higher interest rates than other farm loan programs. Most land in Canada is unceded, and Indigenous peoples rightfully want to express their territorial rights. This extends to treaty-protected fisheries.

▲ Lack of access to education and training.

→ Land back. Respecting the integrity of the territory. Treaty land sharing networks: formal and informal systems in which landowners are engaging with Indigenous communities.

→ Preferential rates and programming for Indigenous peoples.

→ Incredible success rate for Indigenous-led agriculture and business training because of providing wrap around service. Breaking down barriers by modeling success.

→ Change can come at the stroke of a pen, because problems are no longer a matter of policy and legal barriers, but need political and institutional leadership that overturns the legacies of genocidal colonial policies in institutions.

3.2 Barriers for eaters - affordability, perceived convenience, disconnection and diet

A cluster of demand-side barriers and some general solutions were identified

- ▲ Cost of living (especially in the North of the land we call Canada).
 - ▲ Food costs - noting the need to incentivize fair prices to local farmers and accessible pricing, "Vote with your dollar" is a privilege only the affluent can afford.
 - ▲ Cycle of expectation that food should be cheap.
 - ▲ Perceived convenience of the globalized food system - local food system still considered a "detour" (change in Covid-19, e.g. demand for local beef doubled or more, but then reverted).
 - ▲ Lack of connection to land and sea and how food is grown, caught, harvested and processed - in the US only around 2% of the population is involved in agriculture.
 - ▲ Eaters and communities don't know where their food comes from.
 - ▲ Susceptibility to marketing of highly-processed, very unhealthy food - in the US 68% of people only purchase food from grocery chains.
- Foster a dramatic cultural shift towards territorial food systems, informed by systematic analysis and public exposure, in language people can understand.
- Create "desire narratives", enticing people with eco-tourism, developing educational curriculum for children, and providing examples of how young adults can navigate a future in agriculture, fisheries and within the wider rural economy.
- Building connections across the food web, many examples shared in case studies above.
- African Alliance for Food Sovereignty (AFSA) campaign "Our food comes from Africa".

3.3 Marketplaces - including farmers markets, food hubs and institutional procurement

- ▲ Large retailers are calling the shots, and this doesn't serve small-scale producers.
- ▲ Reliable markets are required so producers are confident to invest in their operations.
- ▲ Seasonality.
- ▲ Time constraints (and too much reliance on volunteer labor).
- ▲ Lack of deep knowledge, even amongst ourselves, about how to transform the supply chain to a value-based web.

Farmers Markets

- ▲ Very vulnerable business models, underfunded and under-resourced, with slim margins and often entirely volunteer operated.
- ▲ Very complex regulatory environments.
- ▲ Spend time defending and preserving existence rather than reaching out and forging alliances with other expressions of territorial food systems.



▲ Support for low income shoppers is missing or token

→ Celebrate remarkable impacts given low levels of investment and resources.

→ Meaningful tools emerging to support low-income shoppers (see case studies above).

Food Hubs

▲ Aggregation of local food by food hubs is not adapted for specific and unique needs of institutional procurers like schools.

→ Adapt aggregation models for “novel” or emerging markets, including institutions.

→ Establish solidarity contracts between food hubs, aggregating local food and trading between communities, including landlocked, coastal and Indigenous. Will require both enough investment to become viable, and protection of community interests to avoid the risk of appropriation at scale. Planetary boundaries should always be respected in type and scale of production for local and trade purposes.

Institutional Procurement

▲ Just easier for schools to purchase from mainstream distributors.

▲ Decentralized procurement is both a blessing and curse.

▲ Moving institutions that are price sensitive towards pricing that reflects the true value of food.

▲ Supply side barriers - logistics, distribution, safety standards and viability.

▲ For some food producers, the model is not viable or sustainable - too much “doing out of the goodness of our hearts”.

→ Public dollars should support the public good, leverage this.

3.4 Infrastructure - physical, human, social and relational

Physical infrastructure

→ Funding for scale-appropriate physical infrastructure for all types of territorial market activities e.g. market spaces, food hubs and institutional kitchens.

→ Rural infrastructure (and programming) that brings people to where the food is, complementing infrastructure that brings food to people. Agritourism, for example, means building facilities and additional skill sets around hospitality as well as really developing an idea of multifunctional agriculture rather than just productive agriculture.

Human capacity

▲ Where is the next generation of farmers, fishers, food producers and food entrepreneurs?

▲ Farm succession because despite most farmers wanting to mentor and pass on their land, getting young people to go to the hinterlands and away from the peri-urban areas is very challenging.

▲ Paradox of how to do “small-holders at scale” and populate the local economy.

▲ Gaps in knowledge, willpower and funds to support and train those who do want to get involved. Crucially, getting new farmers past the critical 10-year mark when there can be confidence around their viability.

- Food markets are embedded in deep knowledge gathering and sharing, including traditional and indigenous knowledge, and ecological and many other kinds.
- See case studies, particularly around rural strategies and desire narratives.

Social and relational infrastructure

- ▲ Lack of community forums - very few spaces and gatherings to foster community self-determination, subsidiarity to take control of decisions, and participatory budgeting. Lack of community media is another dimension of this.
- ▲ Hollowing out of rural communities through depopulation resulting in degradation of all kinds of rural community infrastructure (see below for financial and land use implications).
- Bring policy-makers to educational days in the territorial food system and nurture relationships with them.
- Leverage publicly funded procurement, like farm to school, to engage with policymakers and open up the discussion to talk about their whole agriculture/health and other budgets.
- Create “desire narratives”, enticing people with eco-tourism, developing educational curriculum for children, and providing examples of how young adults can navigate a future in agriculture, fisheries and within the wider rural economy.
- Community embeddedness and specificity of territorial food systems are a strength.

3.5 Financial Flows

- ▲ Financial viability - facing an uphill battle against a massively subsidized global food system based on industrialized agriculture.
- ▲ Lack of working capital and higher interest rates for small farmers (and Indigenous people, see section above)
- ▲ Insidious “techno-solutionism” absorbing far too much money and resources, especially around climate change, agritech, vertical farms, etc.
- ▲ Climate financing is supporting big, corporate agricultural players.
- ▲ Rural depopulation results in a lower tax base and degraded infrastructure.

3.6 Planning for land and sea use, health and safety, and regulation

Planning for land and sea use

- ▲ Institutions of the state and jurisdictions don’t match natural biomes, making it harder to look after, for example, foodsheds and watersheds that need their own mechanisms.
- ▲ Climate change will exacerbate displacement and put pressure on livable regions.
- ▲ Lack of regional planning capacity to contend with forces of gentrification, including financialised real estate and corporate pressures.
- ▲ Erosion of laws that prevent corporate ownership of land and fewer people actually owning the means of production on their own land (renters have less incentive to maintain the value of their community including practices enshrined within their food). This results in fewer farmers, high barriers to entry, and an increase in investor-class landowners and non-operating landowners.
- ▲ Rural depopulation prevents communities from maintaining the integrity of their identity and their food.

- Use school land for farming, including for new farmers.
- Opportunity of climate disruption - flexibility/nimbleness of local food systems (with proactive relationships with farmers), compared to supermarkets reliant on long food chains.

Health and safety, and regulation

- ▲ Health and safety regulations can be used as a way to freeze out those not fully participating in capitalist system.
- ▲ Trend to shift food safety regulations to those of large corporations in the past few decades, which inevitably doesn't work for small scale producers.
- ▲ During Covid grocery stores remained open while farmers markets and community gardens were closed.
- ▲ Indigenous communities want to bring traditional meat and game into public places, but public health guidelines get in the way. Schools and hospitals want to incorporate traditional foods but they cannot.
- ▲ On broader regulation or formalization of markets, recognize what we can disrupt and lose (e.g. marijuana legalization in Canada disrupted a functioning market in many communities)
- Advocate for scale-appropriate food safety regulations.
- Covid closures forced many different groups to come together and develop city guidelines about how to safely re-open farmers markets and community gardens, so participatory planning was a silver lining.

3.7 Global Food Systems

- ▲ Short-termism, inadequate measures of success (bushels per hectare...), and siloed thinking where agricultural policy is at odds with health.
- ▲ The whole structure of the dominant system - its financial flows, flows of debt and commodity circuits, new technologies - extracts labor and colonizes food systems.
- ▲ Corporate players in large-scale agriculture are active enemies trying to crush small-scale producers.
- ▲ Commodity export orientation of our food system, and the regulations, investment, credit, subsidies, insurance and other forces and tools that perpetuate its domination. This keeps territorial markets as niche players.
- ▲ Structural adjustment and trade liberalization have removed mechanisms supporting smallholder agriculture and marketing such as supply management, rural extension, etc. and caused agricultural dumping that undermines local food systems.
- ▲ Inherent ambiguity that the capitalist food system is resting on an informal food system that has been keeping people fed, and has survived despite the state, yet seeking supports and recognition.
- ▲ How to differentiate opportunities and relationships with different kinds of produce, commodities and their producers (broadly fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat versus crops like wheat). Risk of alienation and polarization, especially in export-focused countries, if those nuances are ignored.
- ▲ What about commodities, like coffee or bananas, that have a global market but are specific to an agro-climatic zone, and are often the main source of income for the exporting countries?

- Embrace the decay and die-offs of some commodity markets, like a tree falling and making space in the understory, and seize the chance to grow new small-scale enterprises.
- A global perspective and alliance (network) to work for territorial food systems. To work against global trade agreements, we need to take a unified global approach.
- “Markets” is plural and the appropriate market form depends on the type of product. The structure of the food web will be different in each place.



4

Closing Remarks by IPES- Food Panel Member Pat Mooney

Pat Mooney has learned in these last couple of decades that we are in a century of crisis. Whether the four horsemen of the apocalypse start off with a pandemic, with a war, with an economic crisis, or with a famine somewhere in the world, in the end, they all ride together. Therefore, we have to find better ways to have cross-sectoral communication and collaboration in territorial systems, to make connections with health, education, social welfare groups, those fighting for racialized communities and so on. We need to develop a common strategy.

Together, we can learn lessons from the pandemic experiences and the current food crisis, and prepare ourselves for the economic crisis that will be coming down the road. Together, we can map our communities to see where the gaps are, understand how we can contribute to each other's needs and struggles and make our shared territory work better. Collectively, we will be stronger in front of levels of government and others, identifying what we need support for and why.

Another reflection is that by playing to the negative, we can perhaps support the positive. The industrial food chain is saying that their new technologies can both address the needs of the global food chain and those of short supply chains, like ours. The dominant narrative is that their systems are so flexible, the technologies so creative and so customizable that they will work at every scale and in every market. We can take all of that on to challenge what is being said and why, and warn about the experiences to date.

The pandemic has exposed the failures of the pharmaceutical industry and governments. The war in Ukraine has exposed the failures of the armaments industry, and the limitations of “just in time” training and military supply chains. These are remarkable failures in the system that we can point to and ask, why do we think it will work out better in the food system? In territorial markets, we have an opportunity to position ourselves in front of governments by offering ways to avoid these kinds of crises and demonstrate progress built through solidarity and collaboration with other community movements.

5

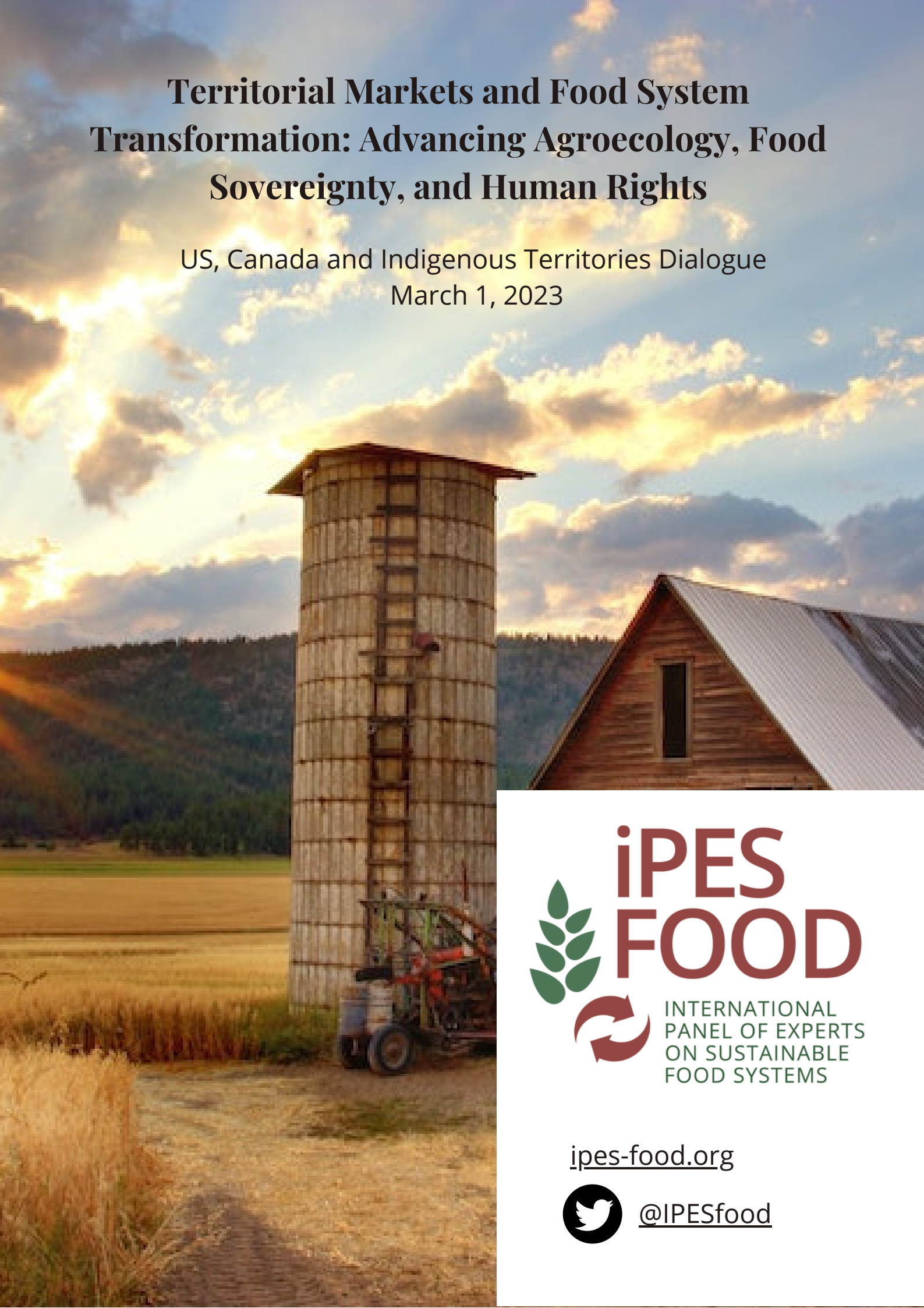
ANNEX

5.1 List of Resources Shared by Participants

- Civil Society Mechanism. "Connecting Smallholders to Market: An analytical guide." 2016. Link: https://www.csm4cfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ENG-ConnectingSmallholdersToMarkets_web.pdf
- Nourish Leadership. Labrador-Grenfell Health & Food First NL. Link: <https://www.nourishleadership.ca/ac-team-labrador>
- Farmers Market Coalition. "The Anti-Racist Farmers Market Toolkit." 2022. Link: <https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/farmers-markets-systemic-change-agents/>
- Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty. Indigenous Food Systems Network. 2023. Link: <https://www.indigenousfoodsystems.org/about>
- Seaweed Commons. A Precautionary Approach To Seaweed Aquaculture In North America: A position paper by the Seaweed Commons. 2022. Link: <https://seaweedcommons.org/wp-content/uploads/Seaweed-Commons-Position-Paper-on-Kelp-11.pdf>
- Ontario Council for International Relations. Transformations: Stories of Partnership, Resilience and Positive Change. 2017. Link: <https://www.transformationstories.ca/transformations-4>
- Hesse, B. The 8 White Identities. Link: <https://camosun.libguides.com/action/whitePrivilege>
- Blay-Palmer A, Santini G, Halliday J, Malec R, Carey J, Keller L, Ni J, Taguchi M, van Veenhuizen R. [City Region Food Systems: Building Resilience to COVID-19 and Other Shocks](#). Sustainability. 2021; 13(3):1325. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13031325>

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March 1, 2023



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