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土著人民问题常设论坛

第一届会议

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临时议程项目6

审查联合国系统有关土著人民的活动：交互式讨论

从联合国系统收到的资料

联合国粮食及农业组织目前与土著人民 有关的活动概览

何为粮农组织？

1. 联合国粮食及农业组织(粮农组织)成立于 1945 年，其任务是提高营养和生活水平、提高农业生产力和改善农业人口的生活条件。粮农组织如今是联合国系统内最大的专门机构之一，并且是农业、林业、渔业和乡村发展的主导机构。粮农组织是一个政府间组织，拥有 183 个成员国，外加一个成员组织，欧洲共同体。自创建以来，粮农组织就致力于促进农业发展、改善营养和促进粮食安全——其定义是所有人任何时候都能获得活跃和健康生活所需的粮食，以减轻贫困和饥馑。

2. 粮农组织的管理机构是成员国大会，每两年举行一次会议，审查粮农组织进行的工作，批准工作方案和下一个两年期的预算。大会推选 49 个成员国组成理事会作为临时理事机构。理事会成员国按轮流制担任，任期三年。会议还选举出总干事为该机构的首要主管。现任总干事是塞内加尔的雅克·迪乌夫博士，从 1994 年 1 月起就任，已六年届满，并再次当选，于 2000 年 1 月起开始下一个六年的任期。粮农组织下分八个部门：行政和财务司、农业司、经济和社会司、渔业司、林业司、一般事务及新闻司、可持续发展和技术合作司。粮农组织有一支 3,500 人的长期工作人员队伍，其中有 1,500 专业人员和 2,000 名一般事务人员。除了设在罗马的总部以外，还有五个区域办事处、五个分区域办事处、五个联络处，并有 78 个国家办事处。

3. 粮农组织的工作划分为两大类：经常方案和外地方案。

4. 经常方案涵盖成员国普遍感兴趣的各类活动，包括对外地工作的支助以及就政府的政策和规划制订提出咨询意见，并且还包括为发展项目融资的特别“窗口”。粮农组织的资金，是各成员国按大会确定的额度缴纳的会费。大会批准的 2002 至 2003 年两年期的预算是 6.517 亿美元。

5. 外地方案主要通过通常与各国政府和其他机构合作实施的项目提供援助，具体贯彻粮农组织的发展战略。1999 年，大约 77% 的外地方案资金由各国信托基金供资，联合国发展方案提供了 9% 的资金。粮农组织的技术合作方案提供了约 13% 的资金，并通过粮食安全特别方案提供了 1% 的资金。这两笔资金均为经常方案预算下的项目。

6. 1994 年以来，粮农组织进行了自其创建以来最重大的结构调整，以实行业务下放、精简程序和削减开支。每年节省了约 5,000 万美元。改革要点如下：

进一步强调粮食安全；

权力下放至区域和分区域的办事处；

更多聘用了发展中国家和转型期国家的专家；

扩大了与私营部门和非政府组织的联系；

进一步开放粮农组织电子数据库和文件。

7. 1999年，大会批准了“2000年至2015年的战略纲要”。这是在与各成员国和粮农组织的其他利益相关者进行广泛磋商之后拟定的，为粮农组织今后的方案提供了蓝图，可在为期六年的中期计划循环制订过程中逐步地修订完善。

粮农组织的作用

发展援助

8. 粮农组织通过一系列技术援助项目，向发展中国家和经济转型国家提供实际帮助。粮农组织鼓励采取一种综合办法，在制定每个发展项目时考虑到环境、社会和经济等方面。

资 料

9. 粮农组织收集、分析、解释和散发有关营养、粮食、农业、林业和渔业方面的资料。粮农组织发挥着资料交流所的作用，向农民、科学家、政府计划人员、商人和非政府组织提供各方所需的资料，以便作出合理的计划、投资、营销、调研和培训决定。

向政府提供咨询

10. 粮农组织凭借其广泛的信息网络以及其技术工作人员的技能和经验，提供有关农业政策和规划制订以及发展所需的行政和法律结构方面的独立咨询。粮农组织还提供制定乡村发展、粮食安全和减轻贫困国家战略方面的咨询。

中立的论坛

11. 粮农组织是一个中立的论坛，所有各国均可在此进行关于重大粮食和农业问题的讨论和合作。粮农组织批准各项国际标准并协助制定各项国际公约和协议。粮农组织还主办了一些重大会议、技术会议和专家咨询会议。

12. 关于设立土著人民问题常设论坛，粮农组织任命土地租赁事务科(科长，Paul Munro-Faure)作为此类问题的中心协调机构。

粮农组织有关土著人民问题的活动概览

13. 粮农组织在许多常规方案活动中与土著人民及其组织携手工作。土著人民问题是无数组织单位，包括从事家庭粮食安全和营养、渔业、林业、土地、水源、植物生产和保护、牲畜、农业辅助系统和法律咨询等单位，以及主管参与、乡村机构和土地租赁事务的各单位工作的一个组成部分。

14. 涉及土著人民(包括传统社区)问题的方案活动包括：

土著人民的土地管理；

生物多样性，包括促进粮食和农业发展的植物和动物基因资源全球方案；

向农民进行现场传授；

农民的权利；

营养和家庭粮食安全；

对粮食不安全问题 and 易受影响情况进行调查与评估；

可持续的森林管理；

发展法；

土地租赁；

乡村机构和参与；

男女平等、人口和土著知识；

调研、推广和培训。

本简要说明的附件载有上述活动的详情。*

15. 粮农组织的外地方案也涉及土著人问题。技术合作司全面负责粮农组织的业务活动，包括与制定和实施各国内、分区域和区域性方案和项目，包括应付自然或人为灾害措施等相关的政策援助、投资支持以及通盘管理活动。

16. 政策援助处是向各成员国提供政策咨询的主要渠道，协助制定各国的发展政策、方案和战略，旨在建立有利于粮食安全和农业及乡村发展的环境。该处还通过政策培训，协助建立各国的政策分析和制定政策的能力。

* 本报告附件仅有英文本。

17. 投资中心处的作用是，通过与 20 个国际机构达成的合作协议，为农业和乡村发展项目和方案以及粮食援助提供资金及捐款，协助粮农组织各成员国实现其投资目标，以支持增强和可持续的农业和乡村发展。这些国际机构包括世界银行、国际农业发展基金各区域和分区域发展银行、欧洲复兴开发银行、联合国基础建设发展基金和世界粮食规划署。

18. 外地业务处管理和筹措用于各技术合作项目，包括粮食安全特别方案框架内项目，以及用于各类救济活动的资源。

19. 与粮农组织和合作伙伴机构的技术部门进行合作，技术合作司根据具体业务情况，不同程度地兼顾到土著人民需求。例如，投资中心处在制订项目制定时，考虑到了融资机构关于土著人民问题的保障政策。

土著人民问题和世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后

20. 粮农组织拟于 2002 年 6 月 10 日至 13 日在罗马总部举行一次全球会议，审查消除饥谨努力所取得的进展。“世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后”会议旨在回顾自 1996 年世界粮食首脑会议以来所取得的进展，并审议加快这一进程的办法。

21. 这次首脑会议原计划于 2001 年 11 月 5 日至 9 日举行，但 9 月 11 日美国遭袭击之后被推迟了。粮农组织总干事雅克·迪乌夫博士说，“这次首脑会议的目的是代表饥饿的人民，为全世界的努力注入新的推动力。我们必须投入政治诚意和资金，消除饥谨。国际社会一再重申，国际社会致力于铲除贫困。消除饥谨是一项关键的第一步。”

22. 各土著人民组织充分参与了“世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后”的筹备工作。筹备“世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后”的国际非政府组织/民间社会组织合设的规划委员会是各土著人民组织的协调中心。规划委员会还负责筹备拟与首脑会议同期召开的非政府组织论坛会议。论坛会议拟实行资格配额制，以保证代表来自世界各地土著人民的 606 名代表享有公平的出席比例(9.4%)。在筹备“世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后”期间，粮农组织为拟于 2002 年 4 月 17 日至 19 日在危地马拉举行的土著人民粮食权问题国际协商会议提供了支助。

土著人民问题、粮农组织和世界可持续发展问题首脑会议

23. 粮农组织作为《21 世纪议程》若干章节(包括第 10 章“统筹规划和管理陆地资源的方法”；第 11 章“制止砍伐森林”；第 13 章“管理脆弱的生态系统：可持续发展的山区发展”；第 14 章“促进可持续发展的农业和农村发展”)的任务主管机构，负责进行协调并向可持续发展问题委员会报告其在履行此项职责方面所取得的进展。这项职责除其他之外，还包括与被确认为贯彻《21 世纪议程》主要群体的非政府组织和土著人民进行联系。通过各个阶段和各类会议与这些主群体进行联系，是筹备 2002 年在约翰内斯堡举行“世界粮食首脑会议：五年之后”的一项重要活动。

与山区可持续发展有关的土著人民问题和 2002 年的国际山区年

24. 山区是许多土著和传统社区的家园。土著知识和经验往往是实践山区土地使用法的一个关键组成部分，必须充分地融入为可持续山区发展拟定的战略和方案。作为 2002 年“国际山区年”活动的主办机构，粮农组织鼓励和协助各国建立全国委员会，制定开展“山区年”活动的计划，并提出维护山区的国家战略。这包括促使土著团体作为全国委员会的成员全面地参与制定，充分考虑到土著人民特殊知识、需求和情况的战略和方案。

Annex

REGULAR PROGRAMME AREAS OF RELEVANCE TO INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Agriculture	Indigenous land husbandry	<p>In its work in the areas of policy and planning and in the management and development of land and water resources, the Land and Water Development Division actively promotes participatory approaches to enhance the active involvement in decision-making by all concerned stakeholders including poor farmers, indigenous groups and local communities. This is exemplified through farmer field school approaches for capacity-building and participatory technology development for improved land and water resources management that are being advocated through the Division's projects and activities in sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>The Land and Water Development Division has developed guidelines and a CD-ROM with extensive training material on participatory training and extension in land and water management. The approaches are developed within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security and address the specific needs of indigenous people by reviewing their livelihood assets and priorities.</p> <p>The Land and Water Development Division has prepared a project concept note for a Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Fund (GEF/UNDP) project on Globally Important Indigenous Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). The aim of this project is to identify and mobilize recognition and conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems and landscapes and their associated agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems and to enhance the local, national and global benefits derived through their management and conservation. FAO would liaise closely with indigenous groups in this endeavour.</p> <p>FAO contributed to the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which recommends specific principles when dealing with indigenous issues (prior informed consent).</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Biodiversity, including global programmes on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	<p>In its programme on biodiversity for food and agriculture which contributes to the implementation of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on agricultural biodiversity, FAO places great importance on the conservation and sustainable use of farmers' plant varieties and landraces and domestic animal breeds and races that have been developed and adapted over generations by local and indigenous communities to suit their socio-economic context and biophysical conditions. FAO is coordinating the preparation of country reports, which will contribute to the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. Emphasis is placed on the maintenance of sustainable and diverse farming systems that not only ensure the maintenance of ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling and water quality but also ensure risk management from threats such as drought, pest and disease.</p>
	Farmer field schools	<p>The Global Integrated Pest Management Facility hosted by the Plant Protection Service continues to support Andean small-scale farmers, Quichua/Quechua "Indios" in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Furthermore, different ethnic minorities living in Viet Nam and growing, inter alia, rain-fed rice benefit from farmer field school programmes.</p> <p>Indigenous farmer communities often have limited resource bases and mostly produce for subsistence. The Integrated Production and Pest Management Farmers Field Schools (IPPM-FFS) contribute to improved food security and poverty alleviation by empowering farmers to enhance their knowledge in order to optimize the efficiency of their limited resources. IPPM allows farmers to minimize dependence on costly agro-chemicals that have a negative impact on environment and health. Field schools integrate traditional local knowledge and broader ecological principles and improve their environment through prevention of contamination.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Farmers' rights	<p>The plant genetic resources on which world food security depends have been developed for over 10,000 years by farmers and farming communities. These crops, from their centres of origin, have been exchanged all over the world, and farmers have selected and acclimatized them in a wide variety of environments and of specific needs. In the process, through this communal effort, they have built up the portfolio of intra-specific diversity that is contained in traditional farming systems. Countries are interdependent in regard to these resources, which are the raw material for all plant improvement by farmers and their communities, by plant breeders and through biotechnology.</p> <p>In the context of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was the first international agreement for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, the 1989 FAO Conference, by resolution 5/89, considering that, in the history of mankind, unnumbered generations of farmers had conserved, improved and made available plant genetic resources, endorsed Farmers' Rights, defined as meaning "rights arising from the past, present and future contributions of farmers in conserving, improving, and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin/diversity", with the aim of "ensuring full benefits to farmers, and supporting the continuation of their contributions", in order to "assist farmers and farming communities, in all regions of the world, but especially in the areas of origin/diversity of plant genetic resources, in the protection and conservation of their plant genetic resources, and of the natural biosphere" and "to allow farmers, their communities, and countries in all regions, to participate fully in the benefits derived, at present and in the future, from the improved use of plant genetic resources, through plant breeding and other scientific methods". The resolution aimed to balance the rights of the informal innovators, whose crops provide the basic material for modern plant technology, with those of the developers of plant varieties under forms of intellectual property.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p data-bbox="826 272 2004 523">On 3 November 2001, after seven years of intergovernmental negotiations in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to revise the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO Conference adopted the new binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Treaty, which will enter into force upon ratification by 40 countries, makes specific provision for the recognition of Farmers' Rights in article 9, which reads as follows:</p> <p data-bbox="922 564 1989 746">9.1 The Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world.</p> <p data-bbox="922 788 1995 970">9.2 The Contracting Parties agree that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national Governments. In accordance with their needs and priorities, each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including:</p> <p data-bbox="922 1011 2000 1078">(a) Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;</p> <p data-bbox="922 1120 1977 1187">(b) The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and</p> <p data-bbox="922 1228 2000 1337">(c) The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>9.3 Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate.</p> <p>Moreover, the Treaty, in its preamble, affirms that “the past, present and future contribution of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available these resources, is the basis of Farmers’ Rights”, and that “the rights recognized in this Treaty to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers’ Rights, as well as the promotion of Farmers’ Rights at national and international levels”.</p>
	Processing and storage	<p>The Agricultural Support Systems Division, through the Information Network on Post Harvest Operations (INPHO), has consolidated, documented and disseminated information on the traditional processing and storage of a number of foods which are locally grown in developing countries (see at http://www.fao.org/inpho). Much of the information presented in INPHO relates to developing and improving traditional practices. The World Intellectual Property Organization has supported this initiative on the principle that it provides a basis for identifying indigenous technologies and protecting them.</p>
Economic and Social	Nutrition and household food security	<p>The Food and Nutrition Division is systematically incorporating the identification and targeting of indigenous groups and the use of indigenous knowledge and resources in its community-based nutrition programme work. A methodology and procedures for documenting traditional food systems of indigenous peoples have been developed in collaboration with the Centre for Indigenous Peoples’ Nutrition and Environment (CINE) of McGill University, Canada. Through this partnership, FAO has worked with indigenous peoples in Thailand, China and Bangladesh on the identification and re-introduction of the consumption of native foods with good potential for alleviating micronutrient deficiencies, and particularly vitamin A.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>The Food and Nutrition Division is also collaborating with the Asian Vegetable Research Development Centre through its Africa Branch in Tanzania on the identification and domestication of indigenous vegetables, some of which are traditionally known and used for addressing micronutrient deficiencies.</p> <p>With support from FAO, the INFOODS Regional Data Centres are carrying out work related to analysing foods of indigenous peoples and compiling those data in national food composition databases and printed food tables.</p>
	Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling and mapping	<p>As part of the Food and Nutrition Division's Nutrition Country Profiling work, subnational nutrition and household food security information related to indigenous groups is systematically incorporated in the profiles. In 2001, the Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division carried out special vulnerable group profiling exercises in mountain areas of Viet Nam and Guatemala which are largely inhabited by indigenous groups. Vulnerable group profiles are being prepared for Nepal and Ethiopia and a special paper on mountain people has been prepared in the Department in the context of the International Year of Mountains.</p> <p>The Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) programme is integrating information on food insecure and vulnerable groups at the national and subnational levels. FIVIMS is designed to capture information on indigenous peoples as they are often amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Indigenous peoples' organizations are among the various stakeholders involved in the FIVIMS process.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Forestry	Sustainable forest management	<p>Participation and empowerment of indigenous people in sustainable forest management is an integral part of the efforts of the Forestry Department. Specific examples include:</p> <p>For agricultural and timber products, certification and benefit sharing mechanisms have been established in order to monitor and evaluate the ecologically friendly, economically viable and/or socially equitable use of these products. Criteria and indicators have been elaborated, against which production and commercialization are assessed.</p> <p>Fair trade schemes and benefit sharing arrangements focus on social aspects of trade and the adequate sharing of benefits among stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities.</p> <p>Non-wood forest products (NWFP) have only recently been incorporated in some of these mechanisms. The relevance of these mechanisms for the sustainable use of NWFP is being analysed and the methods used to assess the sustainable production and commercialization of NWFP are being tested and documented.</p> <p>In forest extension the emphasis is on demonstrating multi-partnership extension models for the forest sector; supply chains for timber and NWFP that demonstrate principles of sustainable forest management, and social and economic equity; and the generation of mechanisms for enhancing market access of tree and forest product users and gatherers. Indigenous peoples being the custodians of much of the physical and intellectual wealth of forests, are the instrumental partner in many such initiatives.</p> <p>In the Forests, Trees and People Programme (FTPP), there is a commitment to the betterment of indigenous/local forest users in Asia, Latin America and Africa through thematic support in conflict management, marketing analysis and development, participatory processes, and gender. FTPP support to partners</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>includes: alliances to promote the community forestry bill addressing fundamental rights of hill tribes in northern Thailand; the Indigenous, Peasant and Afro-American Co-ordination for Community Agroforestry which facilitates indigenous people's experimentation in community forestry and in Peru supports the development of the guidelines for effective management from indigenous perspective in conjunction with COICAP (Coordinadora Agroforestal Campesina e Indigena del Peru) and the World Wildlife Fund.</p> <p>In Latin America, particularly Honduras, the indigenous communities, through their representatives, have been involved in the participatory mechanisms that enable them to put forward their own demands and expectations in relation to forestry policies, laws and regulations.</p> <p>With regard to support provided to countries in developing status and action plans for forest genetic resources, indigenous peoples are among the local people involved in programmes on forest biological diversity. In addition, the Forestry Department's programmes on genetic resources and forest biological diversity support action under article 8 (j) on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
Office of the Legal Counsel	Development law	<p>The Development Law Service provides assistance in law reform in the technical areas of the Organization's work to member countries, upon request. Customary rights of access to and use of land, water, forestry and fisheries resources, which are traditionally exercised by rural communities either individually or collectively, are taken into consideration both in the legislative review and the legal reform processes that are supported by the Service. Given their particular relevance to the specific needs and circumstances of local populations and indigenous peoples in many countries, these rights are often formally recognized and guaranteed in national legislation on natural resource management.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Sustainable Development	Land tenure	<p>The Land Tenure Service's publication, <i>Land Reform Land Settlement and Cooperatives</i>, frequently includes papers directly relating to indigenous land issues. In 2000, for example, the first volume included "Recognition of ancestral domain claims on Palawan Island, the Philippines: is there a future?" The second volume of 2000 contains a paper entitled "Indigenous highlands in transition: the case of Ha Giang province in Northern Vietnam." The first volume for 2001 includes a paper on indigenous rights in Canada, "Canadian land reform: an overview of Aboriginal rights and land settlement claims." Indigenous land issues are included in the Service's major outputs for 2002-2003: "Assistance to land tenure modifications under indigenous and common property resource management systems, for balanced rural development." This activity focuses on the African Lusophone countries, where the Service also has considerable field involvement; on indigenous pastoralism regimes in the Near East; and on preparing guidelines for negotiated land conflict resolution.</p>
	Rural institutions and participation	<p>The strengthening of customary local institutions for natural resource management and for disaster prevention and coping is at the core of an ongoing programme of the Rural Institutions and Participation Service. In the context of decentralization policies and shrinking resources in remote rural areas, the programme also assesses options and mechanisms for improved local level interaction between customary/indigenous local institutions and local government authorities and/or other non-governmental actors. The programme focuses on Central Asia (including north-west China) and the Near East and on nomadic and pastoral societies.</p> <p>The Service has participated in several activities with the Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. One aim of the project "Apiculture development in Karnataka", 1996-1998, was to develop an ecological and economically sound extension programme for landless and tribal people to reintroduce beekeeping and honey production based income and employment generating activities. The project developed and field tested a field manual on ecologically sound and economically viable practices in bee hunting/keeping and honey gathering, production and processing for landless tribal women's groups.</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>The Service and the Regional Office are also collaborating with the Federation of Savings and Credit Unions in Thailand to develop adapted training materials and approaches for skills development for community groups and cooperatives established by ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand. Again in Thailand, working also with other partners, support has been given for capacity-building of village level women’s groups from an ethnic minority to improve the packaging and marketing of their organic farming produce. A third initiative with the Regional Office has been in field project formulation in Maharashtra, India, to develop an institutional capacity-building programme for small and medium enterprise development in the five poorest districts with ethnic minorities in the State of Maharashtra.</p>
	<p>Gender, population and indigenous knowledge</p>	<p>The Women and Population Division provides technical backstopping in both sociocultural research on population issues, including research on the population aspects of indigenous communities, and how gender-specific local knowledge can offer greater understanding about natural resource management (agricultural biodiversity, land, water, mountains, urban agriculture, forests and drylands). Indigenous knowledge is gender-specific and underpins cultural and resource conservation practices, the associated institutions that support these practices and the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>The Division’s project “Gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems to strengthen agriculture and rural development in southern Africa” (LinKS) is not specific to indigenous peoples, but touches on indigenous knowledge and its preservation. LinKS is a regional project being implemented in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Mozambique whose main aim is to strengthen the capacity of key institutions and organizations to understand and apply farmers’ knowledge and experience for the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The project builds on partner organizations’ existing activities in this area and supports their ongoing work by:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Training of field level staff in how to record and document local knowledge and how to use gender analysis and participatory methods for both research and action processes;</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>Grants and technical assistance for research on gender-based differences in farmers' knowledge related to agro-biodiversity conservation; and</p> <p>Technical assistance to enhance communication and exchange of information about the value of local knowledge in agriculture within and between communities, with institutions that interact with farmers and with policy makers.</p> <p>The project works with a diverse group of partners in each country. These include NGOs, government institutions, universities and training and communications entities. Research is also being undertaken on specific issues of local knowledge and biodiversity conservation.</p>
	<p>Research, extension and training</p>	<p>The Research, Extension and Training Division has been involved in, or is planning to carry out, a range of activities related to indigenous issues:</p> <p>In Bolivia project activities have been carried out to implement intercultural communication. This has included development of communication systems managed by indigenous people and the production of multimedia training packages in local languages (Guaraní, Chiquitano and Quechua). A case study is also under preparation for publication on a communication system managed by indigenous people with FAO support "Yasarekomo. Autodiagnóstico de una experiencia de comunicación para el desarrollo del pueblo Guaraní en Bolivia." A further case study has been prepared on local communication and power relations within Guaraní communities: "La participación entre bastidores - La comunicación y toma de decisiones entre los guaraníes del Izozog, Bolivia."</p>

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		<p>A study and training exercise on Agricultural and Knowledge Information Systems (AKIS) was carried out in 2001 in sub-Zoba Hagaz in Eritrea with Danida and the University of Reading, United Kingdom. This exercise:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Identified the information and technology needs of different categories of farmers in the context of their own indigenous knowledge; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Trained extension staff in a methodology for participatory AKIS assessments to develop farmer-led extension (advisory) services.</p> <p>A study analysing information and knowledge-sharing processes among pastoralists in Eritrea, including innovation and change factors, is under way with the University of Rome's Centre for Development Studies on Indigenous Knowledge and Information Systems (IKIS).</p> <p>A field study on the gender dimensions of AKIS is being developed with the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, to be implemented in 2002 in Eritrea or Kenya. The study will identify gender information needs of pastoralist groups on the basis of their indigenous perspectives.</p> <p>A case study on government programmes and education issues related to livelihood conditions of ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand is being finalized together with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.</p>