

Report Lunch Talk 14.6.2022:

After 3 years we were once again gathered at the Uniclub in Bonn - and this time also online - to discuss - almost traditionally - current issues with indigenous and international experts on the occasion of the climate negotiations taking place in Bonn at that time. The lunch talk was dedicated to issues related to the nexus of climate, food and health crises and possible solutions from different perspectives and practical experiences. The topic was related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, and 13 to end hunger and malnutrition, achieve healthy lives for all, and address climate change. We received impressions, brief reports and insights from the local, indigenous and international speakers on how these are interconnected and can be achieved and how solutions can be found. Participants on site and online had the opportunity to get to know the speakers, their work and their key perspectives via a padlet before the event.

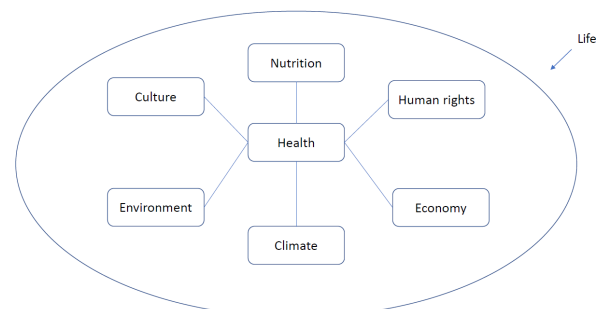


Mireille Remesch from Agrarkoordination in Hamburg began by giving an overview of the nexus challenges in and for Germany. She said that the climate and health crises are merging on our plates. Nutrition is mainly responsible for climate change and the poor health of people in many countries. Ms. Remesch introduced the concept of planetary boundaries. It includes a set of nine planetary boundaries within which humanity can evolve for future generations. However, some of the boundaries have already been exceeded by our current development and way of life and are therefore no longer intact for future generations. This is where unsustainable development is taking place. Therefore, changes in the food system are urgently needed. One way is to produce and consume more vegetables and fruits. But it is not only the consumers who have to take responsibility, but also the politicians. A coherent policy is necessary. The German government has announced a food strategy for the period up to 2023. In order to become climate neutral, Germany must reduce the number of animals by 50% and demand more ecological and fair production in the restructuring of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

For *Pedro Coña Caniullan*, Mapuche and agronomist from Chile, health is at the center of our daily lives and is therefore also central in the nexus between climate, nutrition and health. Health, on the other hand, is connected to many - if not all - other aspects of our lives. Life connects us all, all people and beings, plants and the environment on earth.

Mr. Coña presents a project that works with a rural Mapuche elementary school in Chile, where the link between education, agriculture and renewable energies and thus sustainability is at stake. When children of primary school age learn about the natural

A holistic view to find local solutions



resources in their environment and how they can be used sustainably, a foundation is laid for a healthy and mindful life with the natural environment. Cultural values associated with this are also passed on. This holistic approach is being put into practice in the elementary school by a combination of growing vegetables in school garden plots, educating practically about local food plants and foods and setting this local practice into a wider environmental healthy context, including through the use of solar energy in the school. (slides Pedro Coña)

Health an expression of life

Mapuche Values:
Wiñoy tuwün dungu = reciprocity
Yamugun = respect
Mugeluwün = care
Inkawün = defense



Picture: S. Schelham



Grace Balawag from Tebtebba organization from the Philippines highlighted the role of indigenous women in the nexus. Indigenous women are bearers and keepers of traditional knowledge about food systems, nutrition, health and culture as well as adaptation to the impacts of climate change. On a daily basis, they are entrusted and engaged in the nutrition and health of their families, and therefore play a critical role in crisis resolution. With their knowledge, they therefore need to be heard more in discussions and the developments of adaptation strategies. Empowered indigenous women have learned to adapt to climate change and contribute to poverty reduction through their knowledge and practices.

Simon Peter Longoli, from the Karamoja Development Forum in Uganda presents the traditional negotiation mechanism of the Karamojong migrant herders in the context of the nexus of climate, food and health crises. Because of the extreme impacts of climate change, the traditional bargaining mechanism 'Etamam' takes on a central and vital importance for survival. Etamam, simply means "sending the message." The message or issue regarding access to pastoralist resources, the use and management of which is critical to the survival of pastoralists. Etamam is now institutionalized and integrated into various herders' institutions and mechanisms. The negotiation mechanisms ensure conflict-free access to the necessary resources of the pastoralists and are thus central in the management of the linked crises. This also applies to communication and the coexistence and sharing of resources, especially water, with the Turkana from Kenya.

Werner Bokelmann reports on the HORTINLEA project in Kenya. The global food system must change. To do so, the local approaches already presented are critical. The HORTINLEA project focused on the role of indigenous vegetables as a way to create food security for low-income households in Kenya in particular. Indigenous vegetables are not a new issue and their significant role in the health of local populations has already been highlighted in the scientific community. What are the specific benefits of these indigenous vegetables? In Kenya specifically, there is a wide variety of indigenous vegetables that have the potential to address the so-called 'hidden hunger', i.e. deficiencies in vitamins and minerals. The good adaptability of indigenous vegetables to local conditions means good growing conditions, which in turn make their labor-intensive cultivation important sources of income for rural households. The question is, why these vegetables, given their benefits, are not increasingly used and grown. A holistic analysis is needed to answer such questions, which is why the project chose a value chain approach as the conceptual framework for this type of analysis.

Katrina McKee gives an overview of the work of the Cologne Food Council. It is about food security and how consumption and production patterns can be changed, since a predominance of consumption with too little production can be observed in urban areas. The food councils deal with these issues on a municipal level and act as a bridge between citizens and the municipal authorities. There are several action-oriented steps, such as the implementation of urban agriculture to address

the disparity between consumption in urban centers on the one hand and energy-intensive production in the periphery on the other. This includes promoting small-scale agriculture and creating places in the city that can be used communally to grow food crops. These communities involve migrants and their knowledge of food crops and preparation. What would food sovereignty mean in our city? What would it look like? These are the questions the Food Council in Cologne is dealing with and which resulted in a [food strategy](#) for Cologne and the surrounding area as a contribution to the democratization of food policy.

In the subsequent discussion, the participants contributed online with questions and comments. There were questions about food sovereignty in crisis areas or unstable regions. Food security has to do with stability of supply and this brings us to the question of how we can make food systems more resilient. Strengthening the capacities of local people is central to this, Mr. Bokelmann emphasized. Unfortunately, agricultural developments and innovations have often not been built on local agricultural knowledge.

Another question dealt with the role of education. Education plays a central role, especially in obtaining knowledge, said Pedro Coña. This refers not only to knowledge about how plants are produced and used, but also what messages plants transmit, what they indicate to us, such as weather events. That's why culturally-based knowledge that is closely linked to place and its natural features is so important. Grace Balawag adds that passing on knowledge to the next generation is so important, which in turn is an important role for women. Unfortunately, it is observed in communities that the younger generation is often not interested in how crops are grown and traditional, locally adapted healthy food is produced. Therefore, there are strong efforts on the part of the older generations to engage in education. In education, it is important to combine traditional knowledge with new developments and technical knowledge. In Cologne, school gardens are an important place of learning to pass on knowledge about plants, their cultivation and their use in food to children, Katrina McKee added.

Regarding the role of women in indigenous agricultural systems, Simon Peter Longoli explained that among the Karamojong, women play an important role, especially in the kraals, to care for the herders as well as the animals. Nowadays, women are also increasingly involved in negotiation processes, for example in community councils. In pastoralist communities, women are respected and protected. There are also protective mechanisms to ensure the safety of women and girls in the kraals. More and more, women are also speaking out about their role and perspective. INFOE reported on this in a [blog post](#).

The presentations and discussions showed one thing above all: only together with local and indigenous knowledge carriers and knowledge systems and with interdisciplinary approaches, solutions for the nexus of the climate, health and food crisis can be found. Combining approaches that focus on local, indigenous knowledge, women and elders as knowledge bearers, education and value creation is the key to solving the nexus crises, both in Germany and German cities like Cologne, as well as in East Africa, Chile and the Philippines.

The condensed recording of the lunch talk can be viewed [here](#).

Report: Sabine Schielmann, INFOE