

Indigenous Research Network



In 2021, the GRA Council established the Indigenous Research Network (IRN) co led by New Zealand and Samoa, to strengthen indigenous voices in global agricultural issues and to help empower traditional indigenous practices to be used in our fight against climate change. The GRA acknowledges that there are structural barriers in education that has led to the underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples and the poor recognition of traditional knowledge. The IRN aims to help overcome these existing barriers in career pipelines for indigenous peoples and use traditional knowledge and methods of learning to build capability for today and for future generations.

In Te Ao Māori, the role of tikanga and kawa is crucial as kaitiaki of Te Taiao (In Māori worldview, the role of Traditional Māori customary systems is crucial as stewards or carers of the Environment). Indigenous communities have a close relationship with the land, sharing a sense of people belonging to the land as opposed to the land belonging to a person. This intergenerational view and the knowledge held over time provides a perspective that is valuable, particularly when indigenous communities can share experiences and develop effective and culturally relevant responses to climate change.

The IRN produced an introduction video that was launched during the GRA side event in the Pacific Pavilion at COP27 in Egypt on 12 November 2022. The theme for the side event was capability building, focused on inventory training and the broader application of that. The IRN have created this to show great examples of the impact of addressing these barriers through indigenous led initiatives in New Zealand. This video clip provides the ‘how and the why’ to building local capability for local responses.



Watch the video [here](#).

OVERALL GOALS

LEADERSHIP

Build scientific capability and capacity within their communities and globally

INFLUENCE

Ensure indigenous perspectives are actively and consistently considered in GRA decisions.

EDUCATION

Provide immersive indigenous experiences through the exchange of knowledge and ideas

EMPLOYMENT

Create experiences that retain Indigenous talent in mainstream institutions

The IRN has a vision that includes three main elements:

- 1. Resilience** – *we aim to withstand cultural, political & tech changes.*
- 2. Inclusivity** – *of indigenous peoples, ideas, needs, and aspirations in GRA decisions and research.*
- 3. Service oriented** – *the primary benefactor is not the contributor.*

For this network to succeed, we must include indigenous peoples from the outset to better understand their needs and aspirations and how they want to be included and supported in global agricultural greenhouse gas emissions research, activities, and technologies.

We are working with our partner countries, other government organisations and non-governmental initiatives to find and create opportunities for Indigenous people in New Zealand and will branch out further as we gain more IRN country members.

