



Indigenous
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SCIENCE
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Our presentation summaries

Rooted Globally, Grown Locally: Indigenous Knowledge in a Changing Climate



Dr. Mariaelena Huambachano

Sowing the Seeds of Resilience: Indigenous Knowledge for Sustainable Food Systems

As the world confronts the dual crises of climate change and food insecurity, Indigenous knowledge systems offer grounded, millennia-old, tested solutions that reimagine our relationship with land, food, and one another. Yet they

continue to be overlooked in scientific research and policy development. In this keynote, Dr. Mariaelena Huambachano draws on over a decade of collaborative research with Indigenous communities to highlight the critical role of Indigenous food sovereignty in building climate-resilient and sustainable food systems. Highlighting lived experiences from Indigenous communities across Abya Yala (the Americas), Aotearoa (New Zealand), and beyond, this keynote advocates for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples as key actors—not stakeholders—in shaping food policies and climate action. Dr. Huambachano calls for a transformative shift toward food systems that are ecologically balanced, socially just, and guided by Indigenous epistemologies.

In "sowing the seeds of resilience," this keynote ultimately invites scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to embrace Indigenous knowledge as essential to forging sustainable futures—where food is not a commodity, but a “gift” with a sacred right and responsibility.



Te Atiawa nui tonu,
Taranaki Iwi

Glen Skipper

Indigenous Systems- Thinking: An Intergenerational, Holistic, Relational, and Place-Based Response for Tribal and Family Thrivance in a Changing Climate

The presentation showcased Indigenous Systems-Thinking as a dynamic, holistic framework grounded in Kaupapa Māori Theory. It offers a transformative alternative to dominant growth-focused paradigms by emphasising interconnectedness, intergenerational responsibility, relational governance, and Indigenous autonomy. Central concepts include whakapapa (genealogical connectedness), whanaunga-tanga (relationality), kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and mana motuhake (self-determination), forming the foundation for climate resilience and food sovereignty.

Glen introduced the Taranaki Place-Based Te Taiao Strategy as a living example that operationalises 'indigenous systems-thinking' through five key pathways: **1.** Natural Climate Solutions for climate-smart agriculture and environmental stewardship; **2.** Kai Resilience and Food Sovereignty to rebuild sustainable, culturally grounded food systems; **3.** A Circular Tribal Economy rooted in ancestral values and regenerative practices; **4.** Strong, reciprocal Partnerships across sectors to leverage collective expertise and resources; **5.** Elevating Mātauranga Māori alongside science and innovation to accelerate Indigenous-led climate action.

Together, these pathways foster regenerative practices, uphold Indigenous values, and promote community wellbeing while aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals. The presentation called for a fundamental paradigm shift in climate governance—moving beyond extractive and technological fixes to embrace culturally grounded, systemic solutions led by Indigenous peoples, thereby ensuring enduring cultural integrity and environmental balance for future generations.



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Maria Rawhiri

Kua tae mai te Pīpīwharaua – Future Proofing Hokianga Food Systems

Te Roroa, Ngapuhi,
Tainui

Future Proofing Our Hokianga Food Systems is about strengthening food security, resilience, and sovereignty in our kāinga of Hokianga. The presentation shares a vision, our journey and food framework Te Anga Āria Kai which is about sustainable, locally led kai systems that feed both the minds and the people of Hokianga—honouring kōrero tuku iho, mātauranga Māori, building community capacity, and ensuring future generations can grow, harvest and store kai all year round.

Shiloh Babbington

Indigenous Research Network: empowering Indigenous voices in global agricultural issues"

Shiloh introduced the Indigenous Research Network that is a global network co-chaired by New Zealand and Samoa, it aims to strengthen Indigenous voices in global agricultural issues and empower traditional knowledge and practices to be used against climate change. Shiloh welcomed the opportunity to join the Indigenous Research Network to stay connected and enhance Indigenous Peoples Leadership, Influence, Education, and Employment in these spaces globally. She also encouraged participation in the upcoming first ever Indigenous Flagship Project for the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.



Ngāti Porou,
Ngāti Kahungunu
ki te Wairoa



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Connect with our speakers

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Dr. Mariaelena Huambachano

<https://www.mariaelena-huambachano.com>

mhuambac@syr.edu



Glen Skipper

glen@rautāpatu.nz

www.rautapatu.nz

**To join the
Indigenous
Research
Network**

Maria Rawhiri

heketekai@gmail.com

Zachary Ducheneaux

Zach.ducheneaux@gmail.com



Shiloh Babbington

Shiloh.Babbington@mpi.govt.nz

<https://globalresearchalliance.org/research/integrative/networks/indigenous-research-network/>

**To participate in
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