

THE ARCTIC AS A FOOD PRODUCING REGION

Canadian Permanent Participant Workshop | AAC /GCI / ICC (Canada)

Objectives

- (1) Provide input on the roll-out of the local projects would take place; and
- (2) Ensure active PP involvement in project design at the early stages.

Outcomes

It was agreed that:

- (1) A Steering Committee will be established consisting of a representative from each PP to guide the project; and
- (2) A Project Collaborator will assist the Steering Committee and provide support for the project.

Participants

Cindy Dickson (AAC)
 Selma Ford (ICC)
 Sara French (Facilitator)
 Dorothy Frost (GCI)
 Anthony McDermott (INAC)
 David Natcher (Principal Investigator)
 Jordan Peterson (GCI)
 Dara Potts (Carelton)
 Merram Smith (AAC)
 Grant Sullivan (GCI)

Summary

The Principal Investigator for the project on behalf of Canada, Dr. David Natcher (University of Saskatchewan), presented the program design and planned research activities. He explained that the arctic region produces a significant amount of food, but most of the products produced are exported to southern markets, keeping only 10 percent of food produced in the North.

Examining the value chains of these producers, through the project, will contribute towards understanding the trends currently taking place and help to identify existing gaps and barriers in northern food markets where opportunities might exist to recapture exported goods.

Requirements were set for the case studies which included the need to have each region represented, and to include fisheries, terrestrial foods and agriculture projects. The producers were not decided on, but there was expressed interest in Polar Egg in the Northwest Territories and Torngat fisheries in Nunatsiavut.

The consensus of the group was that they wanted to be able to review the outcomes of the value chain assessments and food inventory prior to choosing specific initiatives to support the project at the community level.

There was interest in several policy developments currently underway at the territorial and national level, which would impact the design of the local projects. Notably, the Government of the Northwest Territories is developing a new Food Security Policy and the Government of Yukon is in the early stages of the implementation of Local Food Strategy for the *Yukon: Encouraging the Production and Consumption of Yukon-Grown Food, 2016-2021*. It was also noted that the ongoing negotiations on interprovincial

trade may affect the regulatory environment for the sale of food products, as well as an ongoing review of the Nutrition North Program that may affect economic cost-benefit analysis.

There was also the desire to review the outcomes of the legal research into relevant legislation and regulations prior to selecting the specific local initiatives, to ensure that what is being proposed is feasible under the existing regulatory regimes or that there are available policy opportunities to address overly restrictive policies.

Therefore, the focus evolved to be how best to facilitate ongoing, regular, and meaningful feedback throughout the project life-cycle from Permanent Participants and what resources would be needed, namely a Steering Committee and Project Collaborator.

Recommendations

Therefore, it was recommended that the following be established:

(1) Steering Committee

The Committee will be the life of the project and take a lead on determining the specific projects should be pursued in phase 2 of the project. The committee will be composed of representatives from each of the permanent participant organization, the Principal Investigator, and an academic appointee.

(2) Project Collaborator

The Project Collaborator will support the Steering Committee, spearhead funding research opportunities, provide research support (namely into which programs already exist that could be utilized within this project), and facilitate communication.

