



Preventing land and resource grabbing by developing local food economies and networking

As in the past, indigenous peoples' cultures are being eroded through the confiscation of their lands, geographical displacement and cultural suppression. By enhancing traditional food systems it is possible to create stronger local economies, reinforce indigenous identities and prevent youth migration. Furthermore, by organizing indigenous-led trainings and networking, indigenous communities can acquire more tools and resources with which to defend their lands and make their voices heard.

Indeed, Slow Food and ITM are continuously working to widen our network of partners and organizations with whom we can develop projects and strategies to defend the land and resources of indigenous peoples.

Focusing the spotlight on the value of a specific territory and developing local economies are a fundamental part of any strategy to prevent land and resource grabbing. The Slow Food main projects, such as the Ark of Taste, the Presidia, Slow Food Travel, the Earth Markets and the Chef's Alliance among others, are all tools developed and refined by a global network of food producers over decades. They were made to be community-led and easily adaptable to different contexts, with the twin goals of preserving food-biodiversity and defending small-scale food producers, the guardians of so much invaluable traditional knowledge.

These tools can be used by communities to strengthen their foodbased economies and create opportunities for entrepreneurship.

ITM network members argue for "indigenous social entrepreneurship" (key words: holistic, diversified, resistant) as a tailored approach for the creation of stronger local economies through food, bringing benefits to all the community, especially women and youth. It has a special focus on sustainability and knowledge transfer.