



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

Advancing Free Trade
for Asia-Pacific **Prosperity**

Rural Development through the Lens of Indigenous Communities and their Agribusinesses

Puerto Varas, Chile | 15 August 2019

APEC Policy Partnership for Food Security

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Ministry for Primary Industries

34-38 Bowen Street, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand

For

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat

35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace

Singapore 119616

Tel: (65) 68919 600

Fax: (65) 68919 690

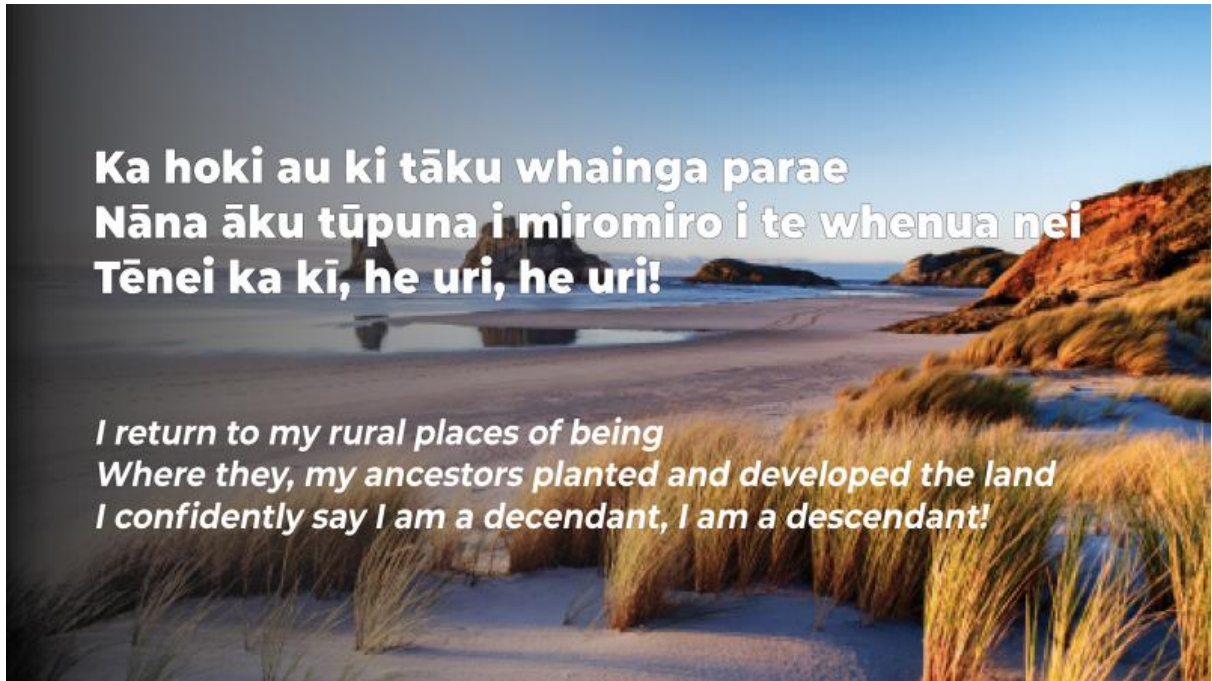
Email: info@apec.org

Website: www.apec.org

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This whakataukī (Māori proverb) was gifted to the workshop by Mr Tamahau Rowe, a tribal member of Ngāti Tūmango and Ngāti Tūpoho located on the Whanganui River in New Zealand.

Mr Tamahau Rowe is passionate about sharing his learnings and understandings of how we co-exist with our environment from a cultural lens. For this reason, this proverb speaks to the interconnectedness of Māori (indigenous New Zealanders) and their ancestral land and the environment.

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Ngāti Porou Ahuwhenua Farm Discussion Group



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GLOSSARY

Agribusiness – Agricultural business operation

FAO – Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

Indigenous – For the purposes of this report the term indigenous refers to first nations people, native people, indigenous people and ethnic minorities

Kaitiakitanga - (noun) guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship, trustee

Karakia – Incantation or blessing

Manaakitanga - (noun) hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others

Māori – Indigenous New Zealanders

Mapuché – An indigneous group inhabitaing south-central Chile

Mapuché Huilliché – are a subgroup of the Mapuché

Mokopuna – (noun) granchildren, grandchild

Ngāi Tahu – a Māori tribal group in much of the South Island of New Zealand

PPFS – Policy Partnerships for Food Security, APEC

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals of the UN

STEM – is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in four specific disciplines — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — in an interdisciplinary and applied approach

Te reo Māori – the language of indigenous New Zealanders

Tikanga – (noun) correct procedure, custom, habit, lore, method, manner, rule, way, code, meaning, plan, practice, convention, protocol - the customary system of values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context

Waiata – Song

Whakataukī – Māori proverb and saying

Whanaungatanga – (noun) close connection between people; kinship

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	4
Glossary.....	5
Table Of Figures	7
Executive Summary.....	8
Introduction	9
Background	10
Purpose	11
Our Approach.....	12
Our People	13
Workshop - Group Activities.....	16
Evaluation	21
Next Steps	22

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Completed activity worksheets from the workshop.	9
Figure 2 - Workshop imagery from keynote speaker 1 – Mrs Andrea Curumilla, Chiloe Island, Chile.....	9
Figure 3 - Mapuché elders carrying out a ceremonial opening at the workshop.....	11
Figure 4 - Relationship building exercise at the beginning of the workshop.....	12
Figure 5 - Keynote speaker 2- Ms Jessica Smith sharing the Māori best practice examples information.	13
Figure 6 - Keynote speaker 1 Mrs Andrea Curumilla.	14
Figure 7- Keynote speaker 2 Ms Jessica Smith.	14
Figure 8 - Panel members from session 1 and 2 and facilitator.	15
Figure 9- Word cloud highlighting ‘key elements of indigenous success’ from activity two –.....	18
Figure 10 – Interactive workshop activities.....	19
Figure 11 - A series of imagery from the prototype activity.....	20

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Zealand self-funded and led a well-attended workshop “**Rural Development through the Lens of Indigenous Communities and their Agribusinesses**” at the start of APEC Food Security Week aligned to the Chilean APEC theme of inclusion, on 15 August 2019, in Puerto Varas, Chile. It was cosponsored by Chile and Chinese Taipei.

The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness and strengthen participation of indigenous agribusiness in the APEC regional food system. It traversed rural land, resource development challenges and how it has contributed to innovative thinking, including policy responses, best practice examples as well as the value of partnerships - with government, industry and community.

The two key themes were ‘rural economic development models’ and ‘education training, skills and capability development’. Themes were explored by the two indigenous keynote speakers and discussion panels using indigenous examples from APEC economies. Small group activities further enriched a full discussion on each topic. A commonality of challenges faced by indigenous communities and their agribusiness was identified across APEC economies.

Thirty nine participants came from 11 of the 21 APEC economies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and local government and representation from a number of local indigenous communities from the surrounding Chilean region of Los Lagos.

This was an open and rich dialogue that explored themes, such as:

- Agriculture being a positive and viable career pathway
- Technical and leadership development to grow indigenous agribusiness
- Commercialisation and access to market channels – both domestic and international – for indigenous goods and services including those marketed as indigenous, and
- Building networks to strengthen and increase participation in the food system of indigenous people in the Asia Pacific region.

All participants evaluated the workshop formally or informally. Results showed: the theme was very current and relevant; the content increased individual’s knowledge of the topic and relationships; the event provided an opportunity to access networks in APEC for participants to draw from; the discussion had identified a range of intentional actions for individuals and APEC; and the desire of participants to see the topic to be a continuous conversation for APEC.

An outcome from the workshop is for a Compendium of Best Practice Examples of Indigenous Rural Economic Development to be published on the APEC website in 2020.

The FAO reports that while indigenous ancestral territories encompass 22 per cent of the Earth’s land surface, they host 80 per cent of the planet’s biological diversity, making indigenous peoples important custodians of ecosystems and natural resources. Along with biological diversity, the cultural diversity of indigenous peoples is significant to overall biodiversity. Indigenous rural economic development will be an important matter to consider as we seek to address the big food security issues, such as climate change, nutrition and sustainable development. APEC is an ideal vehicle for dialogue to explore these issues and exchange ideas.

As a result of the workshop, Indigenous people were recognised in the Food Security Ministerial Statement in Chile. New Zealand looks forward to ongoing discussion of indigenous communities’ development and more widely through APEC fora, including when it hosts in 2021.

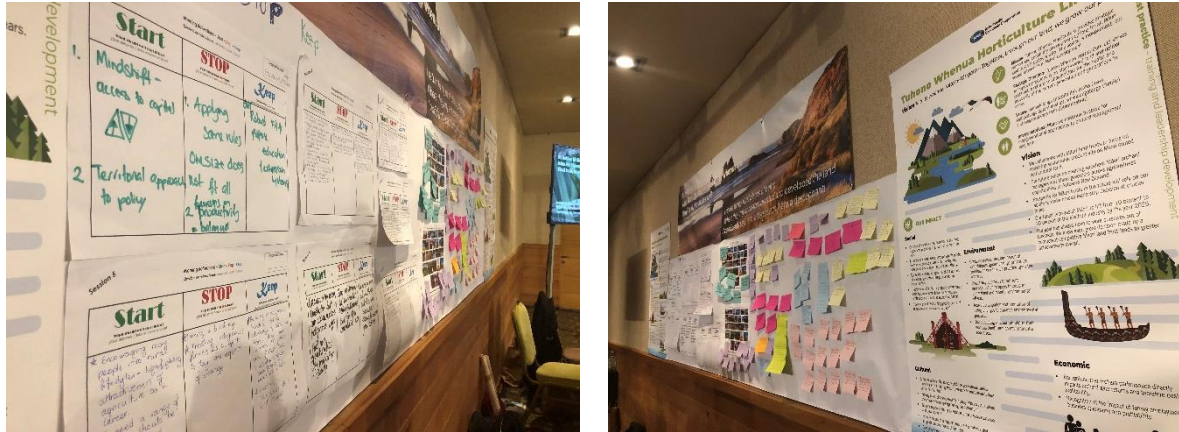


Figure 1 - Completed activity worksheets from the workshop.

INTRODUCTION

Food security is a key challenge for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) community and a high priority under the FAO agenda on food security and indigenous peoples. Inclusive economic growth is an important contributor to achieving food security in the Asia Pacific region.

New Zealand hosted a one-day APEC workshop on 15 August 2019 at the commencement of Food Security Week in SOM3, Puerto Varas, Chile. The *“Rural Development through the Lens of Indigenous Communities and their Agribusinesses”* workshop traversed rural land and resource development challenges and how that contributes to innovative thinking about indigenous agribusiness opportunities.

Building on the Chilean APEC theme of inclusion, the key aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing indigenous rural communities and their agribusinesses through two central themes:

- Rural economic development models; and
- Education, training, skills and leadership development.



Figure 2 - Workshop imagery from keynote speaker 1 – Mrs Andrea Curumilla, Chiloe Island, Chile

The key objectives of the workshop were to:



Raise awareness of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing indigenous rural communities and their agribusinesses.



Improve the visibility and connectivity of indigenous people within APEC in the area of rural development and food security.



Share practical experiences of policies, programmes, public-private investment and activities.



Build networks within economies and across the Asia Pacific region amongst policy makers, and indigenous agribusiness and communities.



Expand partnerships between government, non-government and private sector and indigenous communities to share best practice and collaboration on indigenous rural economic development.

BACKGROUND

The APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security (PPFS) was established in 2011 in recognition of the increasing challenges facing APEC economies related to the supply and demand for food. Inclusive economic growth as a contributor to food security has been a key theme promoted in recent APEC host themes (Philippines 2015, Papua New Guinea 2018, Chile 2019).

FAO reports that there are 371 million indigenous people¹ world wide and indigenous ancestral territories encompassing only 22 per cent of the Earth's land surface, while they host at least 80 per cent of the planet's biological diversity, making indigenous people significant custodians of our planet's ecosystems and natural resources. Lifting engagement of indigenous people in the food value chains will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

The constraints faced by indigenous peoples' to being competitive in food value chains and the contribution they can make to the sustainable use of natural resources in rural agriculture systems has been recognised in APEC Food Security Statements and Declarations:

- **5th APEC Food Security Ministerial Statement, Puerto Varas, Chile 2019:** *“Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including small-scale farmers, fishers and aquaculturalists, indigenous peoples, and women in particular, face constraints to being competitive in food value chains. Individually these actors may have limited capacity to negotiate and less access to the financial system, market information and new technologies, among other challenges. To strengthen their resilience and adaptive capacity, we support promoting more inclusive food value chains, identifying new trading opportunities, and encouraging well-functioning markets.”*
- **APEC Can Tho Statement, Viet Nam 2017:** *“We, therefore, encourage APEC member economies to further promote innovative, inclusive and resilient rural development, and*

¹ The FAO definition of 'Indigenous people' include native and indigneous peoples but do not include those who identify as ethnic minorities such as those in Asia.

economic growth. That includes empowering farmers, disadvantaged groups, such as women and indigenous populations, smallholders and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in agriculture, to secure livelihoods, reduce poverty and improve food security for farming and fishing communities. Meanwhile we promote sustainable urban development that links rural and urban areas creating food systems that meet the nutritional needs of all consumers, particularly smallholder farmers and the urban poor. The development of competitive agriculture and food value chains will help promote rural development by adding value to farmers' products and reducing food loss and waste."

- **4th APEC Food Security Ministerial Statement 2016:** *"We will also join efforts to contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources in rural agricultural systems, including outstanding landscapes and remarkable local knowledge and experience, with special emphasis on land and water management, which provide social, cultural, economic, and environmental goods and services to small holders, family farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities. In this regard, we take note of FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative."*

The pace of indigenous rural development, as well as rapid urbanisation and the subsequent demographic and diet changes, have significant implications for food security and sustainable growth. Indigenous food systems including ancestral knowledge provide enormous potential for integration of biodiversity, animals, plants and human beings, food, medicine, spirituality, environmental and territorial management. This biocentric approach can make a valuable contribution to some of the big global challenges we faced today.

There has been previous limited discussion in APEC focused on indigenous development within a food security context and more widely across APEC. In 2014, delegates from APEC economies attended a New Zealand hosted workshop to address common barriers to rural economic development. The delegation travelled to Northland and experienced first-hand the importance of Māori agribusiness to the regional economy and how the Government's partnership approach with Māori in Northland successfully resulted in the sustainable productivity of primary sector assets.



Figure 3 - Mapuché elders carrying out a ceremonial opening at the workshop.

Earlier this year in June, Chile held a rural development APEC workshop in Chillán. The New Zealand delegation included an indigenous keynote speaker Kelly Barker, from the New Zealand Māori tribe of Ngāi Tahu. Ms Barker spoke about the integration of Māori ancestral knowledge and perspectives in whole of society development strategies, as being imperative to improve food security for all people. The New Zealand delegation also included Māori government officials that work directly with Māori ancestral land owners on rural development.

Indigenous-Government cooperation on indigenous development was also discussed at the APEC Economic Committee meeting this year in Puerto Varas, Chile, by speakers from Canada and an indigenous New Zealand speaker.

PURPOSE

New Zealand delivered the one day workshop on 15 August 2019 at the commencement of Food Security Week, in Puerto Varas, Chile. The workshop was co-sponsored by Chile and Chinese Taipei with

40 participants coming from 11 economies, the FAO and representation by the local government and local indigenous people of the Los Lagos region.

The “Rural Development through the Lens of Indigenous Communities and their Agribusinesses” workshop traversed rural land and resource development challenges and how they contributed to innovative thinking about indigenous agribusiness development opportunities.

The New Zealand hosted indigenous rural development workshop aligns with the APEC Chile theme of inclusive economic growth. It sought to achieve this through increasing the visibility and understanding of the challenges faced by indigenous communities, particularly in rural and agricultural settings. Best practice examples from APEC economies were used to discuss sustainable development of indigenous resources to achieve the broad outcomes sought. Frameworks used in best practice examples upheld cultural, natural and human resources while strengthening economic, social and environmental resilience through innovation and constant improvement.

OUR APPROACH

The high energy, interactive APEC workshop was interweaved with Māori tikanga (customs), and design thinking methodology. The workshop was underpinned by three core values of relationships, wellbeing and guardianship (explained in paragraph 13). The values built a strong foundation of trust and inclusivity amongst participants that enabled collaborative and interactive dialogue across diverse cultural norms, in a short period of time.

The three core values were:

- Whanaungatanga (positive and meaningful relationships): A relationship through shared experiences and working together provides people with a sense of belonging.
- Manaakitanga (to care for a person’s wellbeing in a holistic sense): The encouragement of one another.
- Kaitiakitanga (guardianship): The connection between people and the natural world. The collective processes and practices of looking after our environment.

APEC Policy Partnership for Food Security established in 2011 with this being the first workshop with a central focus on indigenous development. The programme design and inclusion of indigenous cultural elements were carefully considered for inclusion. Cultural elements weaved throughout the day included a ceremonial welcome from the Mapuché Huilliché elders from the local indigenous community, which was reciprocated by the Māori delegation from New Zealand along with the gifting of a whakataukī (Māori proverb), and delivery of karakia (ceremonial blessing) and waiata (songs) to support specific parts of the day that serve to acknowledge connection to your people and your land (whakawhanaungatanga).

A preliminary compendium of Best Practice Examples (draft Compendium) was created. The Compendium had examples provided by Māori organisations to highlight rural economic development; training and leadership programmes; and collaboration examples in order to foster early collaboration



Figure 4 - Relationship building exercise at the beginning of the workshop.

amongst participants. The draft Compendium was an integral component of the workshop that stimulated rich discussion, and inspired APEC economies to deep dive and share their own examples.

The draft Compendium was an important resource and served as a tool to gain true insights about how progress and change has occurred for different economies. Some of the insights, challenges and lessons shared by participants had not previously been aired in an international setting, showing the true willingness to transfer learnings and knowledge to enable proactive movement.



Figure 5 - Keynote speaker 2- Ms Jessica Smith sharing the Māori best practice examples information.

OUR PEOPLE

Participants

An invitation to attend the workshop was extended to all participating APEC economies, and non-government agencies as well as the local indigenous Mapuché Huilliche people. The workshop was well attended with 39 participants from over half of the APEC economies (Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, United States, Viet Nam and New Zealand).

Participants included Chilean local government officials and central government officials foreign affairs, agriculture, fisheries, as well as agriculture, rural development agencies from participating economies and the Latin American office of the FAO. There was also representation by a First Nations Canadian leader and businessman, a number of local indigenous people of the Los Lagos region of Chile. The New Zealand delegation that facilitated and participated in the workshop included a Māori facilitator, Māori keynote speaker, the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer of the Year 2019 winner, a Māori dairy farmer and an agriculture extension services expert who is also Māori. Overall there were equal numbers of men and women both as participants in the workshop and expert panel members.

Two indigenous keynote speaker addresses and two expert panel discussions included experts from across the APEC economies and government officials. Sessions were centred around the two themes of 'rural economic development models' and education, training, skills and leadership development', allowing speakers and panellists an opportunity to share their personal insights and perspectives.

Keynote Speakers

Mrs Andrea Curumilla a founder of Punta Chilen Cooperative (Cooperative), the Chilean indigenous keynote speaker on the topic of indigenous rural economic development models (Appendix 1). The Cooperative was created 22 years ago in Chiloé Island. Mrs Curumilla represents a group of 16 small garlic farmers in a profit share cooperative. All members are owners therefore, all receive profits and all are responsible for losses. Mrs Curumilla won the Chilean award for women entrepreneurs at the regional level.



Figure 6 - Keynote speaker 1 Mrs Andrea Curumilla.

The aspiration of the founders of the Cooperative was to establish a business that would improve the income and quality of life for indigenous farmers in their community. Over the years their product and business model has had to evolve to enable greater domestic and international market penetration requiring support from government and industry specialists. The two key challenges for the Cooperative are succession – faced with both an aging population and many of their youth migrating to urban areas; and technical capability both in business and market access.

Ms Jessica Smith, indigenous keynote speaker from New Zealand, discussed effective training and education programmes for indigenous rural communities that help their agribusinesses thrive (Appendix 2). Ms Smith spoke about her experience working and living off the land, as well as the lack of knowledge of and interest from today’s youth to pursue an agriculture pathway. Ms Smith’s philosophy is that our children are our success therefore, the decisions of today are the decisions our children will live with tomorrow “Mokopuna Decisions” (Grandchildren Decisions).

Ms Smith discussed the importance of providing effective training programmes that are all encompassing, fit for purpose and adopt traditional methodologies as well as western concepts. A best practice example being Te Rangihakahaka STEM² School in New Zealand which uses a curriculum that embraces the natural surroundings and indigenous knowledge alongside specialists working in the industries, to educate the next generation.



Figure 7- Keynote speaker 2 Ms Jessica Smith.

Expert Panel Sessions

Panel session 1 - focussed on rural development models for indigenous communities and their agribusinesses. Panel members were Mrs Andrea Curumilla (Cooperative Punta Chilen, Chile); Mr Robert Louie (Indigenous World Winery and First Nations’ Leader, Canada); Mr Mauricio Mireles (Latin American office of the FAO); and Ms Regina Nukundj (Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Papua New Guinea).

The panel identified several key points for progress and change in respect of rural development models for agribusinesses:

² Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines taught in schools in an applied way.

- **Identity** – There is strength in identity, knowing your culture and celebrating it.
- **Capital** – Opportunities to access innovative capital models that are future focussed and have inclusive benefits.
- **Working collectively** – The importance of working inclusively across economies and domestically to affect change.
- **Environment** – The interconnection of indigenous biodiversity to our environment.
- **Indigenous food systems** – Greater acknowledgement and support to protect and enhance indigenous food systems.
- **Tell our stories** – Sharing ancestral knowledge across generations.
- **Branding** – Building distinctive indigenous branding that will assist in telling their story, their journey.
- **Succession** – A clear plan to that inspires the next generation to engage in agribusiness activity at all levels.
- **Literacy** – Training and development programmes to increase the financial and business literacy of rural famers.
- **Future labour force** – Effective policies and or programmes that address the future labour force challenges.
- **Climate change** – Inclusive policies to combat soil environmental degradation and biodiversity loss
- **Indigenous women** – The significant role of indigenous women across agribusiness activity now and in the future.

Panel session 2 – focussed on effective training and education programmes. Panel members were Ms Jessica Smith (Indigenous Agribusiness Consultant, New Zealand); Ms Gabriela Campollo (Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mexico); Mr Ervannie Jay Belarmino (Department of Agriculture, Philippines); and Mr Luis Saez (Agrorural, Peru).



Figure 8 - Panel members from session 1 and 2 and facilitator.

The panel identified insights and opportunities for indigenous leadership development:

- **Intergenerational knowledge** – The importance of intergenerational knowledge sharing between generations e.g. parents to children.
- **Empowerment** – Greater opportunities to empower rural farmers within rural communities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viable pathways – Increase student understanding of viable career pathways by returning to the land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture in education – Early promotion in schools of agricultural pathways in regional settings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban-Rural divide – The disconnection between urban and rural lived experiences can deter agricultural pathways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing – Think differently about the schooling year and the timing for holidays to align with agricultural calendar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural resources – used as holistic education tools and experts rather than teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to opportunities – Remove economic barriers to educational advancement and learning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical knowledge – Farmers are a fountain of knowledge however may lack technique. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value of culture in development – Effective programmes need to include cultural sensitivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for all levels – Investment in training and knowledge of all people so that every participant benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding – Greater access to funding for the development of programmes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored extension services – Indigenous agricultural and rural development extension programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for isolated communities – Greater access to broader programmes for rural and remote farmers.

WORKSHOP - GROUP ACTIVITIES

A series of tailored activities were designed to facilitate participants share their diverse knowledge and experience to reflect, analyse and identify their intentional actions when they return home.

This first activity was a reflective exercise for participants to think about what they have heard and observed, *Start – Stop – Keep*. Participants identified the following:

<p style="text-align: center;">START What should we/I start doing?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">STOP What should we/I stop doing?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KEEP What should we /I keep doing?</p>
<p>Using APEC to foster knowledge sharing across economies including products / goods and services.</p> <p>Creating or amending legislation that is responsive to and supports indigenous ways.</p> <p>Using an indigenous lens to include a broader perspective.</p> <p>Valuing indigenous knowledge and practices and recognising individual uniqueness.</p> <p>Using indigenous farmers as agents of change.</p> <p>Encouraging people into rural lifestyles by highlighting the attractiveness of an agriculture career pathway.</p> <p>Protecting indigenous origins of flora and fauna varieties.</p> <p>Using a territorial approach to drafting and setting policy.</p> <p>Having greater belief in the advancement of indigenous economic development.</p> <p>Improving market access for indigenous communities through government linkages and connections.</p> <p>Providing robust fit for purpose extension programmes, train the trainer.</p> <p>Providing feasibility and environmental impact information to enable informed decision making.</p>	<p>Setting policies and directives based on one size fits all.</p> <p>Focusing on increasing land productivity without considering sustainability including environmental impacts.</p> <p>Destroying the land and using indigenous land for commercial use.</p> <p>Underestimating or overlooking the positive impacts that indigenous rural development can have on local, regional and national economies.</p> <p>In country migration and rural- urban migration by providing in-country opportunities.</p> <p>Inappropriately undertaking consultation on key matters with indigenous communities. Ask, listen and implement how indigenous communities expect to be engaged.</p>	<p>Telling indigenous history, stories and sharing knowledge, especially across generations across more platforms.</p> <p>Developing public policies to foster the development of indigenous people to achieve their own aspirations.</p> <p>Providing robust fit for purpose extension programmes.</p> <p>Investing in indigenous skills and training.</p> <p>Building on indigenous branding, by taking advantage of changing discerning consumer preferences.</p> <p>Using cooperative models that enable indigenous development.</p> <p>Sharing community experiences across economies, particularly small businesses.</p>

The objective of the final two-part activity was to firstly engage groups to critically analyse their future state and identify the following:

- What are the things **we can** control?
- What are the things **we can't** control?
- What might **we need help** with?
- What can we **do ourselves**?



Figure 10 – Interactive workshop activities.

Phase two of the activity was to create a prototype using tactile tools drawing from the previous exercise “what might we need help with” and then present their solution to the workshop.

The workshop activities scrutinised policy responses, examples of best practice and the importance of partnerships – such as the role of government, industry and community. Participants then illustrated conceptual ideas, using tactile equipment that stimulated the development and prototyping of ideas for strategic and future focused thinking. Examples included balloons representing education being used to take a community ‘to the next level’; increased investment in infrastructure was determined to be critical and illustrated by symbolising an agriculture supply chain; and environmental sustainability and agriculture shown through riparian planting of waterways.



Figure 11 - A series of imagery from the prototype activity.

EVALUATION

All participants provided feedback about the workshop either formally (workshop evaluation form) or informally (email and or in person). There were 24 female and 15 male participants with four female and four male expert panelists and two female speakers.

A summary of the feedback from the evaluation forms (Appendix 3) is provided below:

Workshop Evaluation Dashboard

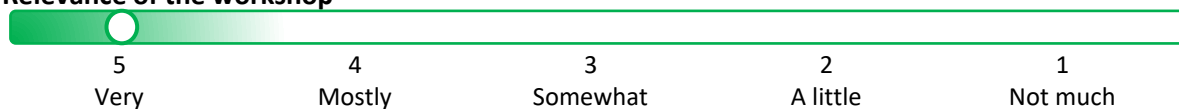
Dashboard key



Overarching participant satisfaction levels toward each aspects of the workshop



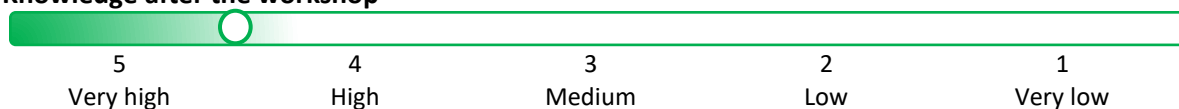
Relevance of the workshop



Knowledge prior to the workshop



Knowledge after the workshop



Enhancements for future indigenous focused workshops

- ✓ Field trips
- ✓ More youth involvement
- ✓ Video examples of successful endeavours
- ✓ More opportunities to connect
- ✓ Greater guidance for panel members
- ✓ Make it bigger

Intentional actions by participants

- ✓ Apply a different lens to policy development.
- ✓ Transfer learnings to colleagues.
- ✓ Develop broader project concept that contains knowledge from the workshop.
- ✓ Think about how to develop our programmes more effectively.
- ✓ Continuing dialogue with Malaysia and New Zealand in between meetings.
- ✓ More intersectional policy review and integration of indigenous issues in existing policy.

Intentional actions for APEC economies

- ✓ Consult with indigenous communities as to what type of programmes would be useful.
- ✓ Put training and education programmes in place.
- ✓ Use of Best Practice Examples to help develop and implement relevant projects.
- ✓ Use APEC advocacy platform to communicate the importance of indigenous development.
- ✓ Ensure indigenous people are included across all meeting streams.

- √ Open a larger market and encourage other indigenous people from other parts of the world to get involved.
- √ Include new indigenous-focused knowledge when formulating the sector plan.
- √ Invite APEC Ministers to consider the indigenous development topic.
- √ Work collectively to advance indigenous development.
- √ Acknowledge and value continuing the indigenous development theme in APEC.

General feedback from economies:

- Acknowledged and appreciated the depth of knowledge and information that the New Zealand best practice examples provided, especially in respect of the challenges.
- The key learnings and subsequent advancement that can be gained from understanding and appreciating the struggles of other indigenous communities is immense.
- The workshop enabled the forming of rich relationships that span economies enabling meaningful conversations to flourish.
- The overwhelming feedback was for the importance of indigenous development to be part of a continuous conversation across APEC, with government, non-government agencies, and inclusive dialogue with indigenous communities.

NEXT STEPS

An output from the workshop will be the compilation of a best practice compendium with case studies of indigenous rural economic development and agribusinesses from around the APEC region provided by economies. Launching of the compendium is expected to place in mid 2020.

A key learning was to ensure that the reference to indigenous rural development also includes ethnic minorities, reflecting the diversity within the APEC region.

It identified the importance of the voice of youth within the rural development conversation and the need to involve the youth voice in these discussions going forward was critical. This was highlighted by the participation of and reference to the Young Māori Farmer of the Year, who was the sole youth voice at the workshop.

The workshop demonstrated that APEC is an ideal vehicle to use an indigenous development lens to explore regional economic cooperation and exchange ideas on innovative and inclusive growth, that can enhance food security and sustainable agriculture.

Further exploration of possible themes:

- **Career pathways:** Agriculture and rural development is a positive and viable career pathway;
- **Agribusiness resilience:** Technical and leadership development to grow indigenous agribusiness;
- **Indigenous trade and market access:** Commercialisation and access to market channels – both domestic and international – for indigenous products and services; and
- **Broad networks:** Building networks to strengthen and increase indigenous people's participation in the food system in the Asia Pacific region.



Hūtia te rito o te harakeke, kei hea te Kōmako e kō?

**Kī mai ki a au, 'He aha te mea nui o tē ao?'
Māku e kī atu, 'He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata'.**

If the heart of the flax is pulled out, where will the Kōmako sing?

*If you ask me what is most important in this world,
I will reply, 'tis people, tis people, tis people'!*