

## Background Guide



International Fund for Agricultural Development

Topic A: Aquaculture Security and Advancement

Topic B: Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge to Reform Agricultural Schemes

Chair: TBA

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TAEMUN IX  
*International Fund for Agricultural Development*

Hello there delegates!

My name is Dianne Delos Reyes and I am a director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at TAEMUN IX. I am currently a Junior at Thomas A. Edison. The extracurricular activities I participate in are taekwondo, Edison crochet, FBLA, and previously GWC. I enjoy digital art, baking, reading and learning guitar in my free time. This my first time as a director for Model UN and I'm looking forward to working with everyone. Good luck and have fun delegates!

Sincerely,

Dianne Delos Reyes

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Hello delegates!

My name is Rosa Carranza-Coronel. I am a director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development at TAEMUN IX. I am a Junior at Edison High School. This year I have joined several extracurriculars, a few I am involved in are LSU, yearbook, and Edison Medicine. This is my first year in Model UN. I am thrilled to get to meet and work with everyone!

Goodluck!

Rosa Carranza-Coronel

## **Topic A: Aquaculture Security and Advancement**

### **Background:**

Aquaculture is a method used to produce food and other commercial products while restoring the habitat and rebuilding the population of the endangered species. Many people believe that aquaculture is the solution to world hunger and overfishing, and there are plentiful benefits to support this claim. For instance, aquaculture provides security in the food supply, better vitamins contained in seafood products, alleviation of pressure off wild organisms, and many more. Furthermore, aquaculture plays a part in producing roughly 52% of the fish consumed by humans, while 10 -12%, over 600 million, of the world's population heavily relies on aquaculture. Additionally, research by FAO from 1995-2020 shows that aquaculture and fishery provided jobs for more than 13,000 people each year globally, resulting in a decrease in poverty. Over the years, aquaculture has improved both the living conditions of humans and the organisms under the sea. These past decades, however, IFAD has noticed that global fisheries have been at constant risk due to human carelessness. Problems such as overexploitation, pollution, global warming, and habitat destruction have increased, causing a decline in the fishery production relying on aquaculture.; showing how aquaculture is crucial. However, others claim that not only does the survival of aquaculture depend on these problems but also causes them, preventing people from taking the initiative and efforts to make aquaculture better.

### **Current Situation:**

Though aquaculture offers a solution to some major world problems, many researchers state that aquaculture's benefits do not outweigh its harms. The biggest problem the advancement of aquaculture is facing is the harm it's causing to the ecosystem. One of its harms is habitat loss, since the 1980's it's seen that areas such as Asia, South America, and other tropical areas have

destroyed local habitats; Observed from the past, Over half of the destroyed deforested mangroves are turned into fish farms, the loss of land because of this is approximately 19,000 square kilometers, globally. Furthermore, long-term fish farms not only destroy the habitat but also affect nearby areas by effluent run-off, siltation, and other knock-off effects. Moreover, the chemicals used in the procedures affect the surrounding area, for example, the nonnative pathogens introduced during the transportation of the organisms. Wild sea organisms are always at risk because of the high possibility of transmission of diseases such as SVC, ISA, seal lice, and more, passed onto the wild from the farmed fishes. Not only does this happen during an unauthorized and unregulated aquaculture, but also during a regulated orthodox aquaculture procedure.

**Past UN Actions:**

IFAD “has acquired strong expertise and built a major comparative advantage in fisheries and aquaculture”, over 4 decades. This supported and still supports over 100 projects that focus on aquatic and coastal resources in 36 countries and more. The actions they’ve taken are to a goal of avoiding exacerbating the previous damage aquaculture has caused and promoting actions to contribute in the improvement of a sustainable fishery. For Instance, in 1998 IFAD convinced the government of Bangladesh to lease bodies of water to rich landowners to improve fishing capacity and provide job opportunities since fishers were needed. This was an 8 year project and by the end of it, IFAD reached many of its goals including improving the accessible open water bodies. Projects with similar goals have been completed in other countries such as Angola, India, Djibouti, and many more with the goal of providing better fisheries to improve in the aquaculture process.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. Is your country reliant on aquaculture/fish farming?
2. What has your country done to help the development and prevent the harms of aquaculture?
3. Which economic class benefits from aquaculture? So should your country stand with aquaculture?

**Useful Links:**

- <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/projects-and-programmes?mode=search&catCountries=39090730> \*To find past IFAD aquaculture projects done in many countries
- [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-common-fisheries-policy/fisheries-and-aquaculture-production\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-common-fisheries-policy/fisheries-and-aquaculture-production_en) \*For statistics
- <https://ourocean2016.org/commitments#commitments-main> \*More info for any country

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<https://www.agmrc.org/commodities-products/aquaculture/aquaculture-profile#:~:text=T he%20United%20Nations%20reports%20that,products%20destined%20for%20human%>

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<https://delosaqua.com/aquaculture-challenges/>

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<https://www.fao.org/3/cc0461en/online/sofia/2022/fisheries-aquaculture-employment.htm>

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<https://www.seachoice.org/is-aquaculture-the-answer-to-overfishing-and-world-hunger/>

*Sustainable fisheries.* (2016). Our Ocean.

<https://ourocean2016.org/sustainable-fisheries#:~:text=The%20livelihoods%20of%2010%2D12,significant%20source%20of%20animal%20protein.>

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<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/aquaculture.html>

## **Topic B: Incorporating Indigenous Knowledge to Reform Agricultural Schemes**

### **Background:**

Agriculture is “the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops, and raising livestock...Agriculture provides most of the world’s food and fabrics.” There are over 476 million Indigenous people around the world. Many argue that Indigenous people hold a pivotal position in sustainable management of natural resources. Their wise knowledge can enlighten today’s society to adapt their expertise in order to “improve crop productivity and enhance sustainable agricultural development”. Additionally, utilizing Indigenous knowledge in agriculture also increases biodiversity. On the other hand, people worry that incorporating Indigenous methods could possibly lead to misinterpretation of Indigenous practices and how the usage of Indigenous methods are too time consuming which is not fit for mass production. Moreover mass production is essential for countries as it produces the highest volume of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, that then helps the economy as it increases availability and enables more sales.

### **Current Situation:**

Currently the practice of agriculture is harmful to both the planet and our health, there are major uprisings concerns about security. The recent systems of Agriculture is one of the biggest causes for the unprecedented rate of biodiversity and a major contributor to climate change. A result of this, “food systems are failing to provide everyone with the nutrients they need: in 2020, nearly 2.4 billion people didn’t have access to enough nutritious food.” Additionally there are also key components linking both agriculture and climate change together. Such as climate change affecting “crops, livestock, soil and water resources, rural communities, and agricultural workers.”, but then again “agriculture sector also emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere



that contribute to climate change.” Furthermore, with inflation being such a huge worry nowadays, it is also important to acknowledge the impact it has on agriculture. For instance, the cost of equipment, used such as tractors, and harvesters. As the prices of these machines increase, so does the cost of production, which then affects the price for the consumers, furthering food prices and causing an even more uprising in food poverty.

### **Past UN Actions:**

In the past couple years, IFAD has passed several action plans in order to strive to protect and assist Indigenous people. An example of this is a facility that works along with IFAD since 2007 with the goal of enhancing indigenous community. This is done by financing small grants for indigenous projects to improve their well-being based on their perspective and aspirations. This group is called “The Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility” (IPAF) . The IPAF has supported various indigenous people communities as it has improved “sustainable agricultural practices, developed new off-farm enterprises and enhanced market access [and]... Boost disaster and climate change risk management based on traditional knowledge and practice. ”

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What has your country done to incorporate indigenous knowledge in agriculture?
2. Who benefits from this reform in agriculture?

### **Useful Links**

- <https://foodtank.com/news/2019/08/17-indigenous-agricultural-programs-to-recognize-international-day-of-worlds-indigenous-peoples/>
- <https://www.fao.org/common-pages/search/en/?q=use%20of%20indigenous%20knowledge%20in%20agriculture>\*To research any indigenous knowledge project



- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/agriculture/#:~:text=Default-,Agriculture%20is%20the%20art%20and%20science%20of%20cultivating%20the%20soil,the%20world's%20food%20and%20fabrics.>
- <https://www.ifad.org/en/ipaf>
- <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-agriculture-and-food-supply#:~:text=The%20Link%20Between%20Agriculture%20and%20Climate%20Change&text=However%2C%20the%20agriculture%20sector%20also,Basics%20of%20Climate%20Change%20page.>
- <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/how-agrobiodiversity-can-nourish-the-planet>
- <https://www.marshmma.com/us/insights/details/navigating-inflation-and-how-it-impacts-agriculture-businesses.html#:~:text=Inflation%20also%20affects%20the%20cost,agricultural%20products%20for%20the%20consumers.>

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