



University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry and RIEVDAN research project

PRESS-RELEASE

***Diedūt* «ARCTIC INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOOD SYSTEMS – THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NOMINATED FOR 2 GOURMAND COOK BOOK AWARDS 2019 IN MACAO**

We propose that reindeer herders' traditional knowledge about food culture is essential in their future ability to adapt to climate changes and to reach the UN sustainable goals.

In many of reindeer herders spring pastures in the Arctic air temperature have already increased with almost 4 degree C since 1930ths. These climate changes and furthermore the biodiversity are changing dramatically in the Arctic, challenging traditional ways of life, wellbeing of indigenous peoples and their food security. Arctic indigenous food production are part of a complex social - ecological systems coupled by traditional knowledge. Indigenous reindeer herders food knowledge system is broken, and have to be fixed. The new Arctic academic food book demonstrates that the diversity of traditional food production systems are nested within their indigenous cultures. Removing even a few of the traditional subsistence products from Arctic peoples diets may cause significant damage to human health because there is nothing that can replace them. The food knowledge production systems of Nenets, Hanty, Chukchi, Yukagir, Dolgan, Selkup, Even, Evenki and Nivkh in Russia and Saami in Norway are diverse and rich. These systems face an erosion of the traditional indigenous knowledge upon which they are based. Saami reindeer herders are struggling to find their way back to a sustainable economy based on traditional knowledge and indigenous worldview.

Disconnection between people, animal, pastures and environment can affect the sustainable food production. With these perspectives, we are concerned about the currently limited adaptive capacity of Arctic indigenous communities to preserve their food culture and use their local natural food resources for sustainable development. We hope these 14 articles in *Diedūt* will be a first step in the direction to preserve this unique knowledge and cultural heritage. We call for urgent cooperation to protect the Arctic indigenous peoples food knowledge and innovations.

By focusing on traditional food culture and scientific knowledge in reindeer husbandry, there might be new ways of developing the economy of reindeer herders using traditional knowledge navigating towards future sustainability. Adaptations to future climate change have to include the knowledge and economic potential of the food production system in the Arctic indigenous societies.

Edouard Cointreau, a visionary-missionary of authentic food literature is the Founder and President of the prestigious "Gourmand World Cookbook Awards". Since its founding in 1995, the Gourmand Awards has increasingly garnered global, enthusiastic participation from over 216 countries. The academic *Diedūt* book: Arctic Indigenous Peoples Food System – The role of traditional knowledge for sustainable development is nominated in Category C22 Arctic and in category B22 University and Academic Press at the Gourmand Awards ceremony in Macao on July 4 Gourmand Awards, Macao International Book Fair

www.cookbookfair.com. The book comprised of 14 chapters is about indigenous peoples food systems and is written by indigenous students and researcher in **UArctic EÁLAT Institute** in Russia.

The book is a part of **RIEVDAN** research project «Rapid change - challenges and/or opportunities for sustainable reindeer husbandry?» and is funded by Research Council of Norway and is made in cooperation between Sámi University of Applied Science (SUAC), International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICR), University of the Arctic Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry (UArctic EÁLAT Institute) (UEI) in Norway and Institute of the Peoples of the North, Herten Pedagogic University, St Petersburg, Russia and North Eastern Federal University (NEFU), UNESCO International Department on Adaptation of Society and Man in the Arctic Regions in the Context of Climate Change and Globalization, Yakutsk.

UArctic EÁLAT Institute seeks to strengthen the resilience of herding societies through capacity building of indigenous youth – the Arctic leaders of tomorrow using both reindeer herders traditional knowledge and western science in research and education. UArctic EÁLAT Institute was founded by Association of World Reindeer Herders, International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry and Saami University of Applied Science. International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry coordinate UArctic EÁLAT Institute. It was established as a legacy after International Polar Year IPY 2007 and endorsed by the board of University of the Arctic in 2009. The institute can be seen as a special type of *cross-boundary institution*, bridging the gaps between academia and society, between science and traditional knowledge, and between different ways of knowing. The UArctic EÁLAT Institute is nested with the reindeer herders' communities in the circum-polar north. Reindeer herding is the primary livelihood for over 24 indigenous peoples in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic, involving close to 2.5 million semi-domesticated reindeer and 100 000 herders, including about 20 000 youth. The purpose of the institute is to: 1) Increase the public understanding about changes occurring in the Arctic and their effect on indigenous livelihoods and cultures 2) Increase the educational and research capacity of Arctic peoples, especially indigenous and reindeer herding peoples.