

**Native Food Summit
November 15-17, 2002
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

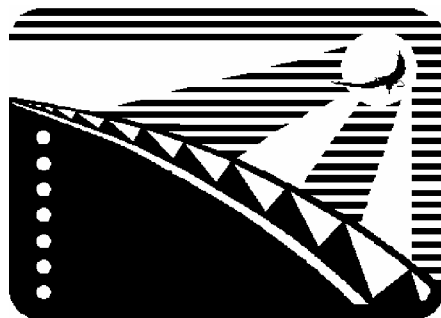
Time for the Harvest: Renewing Native Food Systems

Summit Report

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January 2003



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**First Nations wishes to thank
all the people who contributed their time and effort
to making the first national Native Food Summit such
a great success.**

Special acknowledgment is extended to the following
collaborative partners for their encouragement, support,
knowledge, experience, human resources, ideas, and time:

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Community Food Security Coalition
Food, Research, & Action Center
Heifer Project International, Indian Nations Program
Indian Land Working Group
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Indian Treaty Council
Intertribal Agriculture Council
Intertribal Bison Cooperative
National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, Inc.
Rural Coalition
Traditional Native American Farmers Association

The work of the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative is
generously supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Bullitt
Foundation, and the Lostand Foundation.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first national Native Food Summit was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on November 15-17, 2002. The Native Food Summit was attended by 113 participants representing tribes, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and the federal government.

The goals of the Native Food Summit were the following:

- Increase understanding of Native agriculture and food systems.
- Build new partnerships and strengthen networks among Native food producers and those working in the Native food sector.
- Identify major policy issues related to Native agriculture and food systems.
- Create working groups to affect policy change.

OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES

The Native Food Summit helped participants increase their understanding of Native agriculture and food systems, build new partnerships, and strengthen networks. At the same time, the working groups provided an opportunity for participants to identify major policy issues related to Native agriculture and food systems.

While the working groups focused on a broad range of topics, there are some common themes that are found among each of the groups. These include the following:

- **The importance of culture.** Working group participants discussed how all projects need to focus on the role of culture in local food systems, and the need to identify culturally appropriate community-based projects, and projects that work with the strengths of local culture.
- **The importance of environmental issues.** The environment affects local food systems in a range of ways, including the quality of food (especially important for groups that rely on hunting, fishing, and gathering) and the health impacts of food. At the same time, there was discussion of how food systems can impact the environment,

and the need to be mindful of how local food systems and agricultural practices can be sustainable and work to support the local environment.

- **The acknowledgment of the global context.** Working group participants acknowledged the global context in which changes in the local food system were occurring, and identified the common challenges to Indigenous People worldwide, including loss of culture and traditions, loss of land, and threats from commercial interests.

All of these topics were discussed in each working group, highlighting them as common themes across diverse interests.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The goals of the working groups were to identify policy issues related to Native agriculture and food systems. The working groups identified three main areas for policy work:

1. **Tribal Governments**
2. **Federal Government**
3. **Nonprofit Sector**

Many working groups identified the need for tribal governments to adopt programs to support the local food system, provide community education about health and traditional approaches to agriculture, and support local agriculture related businesses. At the same time, working group participants identified ways in which federal policy could better support Native agriculture and foods system projects. The federal government was urged to provide better support for tribal agricultural initiatives, including providing better outreach, more services, and better funding resources. Working group participants also recognized the importance of the nonprofit sector in influencing policy by providing advocacy, education, and funding in the policy process. The following is a summary of the policy recommendations found generated by the working groups.

Policy Strategies for Tribal Governments

Tribal governments, as managers of tribal economies and providers of local economic development services, can undertake many initiatives to support their local food systems and their local agricultural economy. The working groups recommended the following local policy strategies:

1. **Adopt tribal policies to increase local access to healthy foods, support the local food system, and stimulate the local agricultural economy.**
 - a. **Conduct a community- or reservation-wide food assessment to better understand the potential and needs of the local food sector.** Such a survey could help provide information on how to best support the local food system.

- b. **Start or help start a farmers market in your community.** Farmers markets can help local farmers sell their products to local consumers, keeping money in the local economy.
 - c. **Support local agricultural enterprises.** Many tribal governments, including the Oneida in Wisconsin and the Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico, have started agricultural enterprises with tribal funds. The Santa Ana Pueblo, to name just one example, now successfully runs Santa Ana Agricultural Enterprises, which includes commercial sale of blue corn and a catalog of Indian made specialty foods.
 - d. **Take control of your local food system.** The Oneida Nation has undertaken several projects to take control of their local food system and reduce diet-related diseases in their community. As part of their Oneida Nation Community Integrated Food Systems they own an orchard, beef herd, bison herd, a traditional food enterprise, and a cooperative grocery store. Their orchard and beef and bison herds supply the local food pantry and the grocery store sells healthy products and supports a farmers market on the weekends.
 - e. **Enact a food policy code to support the local food sector.** Tribes can establish regulations on reservations to encourage stores to supply healthy, affordable foods.
 - f. **Provide healthy, locally produced foods in your community.** Both the Tohono O’odham Community Action - Food System Development Project in Arizona and the Oneida Nation Community Integrated Food Systems in Wisconsin provide locally produced, healthy traditional foods in their local food assistance programs with the goal of reducing diet-related disease. This strategy should have both health benefits and economic benefits, as buying locally can keep money in the local economy.
 - g. **Use the tribal business information center and economic development departments to help start agricultural related businesses.** Specialty foods are one of the fastest growing markets today. There is a great demand for Indian-grown and -made products. Economic development departments can capitalize on this trend and add value to a locally-produced agricultural product. Tribes can stimulate the development of individual members’ food-related businesses.
 - h. **Use the local community college to teach classes on both agriculture and starting related businesses.** The local community college is an excellent local resource for providing information about small business development. Local colleges can also provide agricultural education and the local agricultural extension services.
2. **Use federal programs to support the local food system and local agricultural economy.** This can be done by encouraging people and institutions to buy healthy foods from local agricultural producers. The following projects may be pursued:
- a. **Support WIC Farmers Market Nutrition programs.** USDA provides grants to WIC programs to allow WIC recipients to use vouchers to purchase food at local

study and revive traditional approaches to agriculture. The perceived benefits have been a greater community understanding of their history and culture, revival of once lost ceremonies, and reduced diet-related disease.

5. **Work to increase control and use of tribal land.** Tribes are the largest agricultural landowners in the United States. Yet the majority of their farming land is leased to non-Indians. Tribal governments can work to develop agricultural enterprises to ensure that tribal lands are ultimately used to benefit tribal members while operating effectively in a market economy. More and more tribes are also buying back land that was lost during allotment, working to consolidate land, and increase the land base. The Indian Land Working Group is one organization working to decrease fractionation of Indian land and increase Indian control of Native lands by educating landholders and tribal governments about options for land consolidation.
6. **Adopt land management plans that protect the environment and support local Indian farmers.** Tribes can adopt land management plans that protect the value of land assets by protecting environmental resources. Land management plans can also work to support Indian owned agricultural enterprises.
7. **Adopt proactive tribal regulation to protect local hunting, gathering, and fishing rights.** Tribes need to be proactive and develop tribal codes for areas in which there is clear tribal authority. Both federal and state governments are also usually receptive to tribes that are proactive in areas in which they have tribal authority, for example developing resource management codes. Tribes that adopt their own environmental, hunting, and fishing regulations stand a much better chance in state and federal courts than those tribes that have no regulation in place.

Policy Strategies for the Federal Government

Individuals and nonprofits can also work to influence the federal government to provide effective, equitable resources to Indian agriculture. While there are many resources available to Native agricultural producers, the issue of equity still remains. The outreach to Native producers has been poor, and Native producers are less likely to use USDA programs than European-American farmers. The BIA still does not have an effective policy to carry out the management of Indian agricultural lands. The following strategies are recommended for increasing equity within the USDA and improving the effectiveness of the BIA and other federal programs.

1. Work with the USDA to increase equity for Native American farmers. This involves many activities, including the following:

- a. **Increase funding for USDA outreach programs for Native Americans.** Outreach services are needed to increase participation in the numerous credit, education, and other programs offered by the USDA. This includes improved or continued service in many areas, including the Tribal Credit Outreach Program, State Outreach Committees, and the 2501 Small Farmers Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program. Agencies also need to increase the appointment and use of Indian Advisory Committees.

The Role of the Nonprofit Sector

While the working groups identified several strategies that could be adopted by tribal governments or the federal government to improve Native agriculture and food systems, the role of the nonprofit sector was also a popular topic of discussion. Many working group participants identified three main roles for the nonprofit sector:

- 1. Advocacy.** Many working group participants discussed the importance of nonprofit organizations, both national and international, in influencing policy to protect Native lands, the environment, and Native cultural lifeways. This includes national and international activities to protect against biopiracy, environmental degradation, and exploitation of traditional knowledge. Working group participants also suggested that nonprofits can work with the federal government to influence policy by advocating increased funding or program modifications.
- 2. Education.** Many working group participants also identified the importance of nonprofit organizations providing education about a range of issues. By educating policymakers, the nonprofit sector can influence policy making. Nonprofits can educate community members, tribal governments, the federal government, and the general public about many issues related to agriculture, health, and culture. In the case of health, nonprofit organizations were seen as playing a major role in changing diets and providing information about diet-related diseases. In the case of traditional agriculture, nonprofit organizations were called upon, with the help of tribal colleges and other educational institutions, to protect traditional knowledge and ensure that it is passed on to new generations of farmers and community members.
- 3. Funding.** The nonprofit sector was also frequently identified as a source of funding for Native agriculture and food system projects. Many working group participants expressed concern that federal funding sources were often difficult to access or unduly restricted. The private philanthropic sector was often seen as a source for funding for more innovative projects, especially projects preserving traditional culture and lifeways. This funding in turn is important for the education and advocacy activities of many nonprofits that ultimately affect policy.

Working group participants suggested that the nonprofit sector could continue to play an important role in policy formulation by providing advocacy, education, and funding.

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Summit Report

INTRODUCTION

With generous support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, First Nations Development Institute launched the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative to help Native communities nationwide renew food systems and revitalize their agricultural enterprises. The Native Food Summit is a major component of this initiative, with the goals of strengthening Native agriculture and food systems and informing policy change.

The three-day summit was attended by 113 participants representing tribes, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, foundations, and the federal government. An agenda of the summit is included as Appendix A, and a list of participants is included as Appendix B. A summary of summit evaluations are included in Appendix C.

The goals of the Native Food Summit were to increase understanding of Native agriculture and food systems; build new partnerships and strengthen networks among Native food producers and those working in the Native food sector; identify major policy issues related to Native agriculture and food systems; and create working groups to affect policy change.

SUMMIT PROCEEDINGS

Day One: Friday, November 15, 2002

Day One of the summit focused on successful community programs, entering commercial markets, and international issues. Several speakers shared their experience in developing programs to serve the local community and revitalize local food systems. The challenge of entering commercial markets was also addressed, and several successful agricultural enterprises were discussed. At the end of the day, panelists presented information about international issues and how global forces are affecting local food systems, the environment, and the success of local agricultural enterprises.

Welcome and Plenary

Thomas Vigil, First Nations Development Institute board member, welcomed the participants, and pueblo historian Joe Santos provided the opening prayer.

Sherry Salway Black, First Nations Development Institute, provided the opening plenary, “*The Roots of Change in Indian Country*.” Ms. Black provided a great deal of information on the current state of Native food systems, including information on hunger, health, and agricultural enterprises. She also presented a diagram that demonstrated the way in which the local food system is related to a community’s health and cultural well-being, as well as how the local food system can contribute to community and economic development. Ms. Black closed with a call for Native communities everywhere to begin to reclaim their food systems.

Keynote Address

Oran Hesterman, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, provided the keynote address, “*From Farm to the Fork – Global and Local Trends in Agriculture and Foods Systems*.” His speech provided an overview of domestic and international trends in food systems especially related to increased vertical integration, increased concentration of ownership, and declining numbers of small farmers. Yet in this economic landscape, there are opportunities. Organic and specialty foods are increasingly in demand and consumers are becoming worried about health and the environment. Mr. Hesterman closed his speech with a video, which highlighted the importance of taking control of local food systems. It featured several examples of communities around the world that found ways to provide more food locally to increase food security and economic development.

Panel Discussions

11:00-12:30: Community Programs that Work – Success Stories

Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Wai’anae Community Re-Development Corporation, talked about the Wai’anae Farm Project, which involves revitalizing traditional approaches to agriculture in Hawaii. Cheryl Bryce, Songhees Nation, discussed her Camas project, which involves traditional approaches to agriculture and revitalizing the Camas harvest for local community consumption. This project has also revitalized community ceremonies associated with the Camas harvest. Jobe Weston, Native Village Mekoryuk, discussed subsistence issues and the importance of subsistence hunting for his community. There is a need to protect habitat and hunting rights in his region of Alaska.

1:30-2:30: Lunch Speaker – Farmers Market WIC Programs in Native Communities

Melinda Newport, Chickasaw Nation Oklahoma, discussed the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program and the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program that she manages at the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma. She discussed the opportunity to use federal funds, in her case \$250,000 for the WIC program and Seniors program, to invest in the local farmers market economy through

vouchers for fresh food to be used at the market. She reported that the program has been a great success for the Seniors, who enjoy going to the market, socializing, and using their vouchers. There has been less success so far for the WIC program, but they are still trying. A match is required, but in Ms. Newport's case the tribal government provided the match money. She considers the overall program a great success and an opportunity to support local vendors at the farmers market.

2:00-3:30: Taking the Next Step – Entering Commercial Markets

Fred DuBray, Intertribal Bison Cooperative, talked about restoring buffalo meat as a primary food source in the Native American diet. He emphasized the importance of the buffalo to many communities, both in terms of culture and a healthy, traditional diet. He also spoke of the need to continue to develop herds and consider commercial markets.

Ross Racine, Intertribal Agricultural Council, discussed the National American Agriculture Business Incubator Development Project that his organization runs. The goal of the program is to help Native Americans with agriculturally related businesses. The program will establish a National Native American Agricultural Business Development Center (business incubator) which will provide a resource center, clearing house of information and directly assist participants in developing business plans, financial statements (i.e. cash flow analyses, balance sheets and income statements) and marketing plans.

Jerry Kinsman, Santa Ana Agricultural Enterprises, Santa Ana Pueblo, talked about The Cooking Post, a tribal food enterprise that uses a catalog and a website to market Native foods. He discussed the history of this successful tribally owned agricultural enterprise (they provide blue corn to many vendors, including the Body Shop) and cautioned that it is necessary to have a steady, consistent supply of produce to run a successful catalog.

Terrie Bad Hand and Pati Martinson, Taos Community Economic Development Center, discussed their Food Enterprise Incubator Program. They run a microenterprise program focused on food products, and have successfully marketed several products. They described their community kitchen incubator, which provides a commercial kitchen to local small businesses and microenterprises to use to produce their products. They also provided examples of products that have been successfully produced in their program, such as jams and candies.

4:00-5:00: International Issues

Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council, presented recent developments in the international arena and implications for indigenous food security in the United States. She emphasized the importance of protecting indigenous rights internationally, where many communities are under siege because of pollution, contaminants, theft of land, and cultural assimilation.

Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, talked about the international policy arena and its implications for local food systems, the environment, declining biodiversity, and the success of local agricultural enterprises. He gave examples of corporate control of food

products that have led to decreasing biodiversity, environmental pollution, and the spread of disease. One example was the negative effects of factory farming of salmon, which leads to disrupted ecosystems and the spread of disease in species. He also spoke of the potential effects of wasting disease on traditional hunting crops such as deer.

Reception

A reception was held at the Wool Warehouse Dinner Theater to facilitate networking. Dr. John Mohawk, a professor in the American Indian Studies Program at SUNY Buffalo and founder and director of the Pinewoods Community Farming, and Kevin White, project manager of Pinewoods Community Farming, demonstrated the making of traditional Iroquois bread. Dr. Mohawk also discussed the traditional uses of Iroquois White Corn and the importance of revitalizing traditional diets and Native food systems.

Day Two: Saturday, November 16, 2002

Day Two of the summit began with discussions on resources available for food system projects, federal policy issues, and policy at the local level before dividing into working groups for the afternoon session.

Welcome

Kukui Maunakea-Forth, Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation welcomed the participants and led them in prayer to open Day Two of the Native Food Summit.

Panel Discussions

8:15-9:15: Resources for Native Agriculture and Food Systems Projects

Oran Hesterman, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, presented what foundations look for in a project proposal and provided tips for working with foundations. Mike McDow, USDA New Mexico, gave an overview of USDA programs and funding resources for agricultural projects. John Tillotson, Small Business Administration New Mexico, gave an overview of SBA programs and funding resources.

Keynote Address

Paul Moorehead, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, provided the keynote address, "*Native Agriculture and the Policy Process – Your Role in Affecting Change.*" He provided information about the agenda of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the 108th Congress. He encouraged participants to share their concerns with committee members and stay involved in the policy process.

Panel Discussions

10:00-11:00: Opportunities for Influencing Federal Policy

Ross Racine, Intertribal Agriculture Council, discussed the Farm Bill 2002, focusing on the voice of Indian Country in the policy process. He emphasized the importance of being active in the policy process so the voice of Indian Country will be heard. Heather Fenny, Rural Coalition, talked about lessons learned from the Farm Bill 2002 in the area of policy. She also shared information about the process used to collect data to share with legislators who were shaping the 2002 Farm Bill. Rural Coalition sponsored a series of community meetings in which they collected information from small farmers.

11:15-12:30: Policy Strategies that Work on the Local Level

Bill Ver Voort, Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems, presented a strategy for revitalizing local food systems. He discussed the Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems project sponsored by the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. The Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems is a project designed to strengthen the local food system on the Oneida reservation, and includes a bison herd, a cattle farm, an apple orchard, and a cooperative grocery store, among other projects. The goal is to make locally produced, healthy foods available on the reservation. Paul Smith, Heifer International, talked about local policy strategies and implementing changes in the local food system. He discussed the importance of local control of food systems for community health and economic development. He emphasized that only when Native people control their local food systems will they control their local economies and community health. Theresa Carmody, Indian Land Working Group, discussed Indian trust land issues as they relate to agriculture and/or livestock production and what can be done at the local level. She discussed strategies for reducing fractionated heirship patterns and increasing Indian control of Indian land.

1:00-2:00: Lunch Speaker – Making Food Microenterprises Work for You

June Holley, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, talked about her community food microenterprise project, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks, or ACEnet, located in rural Appalachian Ohio. She discussed her experience with food microenterprise projects and how they can be used to develop small businesses to support the local economy, local producers, and local community development.

Working Groups

After lunch, the summit participants broke into Working Groups to discuss key issues related to Native agriculture and food systems. The goals of the working group were for the summit participants to identify key issues in their communities, develop strategies to address these issues, and identify the key policies surrounding these issues. The working groups were also designed to facilitate networking around key issues. The working groups met until 5:30, and then adjourned until the next day.

Day Three: Sunday, November 17, 2002

Welcome

Clayton Brascoupe, Traditional Native American Farmers Association, welcomed the participants and led them in prayer to open Day Three of the Native Food Summit.

Working Groups

On the morning of Day Three, working group members rejoined their working groups to finish their discussions. After lunch, each working group “reported out” to the larger summit audience. The following is a brief summary of the working group recommendations.

**Working Group
Key Issues and Policy Recommendations**

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Traditional approaches to agriculture	Clayton Brascoupe, Traditional Native American Farmers Association	Tristan Reader, Tohono O’odham Community Action

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Loss of environmental health.
- Lack of awareness in community.
- Need to keep agriculture as a cultural/family/community process.
- Lack of access to land for harvesting.
- Declining physical health.
- Loss of traditional knowledge.
- Lack of access to funding.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Develop an information base in communities, including collection of information from elders.
- Encourage local purchasing by tribal programs, including schools and elderly programs.
- Provide workshops to train people.
- Work with tribal colleges to educate people.
- Work to use agriculture as a foundation for community/cultural revitalization.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need to develop local purchasing programs by tribes, state, and federal programs (including local purchasing by schools, seniors programs, commodity food programs, etc.).
- Need to provide more support for traditional agriculture.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Conduct habitat restoration.
- Provide community education.
- Develop a seed bank and other holistic programs that redevelop community, culture, and family.
- Negotiate harvest rights and management plans.
- Build a local sustainable ecosystem and food system.
- Develop multigenerational programs that include youth and elders.
- Build capacity in Native communities to increase access to funding.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Local food systems	Bill Ver Voort, Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems	Terrie Bad Hand, Food Enterprise Incubator Project

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Need for tribal sustainable food system.
- Need for technical assistance and training on supporting the local food system.
- Need to address community food security issues.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Develop tribal food policies.
- Tap into those who have time and interest – e.g. get elders involved in gardening.
- Increase the capacity of the local/community food systems movement.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need for tribal food policies.
- Need for tribes to develop policies that support traditional agriculture.
- Need for tribes to develop policies about land use.
- Need for support for small farmers and community food systems project – USDA Community Food Projects and other programs.
- The USDA and SBA (Small Business Administration) need to provide better support for Indian agricultural enterprises.
- Need for other departments such as ANA (Administration for Native Americans) and the BIA to recognize the importance of food system projects.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Form an advisory council on food and agriculture in every community.

- First Nations Development Institute should encourage tribal policy development.
- Share information on projects that work so they can be replicated.
- Monitor legislation and/or policies that will or may affect food systems.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering rights	Jobe Weston, Native Village Mekoryuk	Alicia Bell-Sheetter, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- There was general agreement among the participants that the terms “sustainable” and “subsistence” are entirely insufficient to define traditional life ways and the relationship to the environment and local ecosystems in Alaska, but are understood to be words already established and that facilitate the larger conversation.
- Protection of the environment thus protecting the traditional food systems.
- Respect for the land and the elders.
- The ability to use food resources for barter, maintenance, and self-identity.
- The best strategy to achieve sustainable communities, using all available tools (traditional and modern) equal partnership(s) with government.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Revive Herders’ Association (for funding, advocacy).
- Pressure industry for sustainable oil and gas development, mining, and timbering to protect habitat and sacred places.
- Collect data to be used as a tool to influence policy/decisions (for example, eagles, whales, owls, wolves).
- If necessary, use journals and calendars as documentation of traditional hunting and gathering grounds.
- Use and improve existing laws to make tribal voice heard.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Protecting subsistence rights.
- Developing an official position against oil and gas development.
- Identifying state versus tribal interests — sovereignty/jurisdiction.
- Stopping mismanagement of environment and subsistence communities.
- Identifying rural versus urban interests.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Civil disobedience.
- Litigation.
- Organize, sue, and use the system.
- Letters and other campaigns.
- Increase awareness through the Internet, newspapers, and other media.
- Resolutions.
- Collect data to sustain resources and way of life.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Hunger and food security	Judith Davis, Chief Dull Knife College	Jackie Tiller, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Food sovereignty is the right of Peoples to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution, and consumption of food, with respect for their own cultures and their own systems of managing natural resources and rural areas. For Indigenous Peoples, *Food Sovereignty* is a prerequisite for *Food Security*.
- Self-determination.
- Sustainable nutrition and spiritual nourishment that will eliminate poverty.
- Loss of traditions and culture through education and connecting youth and elders.
- Capacity building, including data collection and analysis.
- The need to incorporate youth in our strategic planning.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Educate local community members about how to combat hunger.
- Strengthen grassroots and individual participation and advocacy.
- Strengthen networks with Indigenous communities worldwide.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Changing government policies (local, state, national, international) related to trade, liberalization, and globalization.
- Lack of cooperation (individual, tribal, state, etc.).

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Educate our communities and local/state/federal governments.
- Promote grassroots/individual participation/advocacy.
- Strengthen networks with Indigenous communities worldwide.
- Collect and analyze data about food security at the community level.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Food, diet and health issues	Karen Tuttle, Native American Community Board	Sherry Salway Black, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- A need to unite on common things through spirituality.
- Need Native specific and Native developed food/nutrition guides.
- A need for access to resources – it is hard for grassroots to do fundraising.

- Tension between western & Native thinking systems.
- Need youth involvement.
- Need to combat loss of culture.
- Intellectual property rights.
- Movement away from traditional foods to processed foods.
- More understanding of the biological basis of food and diet-related diseases.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Collaborations at colleges & universities.
- Coalition with other Native groups – mostly grassroots.
- Seasonal gathering and other intergenerational activities.
- Linking traditional foods within the context of health, culture and lifestyle.
- Work with women on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) – along with elders to teach – bring back 5 senses.
- Educate other institutions on reservations like churches.
- Develop a Native “healthy heart” label.
- Develop food policy at tribal or community level.
- Look beyond health discipline – get a community group going.
- Change terms, i.e., exercise – use words to convince “building power.”
- Develop sensitive intervention.
- Build political power.
- Need for community activities such as community food assessment, cooking classes, family and community gardens, youth education.
- Inventory plant resources – sacred sites.
- Regional or national clearinghouse of native foods

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need to develop a local tribal food code or food policy.
- Need to support tribal colleges in their education efforts related to traditional agriculture and culture.
- Need to work with federal agencies: Indian Health Service, National Institute of Health (NIH), National Indian Health Board, etc. to get them to fund diabetes research and health programs.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Educate our communities.
- Educate and advocate within federal government agencies.
- Inform school personnel and others to educate our youth.
- Build knowledge about traditional foods and traditional diets- need more data on this subject to make our case.
- Work to protect the environment.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
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Aquaculture/fisheries	Mike Skladany, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Joe Linkevic, First Nations Development Institute
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The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Need to support culturally appropriate, sustainable aquaculture and fisheries projects.
- Need to recognize the potential economic contributions of aquaculture and fisheries projects, but also pursue development in a culturally appropriate, environmentally sound, sustainable way.
- Need for technical assistance, training, and general information sharing.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Share information among existing operations.
- Share information about the appropriate technology to use in developing enterprises.
- Look for resources for projects.
- Look to marketing products.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need to establish best practices and codes of conduct.
- Need for funding.
- Need for international trade laws to reflect the interests of tribes.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Develop a national and international aquaculture/fisheries system to share information and develop codes of conduct.
- Develop information on effective practices.
- Challenge existing aquaculture operations that are not environmentally sustainable.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Livestock production	Fred Small, Livestock Owners Association	Rebecca Seib, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Need to restore buffalo to tribal lands.
- Need to work to support Indian livestock owners.
- Need to aggregate stock for marketing.
- Need to stop biopiracy and protect bison genetics.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Expand membership in existing livestock organizations.
- Join national organizations and become board members.
- Develop a tribal grazing ordinance to mirror USDA (similar to the RCS program).

- Develop value-added to products - possibly buying a slaughterhouse or processing facility.
- Possibly develop a community development financial institution (CDFI) to help with financing.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- The USDA and SBA need to provide better support for Indian agricultural enterprises.
- Need to develop memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between tribes, states, and the BIA for more effective use of land.
- Need to get BIA to better manage tribal lands.
- Need USDA to support Indian farmers.
- Need for better data from the National Agricultural Statistical Service.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Identify diversified markets for products.
- Create an intertribal marketing company.
- Start an Indian Stock Association and strengthen existing networks.
- Look into development of Indian owned slaughterhouses.
- Build networks among existing producers.
- Patent bison genes.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Creating commercial enterprises	Pati Martinson, Food Enterprise Incubator Project	Jerry Reynolds, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- There is a growing interest in specialty foods, including gourmet food and “Indian made” products. This is an opportunity for food microenterprises.
- Small businesses can be culturally appropriate because they are flexible, allow for creativity, and reflect cultural values.
- Business development needs to be culturally appropriate – it is not for the betterment of the individual but the betterment of the community.
- Collectives or cooperatives may work well because of their community orientation.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Develop indigenous networks of resources for business development.
- Share information among existing businesses.
- More resources to help with start up.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need support from SBA, USDA, and tribal governments.

- Need to look into federal, state, and tribal regulations.
- Need to ensure that business development is culturally appropriate (reflects local values, betters the community, and does not harm the environment).

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Develop a Native food system policy.
- Look into starting a Native food purchasing cooperative.
- Implement systems that will sustain Native communities – that are driven by cultural values not just profit.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Trust land issues (as they relate to agriculture and/or livestock production)	Theresa Carmody, Indian Land Working Group	Sarah Dewees, First Nations Development Institute

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- Poor records management by the BIA.
- Fractionated heirship (fractionated ownership limits use).
- Illegal taking of land.
- Environmental degradation of land.
- Need to compensate those whose assets were contaminated or stolen.
- Need for Native control of Native land.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Educate tribal leadership and tribal members about land issues.
- Set standards for recovery and management.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- Need for tribes to take action in reclaiming control of land assets.
- Need for proper records management.
- Need to pass better trust land management legislation.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Work with tribal colleges to educate community members, sponsor local research projects, and provide a community resource for land issues.
- Increase awareness of tribal members through education of youth in schools.
- Work to pass legislation to increase Native control of Native land.

Working Group Topic	Commentator	Facilitator
Environmental and biodiversity issues	Bob Shimek, Indigenous Environmental Network	Donna House

The working group identified the following **key issues**:

- There is a need to remediate environmental degradation that exists in many Native communities.
- There is a need to protect traditional approaches to agriculture because they are often better for the environment than modern practices.
- Revitalization of Native food systems is a form of economic revitalization.
- There is a need to protect biodiversity and protect against bioprospecting and biopiracy.
- There is a need to protect traditional knowledge.

- The same issues we are facing in the U.S. are also happening internationally.

The main **strategies** needed to improve local food systems were the following:

- Promote indigenous rights at an international level.
- Promote the right to say “no” to environmental destructive “development.”
- Strengthen international treaties.
- Promote the adoption of the draft declaration of Indigenous Peoples.
- Get tribes to resist environmentally destructive development.

The main **policy issues** the group identified were the following:

- The Endangered Species Act must address traditional foods (i.e., Camas, salmon, and other traditionally significant species).
- Internationally (and on the part of the U.S.), there is a need to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the full legal meaning of the term.
- There is a need to protect the ability of indigenous peoples to provide their own traditional means of subsistence.

The main **actions** the group recommended were the following:

- Support native seed banks.
- Support community gardens that grow traditional plants.
- Provide education on and off the reservations.
- Restore eroded lands and reintroduce eradicated plants and animals.
- Work with indigenous international networks to protect rights and the environment.

Closing Plenary

Kenny Ausubel, Bioneers, provided the closing plenary, “*From Theory to Action – Bringing about Change in Native Agriculture and Local Food Systems.*” Mr. Ausubel spoke about his international movement, the Bioneers, and the work they have done to bring about change in local food systems and protect the environment. He provided examples of many projects that have successfully marketed healthy, organic foods, worked with agricultural industries to protect the environment, and recaptured control of local food systems. He closed by challenging all participants to continue to work for change.

Closing Prayer and Conclusion

David Vanderhoop of the Wampanoag of Gay Aquinnah in Massachusetts closed the summit by sharing a song and providing gifts to First Nations staff. Sherry Salway Black ended the summit and thanked all the attendees for their participation.

SUMMIT EVALUATIONS

Native Food Summit participants were asked to complete an evaluation at the end of each day, and to complete an overall evaluation after the summit. The evaluations were collected and

analyzed to help First Nations in planning future events. For an overview of the summit evaluations, please refer to Appendix C.

Appendix A

Agenda

Native Food Summit
November 15–17, 2002
Albuquerque, New Mexico

DoubleTree Hotel Albuquerque

Day 1 – Friday, November 15, 2002

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast (provided)
- 9:00 am Opening Prayer
- 9:10 am – 9:20 am Welcome
- 9:20 am – 10:00 am **Opening Plenary: Native Food Systems – The Roots of Change in Indian Country**
Speaker: Sherry Salway Black, Vice President, First Nations Development Institute
- 10:00 am – 10:45 am **Keynote: From the Farm to the Fork – Global and Local Trends in Agriculture and Food Systems**
Speaker: Oran Hesterman, Program Director, Food Systems and Rural Development, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm **Panel: Community Programs that Work – Success Stories**
Panel Moderator: Rebecca Seib

Presenter	Organization
Kukui Maunakea-Forth	<i>Wai'anae Farm Project</i> . Will discuss her nonprofit organization focused on revitalizing traditional approaches to agriculture in Hawaii and the relationship between food systems, the economy, and health.
Cheryl Bryce	<i>Songhees Nation Traditional Agriculture Project</i> . Will discuss her Camas project, which involves traditional approaches to agriculture.
Jobe Weston	<i>Native Village Mekoryuk</i> . Will discuss subsistence issues.

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm **Lunch Speaker: Farmers Market WIC Programs in Native Communities**
Speaker: Melinda Newport, WIC Coordinator for Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Panel: Taking the Next Step – Entering Commercial Markets**
Panel Moderator: Joe Linkevic

Presenter	Topic
Fred DuBray, Intertribal Bison Cooperative	Restoring buffalo meat as a primary food source in the Native American diet.
Ross Racine, Intertribal Agriculture Council	Intertribal Agriculture Council programs to assist Native producers start commercial businesses and enter commercial markets (domestic and international), including the Market Access Program and the Business Development Program.
Jerry Kinsman, Santa Ana Agricultural Enterprises, Santa Ana Pueblo	Discussion of The Cooking Post – a tribal food enterprise that markets Native foods with a catalog and website.
Terrie Bad Hand and Pati Martinson	The Food Enterprise Incubator Program at the Taos Community Economic Development Center.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm **Panel: International Issues**
Panel Moderator: Alicia Bell-Sheetter

Presenter	Topic
Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council	Recent Developments in the International Arena and Implications for Indigenous Food Security in the United States.
Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	Why Should We Care About International Policy?

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Closing and Discussion of Goals for Next Day**
Presenter: Sherry Salway Black

7:00 pm **Reception at the Wool Warehouse Dinner Theater**
John Mohawk – Seneca leader, author, educator, chef, head of Pinewoods, and founder and director of the Iroquois White Corn Project – will describe his efforts to reintroduce Iroquois White Corn, once a staple of the Native American diet, and will demonstrate the making of traditional Iroquois bread with project assistant Kevin White.

Day 2 – Saturday, November 16, 2002

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast (provided)**

8:00 am – 8:15 am **Opening Prayer**
Welcome and Housekeeping

8:15 am – 9:15 am **Panel: Resources for Native Agriculture and Food Systems Projects**
Panel Moderator: Joe Linkevic

Presenter	Topic
Oran Hesterman, W.K. Kellogg Foundation	What do foundations look for in a project proposal?
Mike McDow, USDA New Mexico	Overview of USDA programs.
John Tillotson, Small Business Administration New Mexico	Overview of Small Business Administration programs.

9:15 am – 10:00 am **Keynote Speaker: Native Agriculture and the Policy Process – Your Role in Affecting Change**
Speaker: Paul Moorehead, Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

10:00 am – 11:00 am **Panel Response: Opportunities for Influencing Federal Policy**

Presenter	Topic
Ross Racine, Intertribal Ag Council	Farm Bill 2002 – The Voice of Indian Country in the Policy Process.
Heather Fenny, Rural Coalition	Policy Strategies in Action – Lessons Learned from the 2002 Farm Bill.

11:00 am – 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 am – 12:30 pm **Panel: Policy Strategies that Work on the Local Level**
Panel Moderator: Sarah Dewees

Presenter	Topic
Bill Ver Voort, Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems	Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems – Strategies for revitalizing local food systems.
Paul Smith, Heifer International	Local Policy Strategies – Implementing changes in the local food system.
Theresa Carmody, Indian Land Working Group	Indian trust land issues as they relate to agriculture and/or livestock production – what can be done at the local level.

- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm** **Lunch (provided)**
Raffle for evaluation forms.
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm** **Lunch Speaker: Making Food Microenterprises Work for You**
Speaker: June Holley, Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet)
- 2:00 pm – 2:15 pm** **Break**
- 2:15 pm – 2:45 pm** **Discussion of working groups and people join their working groups**
Speaker: Sherry Salway Black

	Working Group Topic	Working Group Commentator	Facilitator
1	Traditional approaches to agriculture	Clayton Brascoupe, Traditional Native American Farmers Association	Tristan Reader, Tohono O’odham Community Action
2	Local food systems	Bill Ver Voort, Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems	Terrie Bad Hand, Food Enterprise Incubator Project
3	Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering rights	Jobe Weston, Native Village Mekoryuk	Alicia Bell-Sheetter, First Nations Development Institute
4	Hunger and food security	Judith Davis, Chief Dull Knife College	Jackie Tiller, First Nations Development Institute
5	Food, Diet and Health Issues	Karen Tuttle, Native American Community Board	Sherry Salway Black, First Nations Development Institute
6	Aquaculture/fisheries	Mike Skladany, IATP	Joe Linkevic, First Nations Development Institute
7	Livestock production	Fred Small, Livestock Owners Association	Rebecca Seib, First Nations Development Institute
8	Creating Commercial Enterprises	Mark Wadsworth, Intertribal Agricultural Coalition	Pati Martinson, Food Enterprise Incubator Project
9	Trust land issues (as they relate to agriculture and/or livestock production)	Theresa Carmody, Indian Land Working Group	Sarah Dewees, First Nations Development Institute
10	Environmental and Biodiversity Issues	Bob Shimek, Indigenous Environmental Network	Donna House

2:45 pm – 5:30 pm **Work in working groups**
Work will begin in working groups to develop action plan to address key issues (*see working group agenda*).

Evening **Dinner on Your Own**

Day 3 – Sunday, November 17, 2002

7:00 am – 8:00 am **Breakfast (provided)**

8:00 am – 8:15 am **Opening Prayer**
Welcome and Housekeeping

8:15 am – 10:00 am **Continue work in working groups**
Begin work on an action plan:

- What are activities?
- Who will do activities?
- What is timeline?

10:00 am – 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am – 12:00 pm **Continue work in working groups**
Prepare presentation for larger group:

- Need to prepare a 10-minute presentation to share with larger group.

12:15 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch (provided)**
Raffle for evaluation forms.

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Present action plans to larger group**
There will be ten 10-minute presentations, one from each group.

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm **Closing Plenary: From Theory to Action – Bringing about Change in Native Agriculture and Local Food Systems**
Speaker: Kenny Ausubel, Bioneers

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm **Discussion of Next Steps and Conclusion**
Speaker: Sherry Salway Black, First Nations Development Institute

Appendix B

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Appendix C

Native Food Summit Evaluation Report

Day One – November 15, 2002 Evaluation Responses – Total of 63 Respondents for Day One

Overall evaluation of Day 1	<u>Average</u> 2.70		
	3 (Excellent) = 44	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 19	0 (No Response) = 0	
Content of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.65		
	3 (Excellent) = 41	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 22	0 (No Response) = 0	
Length of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.19		
	3 (Excellent) = 19	1 (Disappointing) = 3	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 39	0 (No Response) = 2	
Quality of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.67		
	3 (Excellent) = 42	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 21	0 (No Response) = 0	
Knowledge of speakers	<u>Average</u> 2.79		
	3 (Excellent) = 50	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 13	0 (No Response) = 0	
Networking opportunities at the reception	<u>Average</u> 2.52		
	3 (Excellent) = 28	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 23	0 (No Response) = 11	

Day Two – November 16, 2002 Evaluation Responses – Total of 45 Respondents for Day Two

Overall evaluation of Day 2	<u>Average</u> 2.57		
	3 (Excellent) = 26	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 17	0 (No Response) = 1	
Content of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.60		
	3 (Excellent) = 27	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 18	0 (No Response) = 0	
Length of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.29		
	3 (Excellent) = 15	1 (Disappointing) = 2	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 28	0 (No Response) = 0	
Quality of presentations	<u>Average</u> 2.59		
	3 (Excellent) = 26	1 (Disappointing) = 0	

2 (Satisfactory) = 18 0 (No Response) = 1

Knowledge of speakers	Average 2.80		
	3 (Excellent) = 35	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 9	0 (No Response) = 1	
The working group met your expectations	Average 2.44		
	3 (Excellent) = 21	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 23	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group provided information on funding resources useful to your work	Average 2.33		
	3 (Excellent) = 16	1 (Disappointing) = 2	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 25	0 (No Response) = 2	
The working group addressed common goals and key issues pertinent to your work	Average 2.53		
	3 (Excellent) = 27	1 (Disappointing) = 3	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 15	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group provided ample time for participant engagement on various issues	Average 2.60		
	3 (Excellent) = 28	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 16	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group was helpful in networking with other organizations	Average 2.59		
	3 (Excellent) = 26	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 18	0 (No Response) = 0	

Day Three – November 17, 2002
Evaluation Responses – Total of 3 Respondents for Day 3

Overall evaluation of Day 3	Average 2.67		
	3 (Excellent) = 2	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group adequately addressed policy issues	Average 2.67		
	3 (Excellent) = 2	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group provided ample time to discuss your particular policy concerns	Average 3.00		
	3 (Excellent) = 3	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 0	0 (No Response) = 0	
The working group developed a plan of action that you could implement when you return to your organization	Average 2.67		
	3 (Excellent) = 2	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0	
Oh a whole, the working group session was helpful	Average 3.00		
	3 (Excellent) = 3	1 (Disappointing) = 0	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 0	0 (No Response) = 0	
Presentation of action plans to larger group was helpful	Average 2.00		
	3 (Excellent) = 1	1 (Disappointing) = 1	
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0	

**Overall Summit
Evaluation Responses – Total of 13 Respondents for Overall**

Impression of the Native Food Summit	Average 2.92	
	3 (Excellent) = 12	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0
Organization of the summit	Average 2.77	
	3 (Excellent) = 10	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 3	0 (No Response) = 0
Satisfaction with topics covered	Average 2.62	
	3 (Excellent) = 8	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 5	0 (No Response) = 0
Met personal objectives for attending	Average 2.83	
	3 (Excellent) = 10	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 2	0 (No Response) = 1
Quality of presentations	Average 2.92	
	3 (Excellent) = 11	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 1
Participation in working groups	Average 2.58	
	3 (Excellent) = 7	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 5	0 (No Response) = 1
Networking and collaboration opportunities	Average 2.77	
	3 (Excellent) = 11	1 (Disappointing) = 1
	2 (Satisfactory) = 1	0 (No Response) = 0
Information presented can be implemented in your work	Average 2.77	
	3 (Excellent) = 10	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 3	0 (No Response) = 0
Usefulness of summit book	Average 2.83	
	3 (Excellent) = 10	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 2	0 (No Response) = 1
Summit facilities	Average 2.45	
	3 (Excellent) = 5	1 (Disappointing) = 0
	2 (Satisfactory) = 6	0 (No Response) = 2
Pre-summit registration	Average 2.42	
	3 (Excellent) = 6	1 (Disappointing) = 1
	2 (Satisfactory) = 5	0 (No Response) = 1