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| **Title of Research Presentation** How marginalized Ecuadorian farmers improve their nutritional status while contributing to ecosystem resilience and local food economies |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**Increasingly, the populations most vulnerable to nutrient deficiencies are now also experiencing increased obesity, placing them under a double burden of malnutrition. They thus experience both the consequences of poor childhood development and the health effects of obesity in later stages of life. As this problem accelerates among rural and especially rural indigenous people, it disproportionately affects those who are already at the brunt of poverty and its associated inequities. This research aims to identify promising solutions that act on health, environmental and social imperatives for more resilient rural communities. We explore the case of resource-poor, mostly-indigenous ‘agroecological’ farmers in Ecuador, who have adopted an organic production system to evade pesticide poisoning and improve crop resilience, and in the process, have also created conditions with potential to affect nutritional status.**Methods**We deployed a cross-sectional comparative survey of female agroecological farmers (n=61) and their conventional farming neighbours (n=30) to detect differences in diet, production, food sources and socioeconomic factors. We further explored links between environment and health using ethnography and key informant interviews.**Results.** Despite no detected socioeconomic differences, agroecological farmers perform better than their neighbours on the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women index by one food group per day. Further, they obtain more of their total caloric intake from their own production (31% vs 16% among conventional farmers) and from alternative food sources including direct purchase from other farmers and barter (24% vs 13%) than from conventional markets (46% vs 70%). Agroecological farmers also have, on average, 66% more biological diversity on their farms. **Discussion.** The higher dietary and biological diversity among Ecuador’s agroecological farmers empirically demonstrates how healthy diets and healthy environments can go hand in hand. Further, the contributions of their own production and social alliances to their dietary intake suggests that ecologically and socially responsible forms of food access are consistent with nutritional imperatives. The case of agroecology among Ecuador’s farmers illustrates the agency of the marginalized poor in authoring solutions for healthy, equitable and sustainable development**Keywords.** Nutrition, agriculture, dietary diversity, agricultural diversity, Ecuador |