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| **Pacific food systems and planetary health: our food, our people, our future** |
| **Background/Objectives** Globally food systems are complex and multifaceted, involving a range of actors and processes. Given the role of food systems in human and planetary health it is vital that we get it right at global, regional and local levels. Action is particularly needed in the Pacific region where high rates of non-communicable diseases, resulting from poor diets amongst other factors, causes considerable suffering. A critical policy review on Pacific food systems was undertaken to explore current knowledge: to understand the complexity and scope of the problem in the region, to explore what we know about creating a great food system, and to consider what directions food systems’ improvement might take with an orientation to the future. **Methods** The review involved bibliographic exploration and utilised a pragmatic scoping strategy of key concepts to identify appropriate published and institutional sources from around the Pacific Region. A policy discussion was then generated, using a critical framework of SDG global target 2: to achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. **Results** The findings of the review include themes of urbanisation and the introduction of processed foods; the heavy marketing of foods high in sugar and salt; little commercial marketing of healthy foods, such as vegetables and fruit; and the attractions of low cost, poor quality food. However, there are notable gaps in knowledge, including the lack of research on the role of ‘big food’ and the various actors in the Pacific food system and their relationships; ways of promoting an ethical and appropriate food system in local contexts, such as that of individual Pacific communities. The medicalisation of health issues, and separation of health, environment and other related sectors was also noted as key to creating significant barriers to understanding and addressing change to food systems.**Discussion** Much has been done by communities, health promotion workers, and food champions to promote good food at low cost. This presentation provides a critical assessment of the current situation, and considers how we might jointly develop excellent Pacific food systems; with the aim of promoting the health of communities and protecting and enhancing environments. **Keywords - Pacific food systems; inter-sectoral action; inclusive habitats** |