



ARCTIC FOOD SECURITY AND COVID-19: SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

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United Nations: Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life

Russian Food Security Doctrine: food security = food sovereignty



Environmental issues

- Harsh climate and permafrost
- Seasonality
- Climate change



Economic issues

- Limited transport infrastructure
- High cost of food and local production



Social issues

- Low population density
- Traditional lifestyle and diet of indigenous population

Availability and accessibility of food

Arctic food security

ANALYZED PUBLICATIONS

Reports:

Covid-19 in the Arctic: Briefing Document for Senior Arctic Officials (by Arctic Council)

Articles:

Bogdanova, E., Andronov, S., Morell, I. A., Hossain, K., Raheem, D., Filant, P., & Lobanov, A. (2020). Food Sovereignty of the Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic Zone of Western Siberia: Response to COVID-19 Pandemic. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(20), 7570.

News and other on-line materials:

Record of Food Security Session from the Arctic Resilience Forum 2020 <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/arctic-resilience-forum-food-security>

Record of Arctic Cooperation Webinar “Regional Development and Food Security in the Arctic: The Role of Geothermal Energy” <https://arcticiceland.is/en/webinars>

Food Security in the Arctic before and after COVID-19 <https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/food-security-arctic-and-after-covid-19>

Combating Food Insecurity in the Arctic Despite Covid-19 <https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/combating-food-insecurity-arctic-despite-covid-19>

COVID-19 is Worsening Food Insecurity in Nunavut <https://www.mironline.ca/covid-19-is-worsening-food-insecurity-in-nunavut/>

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

Food supply disruptions

- Shortage of perishable food
- Price growth



Possible solutions:

- Development of local production
- Use of country food
- Time-limited support programs
- Creation of additional logistic bases

Lack of seasonal workers and activities

- Loss of harvest
- Loss of income from products and tourism
- Increased costs to ensure COVID-19 working place safety



Possible solutions:

- Robotization
- Salary increase
- Grants to make short films about the COVID-19 situation (Saami)

Problems of traditional economies

- Declining demand for reindeer
- Difficulties with boundaries crossing



Possible solutions:

- Exemption of traditional activities from some quarantine measures

CONDITIONALLY POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

Recognition of local food production importance

- Increased funding of local production
- Local production growth
- Growing use of local advantages (geothermal energy)

Growing use of local food (country food)

- Building resilience
- Collaboration with indigenous people



The Growcer's arctic growing system is able to operate in temperatures from -52°C to 22°C .
Photos: The Growcer.



The first Canadian breed of golden lime, certified in 2017 URL: <http://www.lemonbreederofthenorth.com/llt-lime>

THANK YOU!

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