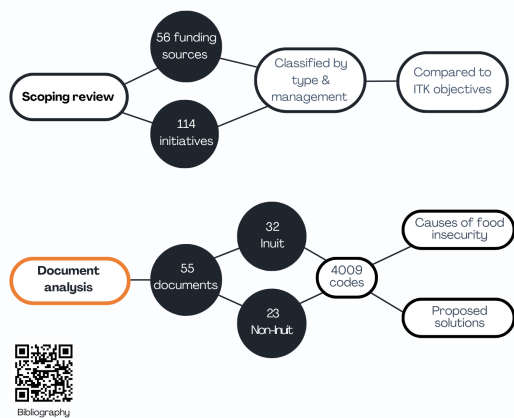


In the context of skyrocketing food prices, logistics bottlenecks, and the impacts of climate change on the provisioning of country food, food governance plays a crucial role in mediating access to healthy and nutritious food in Inuit Nunangat. Disparities exist despite the proliferation of initiatives aimed at improving food security, reflecting differences in management and discourse between Inuit and non-Inuit actors. *The preliminary results of this research explore how food initiatives align with local priorities and examine their potential to either support or contradict Inuit cultural and social aspirations.*

Methodology



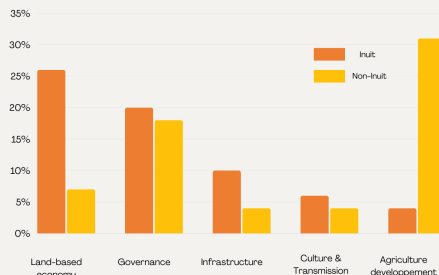
Ulluriat is an on-the-land program run by Sirivik (Inukjuak), to increase youth engagement in traditional Inuit foodways. Youth participate in country food harvesting and food preparation during workshops with knowledge holders.



"Inuit food sovereignty is a desired outcome of Inuit self-determination, achieved through greater production of local food, as well as the development of corresponding policies and initiatives that support local food production and self-reliance." (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Food Security Strategy 2021, p.20)

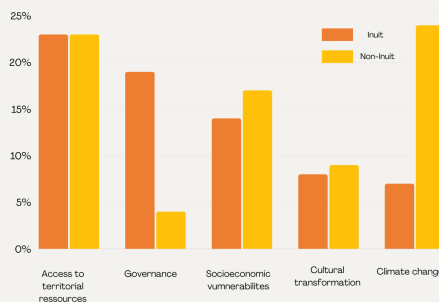
Inuit documents advocate for strengthening the land-based economy and self-governance, while non-Inuit documents prioritize agricultural development to address socioeconomic vulnerabilities and climate change.

Five most proposed solutions to food insecurity.



Inuit documents prioritize solutions focused on **strengthening the local economy** and **improving access to land**, such as enhancing wildlife management through self-determination, establishing wages for hunters and subsidizing hunting equipment. In contrast, non-Inuit documents emphasize **agricultural development**, highlighting agri-food sectors, technologies adapted to northern climates, and greenhouses. Both approaches agree on the importance of **governance**: non-Inuit documents stress partnership with Inuit communities to respond to their needs, while Inuit documents advocate for co-management and self-governance models to ensure food sovereignty frameworks that align with their cultural and environmental priorities.

Five most identified causes to food insecurity.



Inuit and non-Inuit documents identify different causes of food insecurity. Inuit documents highlight **inadequate legislative frameworks** that hinder access to country foods, as well as **economic barriers** such as the high cost of equipment and fuel. They also emphasize the impacts of climate change, including declining animal populations and the erosion of traditional knowledge. Non-Inuit documents focus more on **climate and environmental disruptions**, framing them as part of a global issue. Both types of documents mention cultural transformations, but only Inuit documents explicitly link them to colonial legacies and advocate for self-determination as a solution.

Examples of food initiatives and related discourses



Société du Plan Nord

Kuujjuaq Grower: the hydroponic container was launched in 2018 by Makivikiv, with the financial assistance of Société du Plan Nord

"In the coming years, we will see the emergence of innovative projects, such as northern greenhouses for vegetable production, the marketing of eco-certified marine products, vast parks in the far reaches of Québec, and schools adapted to the realities of their students." (Plan Nord: Faire le Nord ensemble, 2011, p. XIII, our translation)



Lydia Riis

Community freezer: the hunter support program enables hunters to stock the freezer, allowing any resident in need to access country food (Kuujjuaq).

"Sharing of the harvest has always been a foundation of Nunavik Inuit culture. Care must therefore be taken to ensure that those who cannot afford or are themselves unable to practise subsistence harvesting are also provided access to country food." (Parnasiimutik Consultation Report, 2014, p. 41).

Discussion

Non-Inuit discourse

- Tends to mobilize a **southern imaginary** and presents the North as a vast and fragile environment, available for experimentation
- Frames food in terms of socioeconomic vulnerabilities and environmental changes, and **effaces the colonial roots** of food insecurity
- **Calls for partnership** but fails to fill the gap between existing solutions and local needs

Inuit discourse

- Emphasizes strengthening their own **capacity** and land-based economy
- Points towards improving **access to land**
- Frames food security in terms of **self-determination**

There are divergent discourses around food in Inuit Nunangat impacting food governance and the way solutions are articulated. However, food sovereignty is gaining traction, particularly in Inuit discourse.

Our review is exploratory and represents a significant sample of food-related documents, which reveals a gap between Inuit and non-Inuit perspectives and discourses, including causes and solutions.