

Evolving *systems*,

Evolving *culture*:



Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

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Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

Our Common Heritage

GIAHS: remarkable land use systems and landscapes, which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a rural community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development.



GIAHS objectives

Article 8(j) CBD: respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Article 10 (c) CBD: Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices.

An aerial photograph of a mountainous landscape featuring extensive terraced rice fields. The terraces are carved into the steep slopes, creating a series of green, stepped platforms. A small village with several buildings is nestled in a valley between the terraces. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green vegetation.

Examples of GIAHS

- o Rice based traditional systems
- o Maize and root crop based agro-ecosystems
- o Pastoral transhumant and nomadic systems
- o Irrigation, soil and water management systems in drylands
- o Multi-layered home gardens and agro-forestry systems
- o Taro-based systems
- o Fishing, hunting and gathering systems

Agricultural Heritage Systems, evolving and changing over millennia, are a global heritage to preserve and nurture

**GIAHS reflect:
the co-evolution
of humanity and
culture with the
ecological
processes of
their
environment.**

**GIAHS exemplify:
the convergence of
biological diversity,
socio-cultural
diversity and centres
of origin of
domesticated plant
and animal species.**



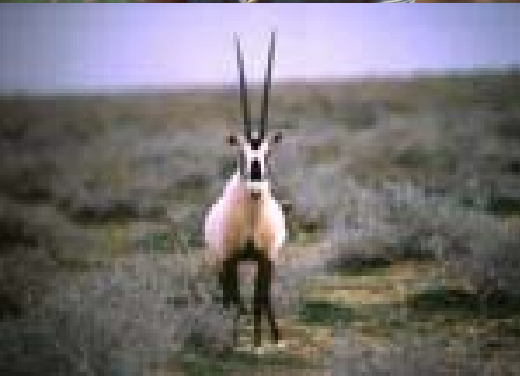
GIAHS have other values beyond production of foods, fibres...

These living and evolving systems and communities have kept their distinct identities intact on the strength of unifying values such as **nature, family, community, history, and a sense of belonging to their natural habitats.**



GIAHS contributions and characteristics

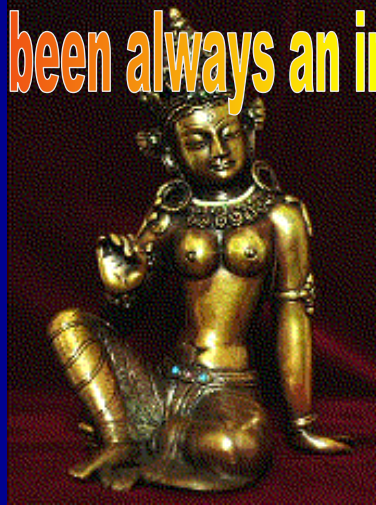
- ⇒ food and livelihood security
- ⇒ environmental services
- ⇒ outstanding landscapes diversity and remarkable beauty
- ⇒ the co-evolution and maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity and ecosystem diversity
- ⇒ valuable indigenous knowledge of soil, water, and other natural resources management systems
- ⇒ **adapted forms of social organisation, culture and cultural heritage**



Tradition and culture has been always an integral part of Rice based livelihood systems



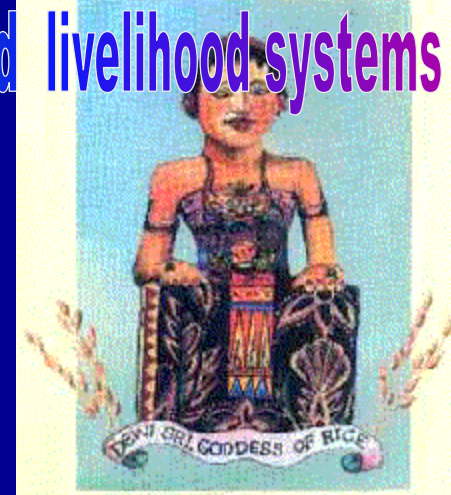
In China: Chinese folklore tells us that it was a humble Chinese woman who first grew rice in the lower basins of the Yangtze River. the Goddess **Guan Yin** took pity on humans and gave her milk and blood to create white and red rice.



In Himalaya: In the northern Himalayas, Goddess **Pavarti**, the daughter of the mountains, was the first to grow rice..



In India rice is associated with prosperity and with the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, **Lakshmi**.



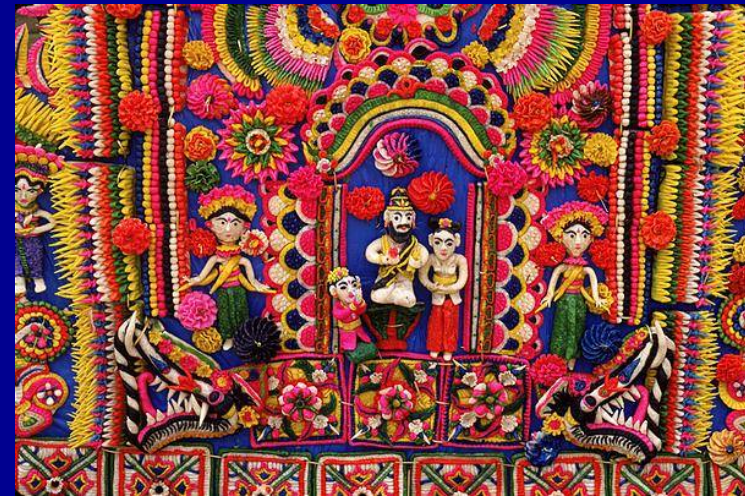
In Indonesia, Bali. people perform rituals to honor **Dewi Sri**. As goddess and guardian of rice and the rice harvest.



In Japan, it is said that the first cultivator of rice was the Sun Goddess **Amaterasu-Omi-Kami**. She grew rice in the fields of heaven, giving the first harvest to Prince Ninigi. He was told to take it to "The Land of Eight Great Islands," Japan.



In Vietnam, For the Rungo people, the shadows on the moon are created by the Rice Goddess stacking up her freshly harvested rice in the shade of a Bo tree.



Large tapestries of rice cakes are made as offerings to Hindu temples.



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The Ifugao Rice Terraces and their culture

About a hundred traditional social culture are being practiced by the Ifugaons, many of which are associated with the rice production cycle: from planting to harvesting and other rituals for every event in the community (wedding, burial, sickness, birth, etc.)



Mumbaki – a native priest





**Paad rice ritual conserves
and sustains fish and
shellfish production in
same terraces.**



The same social culture exists in China's *rice-fish agriculture*. The traditional culture forms related rice-fish system that include the typical diet culture (dried slice fish and fish dishes), folk arts (song, dance and stone carving), folklores, proverbs, hymeneal cultures, traditional farm tools, etc.





Dynamic adaptation of living and evolving agricultural systems

Conservation without fossilisation

Strengthening “what is there”: the human management systems and cultures that underpin the sustainability and resilience of GIAHS

Creating better policy and regulatory environments and incentive structures at all levels

Improving peoples' livelihoods and viability

Thank you



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