Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GIAHS
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

ISESCO إيسيسكو

Proceedings International Workshop on Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

For the Islamic Countries

Rome, FAO Headquarters, 4-5 November 2014

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About GIAHS

Over centuries, generations of farmers, fisher folks, and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural, fisheries, forestry and pastoral systems, managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that lead to biodiversity conservation, food security, resilience of ecosystems and their provision of essential goods and services for humanity.

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) [1] is an international partnership initiative that aims to identify, support and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural and associated biodiversity, landscapes, knowledge systems and cultures around the world. The GIAHS Partnership recognizes the crucial importance of the wellbeing of family farming communities in an integrated approach while directing activities towards sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Over the past decade, the GIAHS Initiative has been piloting an innovative model of engaging communities, local and national governments in the adaptive management of agricultural heritage and ways to sustain nature's bounty, the health of ecosystems, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, protection of traditional knowledge systems, culture and more importantly, building a bridge for the sustainable future.

[1] For further information www.giahs.org

About the International Workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic Countries

In November 2011, the Director-Generals of FAO and Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a framework of partnership agreement. The MOU reflects the commitment of both organizations to promote cooperation and develop their capacities to protect agricultural heritage, promote the diversity of culture and cultural expressions, further develop their communication platform, institutional capacity and policies, and promote an exchange of activities and services in Islamic countries.

Following the signing of the MOU, in May 2012, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries was held in Rabat to launch GIAHS with ISESCO member states, which coincided at ISESCO Annual Convention. Delegates from 11 countries (Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia) shared their knowledge and discussed future plan.

Moreover, in May 2013, an international forum on GIAHS was held in Noto, Ishikawa, Japan where participants from around the world have shared their knowledge on the fundamental values of agricultural patrimony as well as shared their experiences on managing and revitalizing local economies through GIAHS dynamic conservation. The Forum was highlighted by the presence of the FAO Director General and several High Level officials from existing GIAHS sites and key international organizations. The GIAHS Forum featured, among others, the adoption of the Noto Communiqué.

The Noto Communiqué recommends (i) the progressive designation of further GIAHS sites to promote the conservation of agricultural heritage and its contributions towards global food security and economic development; (ii) promotion of on-the-ground projects and activities, particularly in developing countries; (iii) the existing GIAHS support the recognition of candidatures of GIAHS areas in less developed countries; and (iv) promote the twinning of GIAHS sites between developed and developing countries.

Within this background, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries was held in FAO Headquarters from 4-5 November 2014. The international workshop on GIAHS aimed to launch the GIAHS Initiative in the Islamic region and to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and ISESCO member countries, to enhance understanding and promote awareness of the

fundamental values, essential goods and services harboured in globally important agricultural heritage systems.

Objectives of the International Workshop

- To familiarize ISESCO member countries with the origin, background and concept of GIAHS, the fundamental values of agricultural heritage, and opportunities for collaboration;
- To share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned on promoting dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage sites and systems; and
- Based on the signed MOU, to explore the joint activities between FAO and ISESCO.

Executive Summary

This International Workshop, organized jointly by ISESCO and FAO, was held with the aim of introducing the GIAHS concept and the possibilities offered to the country governments, with regards to the support to those globally important agricultural sites that may be identified and designated.

The Workshop gathered together 16 Islamic countries, members of ISESCO, with the main objective of extending the GIAHS concept and Initiative to the Islamic World, which has a millenary experience in agriculture and would be an asset to the GIAHS family.

The first part of the event was dedicated to an introductory presentation and discussion, which focused on the twelve-year experience of GIAHS, its concept, achievements and present situation. It gave examples of designated sites in the pilot countries and the activities that the local governments have conducted during the years of implementation of the Initiative.

At the same time, a second presentation illustrated the background of the collaboration between ISESCO and FAO, which starts with the MOU, signed in 2011, and was the basis for the accomplishment of this Workshop. According to the agreement established through the just mentioned MOU, many activities will be carried on jointly by both organizations to achieve the inclusion of many important agricultural sites, situated in the Islamic countries.

An important session of the event was dedicated to three pilot countries, which presented their experiences in implementing dynamic conservation of GIAHS. This part aimed to give concrete examples of the implementation of the Initiative, and of the potential work that can be done locally in order to create sustainable development, as well as to conserve the unique sites protected.

The key part of the workshop, divided between day 1 (afternoon session) and day 2, gave the opportunity to delegates from Islamic countries to present the potential GIAHS sites. Many interesting systems were exposed with high enthusiasm, giving the idea of the extension and number of GIAHS that could be identified and designated in the area.

Finally, a FAO-ISESCO presentation, exposed the guidelines and steps to follow from the identification to the designation of sites, and presented the way forward and immediate action plan for the near future of the FAO-ISESCO collaboration.

Part I

Welcome and Opening Ceremony

Welcome Address and Opening Remarks

Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues and friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to FAO.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you today in Rome, in this important occasion, the International Workshop on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, for the Islamic countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank colleagues from the Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) for their efforts in co-organizing this meeting. Thank you all for your support to the GIAHS initiative.

In 2002, GIAHS was introduced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with the overall goal to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems, and cultures around the world.

GIAHS was conceptualized around the idea that globalization, environmental degradation and increasing population pressure have placed production systems under stress, and hence have resulted in a loss of traditional agricultural systems and practices, customary management systems and cultures – which play important role in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, low economic returns and diminishing livelihoods, especially for the marginalized and vulnerable communities, poor, small scale and family farming communities.

GIAHS promotes recognition of the immense value of the role that family farmers, small scale farmers, indigenous local communities, fisher-folk, forest-dependent peoples, pastoralist families, and local communities play in the conservation and management of natural resources.

Over the last 12 years, through collaborative efforts with governments and our partners, there are now 31 designated GIAHS sites in 13 countries These countries are promoting the dynamic conservation of these heritage systems by empowering local communities, assisting sustainable resource management and introducing regulatory and incentive mechanisms to safeguard these outstanding systems. Also, in many other countries, these traditional farming systems are recognized as a key to create a sustainable society.

In order to further promote the GIAHS Initiative and to reach out more countries, in particular in the Islamic region, we would like to strengthen the collaboration with ISESCO.

As you may be aware, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in 2011 between ISESCO and FAO, marking the beginning of a close collaboration that aims to build strategic collaboration in the areas of common interests, such as to promote culture as pillar of sustainable development, and recognition of agricultural patrimony in the Islamic countries.

The Islamic World has a long history of agricultural civilization, and we are here to recognize that it is a Global Heritage of importance to humankind, not just for the present, but also for the future. A heritage that belongs to all of us and a heritage that needs to be supported and dynamically conserved. These important systems have been created since time immemorial and are still alive thanks to the generation of farmers and communities who continuously nurture the unique traditional farming techniques.

These agricultural heritage systems show us how we can produce and conserve the environment without losing the traditional art and way of doing things that have worked and sustained generations for centuries. These agricultural heritage systems that help build resilience and secure biodiversity for food and agriculture, for sustainable agriculture and rural development, have inspired many countries in different parts of the globe to look into their own "heritage agriculture".

Under the framework of ISESCO-FAO partnership on GIAHS, both organizations are expected to promote the development of agriculture, forestry and fishing as aspects related to science, technology, knowledge and expertise, cultures and assets related thereto, in Islamic countries. Indeed, both organizations recognized a real potential to promote GIAHS in the Islamic world, conserve dynamically for transmission to future generations to better adapt to climate change and food security of local communities. In addition, the partnership between ISESCO, FAO, and the Member States will be mutually beneficial for small farmers and the conservation of natural resources and heritage.

In this context, this Workshop aims to follow-up on the GIAHS Initiative launched among the Member States and to facilitate understanding of the significance of Culture and Agriculture in sustainable development, as well as, promoting and safeguarding the GIAHS and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity, knowledge systems through long term programmes for ensuring their dynamic conservation. Learning from our pilot agricultural heritage systems like the ones in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco – that are here today to present their experiences and lessons learned in piloting dynamic conservation of GIAHS. Also, during this workshop, there will be presentation of potential GIAHS sites.

In addition to this, I would like to share with you my personal expectations of this Workshop, hoping that concrete actions are taken from now on to make sure that all these important objectives are put into practice and that the dynamic conservation of GIAHS in the Islamic world is strengthened through and stronger collaboration between our organizations.

In this occasion I would like to encourage all of you to deepen your understanding of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and to discuss together all your ideas and opinions on how to materialize our efforts to further support and protect these unique heritage systems for our common vision of a sustainable future.

Therefore, today and tomorrow's presentations and discussions represent an important opportunity to exchange ideas on how we can further build and promote effective GIAHS partnerships and networks to protect, manage our heritage, and learn from our experiences and lessons learned.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you all a fruitful Workshop.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and ISESCO

Aicha Bammoun, Expert, ISESCO

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to convey to all of you the greetings of His Excellency, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO),

and to welcome you to this ***International Workshop on "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in Islamic countries"*** *which is being organized in cooperation with ISESCO and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the benefit of their Member States.*

It is with immense satisfaction that ISESCO join hands with FAO for holding this workshop at FAO Headquarters, we express our gratitude to FAO for its warm welcome and for facilities extended to organize this Workshop.

I am fully confident that the outcomes of this Workshop will be of great value in strengthening and promoting the GIAHS concept in Islamic member states and designing activities under cooperation program of ISESCO and FAO for the benefit of our Member States.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout centuries, human communities, generations of farmers, herders and forest people have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural and forestry systems. These systems have been managed with time-tested ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that have usually led to community food security and the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. Indeed, traditional agricultural and ecological knowledge and the derived traditional technologies that societies have developed through an experiential process form the basis for addressing productivity consideration with equitability concerns in mind. In this process they manipulate natural and human-managed biodiversity in a variety of different ways towards sustainable production with concerns also for coping with the environmental uncertainties that they have to face from time to time. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is an international partnership initiative that aims to identify, support and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural and associated biodiversity, landscapes, knowledge systems and cultures around the world.

In November 2011, the Director-Generals of FAO and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a framework of partnership agreement. The MOU reflects the commitment of both organizations to promote cooperation and develop their capacities to protect agricultural heritage, promote the diversity of culture and cultural expressions, further develop their communication platform, institutional capacity and policies, and promote an exchange of activities and services in Islamic countries.

The Workshop has gather 17 representatives from Member States, and will discuss strategies and methodologies on mainstreaming the 'Agriculture Heritage' concept at local, national and international levels.

Within its second priorities on ***Preserving biosphere and protecting the ecological systems,*** *ISESCO is implementing various activities that aim to strengthen and promote knowledge that is necessary to induce progress to keep pace with the requirement of the new*

age. Our strategy copes with promotion of sustainable utilization of natural resources, as well as mitigating environment risk and disaster management and Conservation of biodiversity.

More activities were be geared to promote and raise awareness of GIAHS through integration of this concept in priorities of member states

The Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural organisation (ISESCO) has always placed a high emphasis under its consecutive Action Plans to implement programmes and mobilize international and national efforts to promote sustainable management of natural resources and protection of environment in the Member States. In view of the new challenges of climate change in this new millennium, ISESCO has further expanded its programmes and its strategies on (sustainable development, climate change, water resources management, green economy…), keeping focus on management of natural resources in sustain manner and enhancing resilience on climate change and its negative impact on environment and well-being of peoples.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to FAO for its precious cooperation and wish you very fruitful discussion and successful sessions of the workshop.

Thank you

Session 1 - The GIAHS Initiative

The main objective of this session was to discuss the origin, nature, concept of agricultural heritage, criteria for selection, and implementation framework of the GIAHS Initiative.

Themes of discussion:

- “GIAHS” – a model of resilient system for sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- Opportunities and potential thematic areas of collaboration that respond to international development agenda.

Experiences and lessons learned in implementing the GIAHS Initiative

Ms Mary Jane Dela Cruz, FAO Technical officer, introduced the GIAHS concept, the main details regarding the GIAHS Initiative (mission, vision) and gave an interesting dissertation illustrating the steps to follow to apply to GIAHS. The objective of this presentation was to assist the delegates in understanding the concept and ratio of GIAHS, in order for them to familiarize with the Initiative and introduce them to the process of identifying and selecting a site, and preparing a proposal for GIAHS in their respective countries.

Mary Jane Dela Cruz, Technical Officer, NRL, FAO

With this aim, after having explained GIAHS definition, mission

and vision, Ms Dela Cruz first illustrated the five GIAHS Criteria for selection, as follows:

1. Household food security, food system diversity and sovereignty
2. Biodiversity and genetic resources
3. Indigenous knowledge systems
4. Diversity of “Agri-Culture” including products and services diversity
5. Remarkable landscapes and aesthetic values

Ms Dela Cruz then described the scope of the Initiative and its role in promoting public understanding, awareness, national and international recognition and supporting the safeguard of Agricultural Heritage; piloting innovative model for engaging communities, local and national governments in the adaptive management of agricultural biodiversity (and associated biodiversity) harboured in agricultural heritage systems; bringing back the culture and identity of the local communities.

Following her presentation, Ms Dela Cruz emphasized the particularity of the GIAHS approach, which focuses on the dynamic conservation of sites, considering the idea of “conservation without fossilization”, paying attention to the fact that agri-cultural sites are not static heritage, such as monuments or history. GIAHS aims to protect and conserve the sites around the world

in an integrated vision, which takes into account the dynamic nature of the interaction between humans and nature, traditional knowledge systems transmitted through generations that have adapted their knowledge to the natural conditions and have therefore created outstanding landscapes that have evolved through centuries and have been adapted to the needs of the communities. The importance of these sites lies in the fact that they have provided food and livelihood security to their creators, who in return have conserved the biodiversity, harboured, maintained and shaped the surrounding environment.

Examples of GIAHS are:

1. Mountain rice terrace agroecosystems

2. Multiple cropping/polyculture farming systems

3. Understory farming systems

4. Nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoral systems

5. Ancient irrigation, soil and water management systems

6. Complex multi-layered home gardens

7. Below sea level systems

8. Tribal agricultural heritage

9. High-value crop and spice farming

Another important aspect highlighted by Ms Dela Cruz, is that these systems are continuously threatened, especially in our days, in which high-scale agriculture prevails and makes it difficult for family farming communities to survive with their small production. Main threats to these systems are:

- Economic viability is low: young people leave for better opportunities
- Dominance of Green Revolution technology: the State subsidizes agrochemicals & modernization
- Global markets pay for goods, not for culture, biodiversity, sustainability, etc.

Therefore, it is important to innovate and revitalize GIAHS practices, so that the systems can continue functioning.

The supportive actions that may be taken are:

• Engagement and advocacy: awareness raising, dialogue, empowerment, consensus, national/local ownership, and communication

• Mapping national Policies, planning processes, actions and timelines: policy and legislative frameworks, stakeholders' mapping, and resource mobilization/allocation

• Prioritization based on twin-track approach: consider balancing short and long terming interventions

What FAO hopes in establishing GIAHS sites?

- Emphasize the people, local communities in their own habitat are part of sustainable economic rural development approaches
- Increase public awareness on the importance of GIAHS - locally, nationally and globally
- Promote responsible investments and trade in agricultural heritage sites (for a better living and for sustainable future)

In conclusion, Ms Dela Cruz mentioned the lessons learned and the achievements reached thanks to the Initiative, and gave some interesting examples of success in countries, such as China, Chile, Peru and the Philippines, emphasizing that as of today 31 sites have been designated in 13 countries.

Session 2 – Experiences and lessons learned

The aim of this session was to discuss practical opportunities and potential benefits of dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage for food security and sustainable development, highlighting the positive experiences, lessons learned and country achievements. In particular, the presentation of the experiences and lessons learned from three GIAHS pilot sites in the North African Region (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) aimed to introduce to the delegates the possibilities offered by the initiative and the development possibilities for the new participating countries.

Recognition of Ghout System, El-Oued, South Algeria

"Steps for the elaboration of the project"

The GIAHS Coordinator in Algeria, Mr. Fatah Achour (INRAA), gave an interesting presentation regarding the process faced by his country in the preparation and implementation of the GIAHS project. During his exposition, Mr Achour made clear for the present delegates all the steps followed and divided the process of elaboration of the project into different phases.

Fatah Achour (INRAA), GIAHS coordinator in Algeria

The beginning of the project elaboration was characterized by local interventions oriented to awareness raising and consisted mainly in the organization of workshops involving local stakeholders and farmers to prepare GIAHS Ghot action plan and to design activities. The first of these workshops took place at El-Oued in 2006, with the objective of elaborating a first action plan involving different stakeholders. During this first workshop the action plan was completed and was followed by a second workshop in 2009, in which occasion the action plan was adopted and the project was launched.

Finally in 2011, a third workshop was held to officially launch the project and the activities indicated in the action plan that was previously elaborated.

Mr Achour then continued with the particularities of the system of Gout, which is characterized by areas in the desert in which every good is available and in which communities live and produce fruits, vegetables, meat, etc. without electricity and in a sustainable manner. All the produced products are 100% organic and provide food and livelihood security to farmers and their families. One of the most interesting characteristics of these oases is that they represent an economic system, and not only isolated centres of agriculture.

Thanks to the GIAHS Initiative, the products of these areas have gained recognition among the local communities and are being commercialized as unique national products. Many activities were conducted to sensitize communities, such as:

- Creating associations
- Organizing fairs and markets
- Creating information documents
- Sensitizing young generations, by organizing student's visits to the Ghout
- Beginning integration of women's associations
- Creating new Ghouts in the Sahara, with the help of modern technologies
- Organizing periodic visits of the Ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries and Culture
- Obtaining labelling of the Ghout dates
- Creating new Ghouts in other regions
- Advocacy to mainstream ghot in the national programme of subsidize
- Protect the ghot system by 'DELIMITATION DES ZONES DES GHOTS DES ZONES D'IRRIGATION

Recognition of the Oases of Amilchil - Amellago and other sites in Morocco

"Integration of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in Morocco"

Seddik Saidi, National Agricultural Research Institute

The presentation consisted in an illustration of the "Cold Oases" of Imilchil and Amellago, which are systems characterized by specific environmental conditions, with a semi-arid to sub humid climate, presenting very low temperatures in winter.

The site's position is in the High North Atlas mountains, in an altitude of 2,000 Mt above the sea level.

One of the particularities of this system, which makes it a globally important system, is the high biodiversity conserved in the area. The combination of the climate, together with the microclimate, is an excellent example of how nature can contribute to the human needs.

The population living in this area has been facing many threats, especially related to climate change. To adapt to the new climate conditions, thanks to the GIAHS Initiative, new techniques for soil management have been applied to the area in order to protect the agriculture and the communities that are the guardians of this unique systems and landscapes.

Another important aspect touched by this presentation was the fact that legal instruments and awareness of the public authorities are of fundamental importance to ensure a long term protection and the dynamic conservation of these antique sites, which harbour not only landscapes and agriculture, but above all are the essence of traditional knowledge and represent the culture and profound roots of the entire community.

Based on the above consideration, the agricultural aspect was linked to the ecotourism approach, involving also handcraft products, in order to have a wider impact and create development involving all the aspects of life of the local community.

Recognition of Gafsa Oases

"The system of the historic oases of Gafsa"

In the historic oases of Gafsa, there are three main oases, of which the Kasba is the most important, with different vegetation level/stages: Date palm, fruit trees (figs, olives, apricots, pomegranates, etc.) and legumes, and fodders.

Lazhar Cherif, President of ASM Gafsa

The work done in the region has been first directed to the dissemination of information and events that aimed to raise awareness among the local communities, but also among national population. As an example, many workshops, fairs (of apricots and dates), documentary films, exchanges with the oases in Algeria, publication of books, creation of handcraft shops, were organized to promote the site.

Another important achievement of GIAHS in Gafsa was the elaboration of the National Chart to conserve the oasis, which was brought to the attention of the President of Tunisia with the aim of including a reference to the Oases in the Tunisian Constitution.

The global objective of the project in Gafsa was to create an Action Plan and to elaborate strategies to protect and dynamically conserve the oasis of Gafsa.

Several activities were conducted in other Tunisian regions, as well. Examples are three different publications, available in the website of ASM Gafsa; the creation of a map of the oases; the creation of a national network of NGOs 'PALME' to conserve historical oaisis in Tunisia; involvement of young generations, through the activities dedicated to universities and schools.

In addition, after the conclusion of the GIAHS project, a new project funded by the European Union was launched to complete the activities.

Despite all the progress made, there are still many challenges to face.

Discussion

Question 1: Pamuji Lestari (Indonesia)

- What kinds of strategies were applied and what kind of obstacles were found during the first implementation of the project?
- After the initiation, how do you evaluate / assess the progress of the project? Are there indicators to which we can refer?
- How the government can contribute to the project?

Answer 1: Fatah Achour

Mainly the obstacles found were three:

- Adhesion of farmers: the oases are very distant to each other, so farmers are not used to work as a team; additionally, most tribes do not want to work with others because of existing conflicts.
- Establishing limits in the protected areas
- Integrating women

Question 2: Amr Refaat (Egypt)

- Which are the indicators used to select the beneficiaries of the project?
- How can we change the mentality and convince people that it is worth to produce in a sustainable way?
- How is it possible to protect the oases from sand?
- What is the social impact of this kind of initiative?
- Would it be possible to regionalize the Chart approved by Tunisia and improve the situation of the oases in the whole region by creating a platform?

- Is it feasible to commercialize the products?

Answer 2: Fatah Achour

- Regarding the selection of farmers, the local associations selected the farmers and the choice was left to them through the associations of which they were part.

- Regarding the protection from sand, there is a high level technology (traditional knowledge), which is a simple but very ingenious management of wind. Every year a barrier of wood is placed around the area to protect plants and life inside the oasis.

Question 3: Slim Zekri (Oman)

- How would it be possible to integrate the community in the system? (the power points presentation was more oriented towards the production and did not show the involvement of the community)

- Are they plans to involve the young generations and to convince them to go back to the oases?

Answer 3: Seddik Saidi

Main obstacles found were:

- Raising sense of responsibility

- Involving rural communities

Regarding the evaluation there are ecological indicators, such as good agricultural practices, number of varieties protected, level of soil protection, etc.

Regarding the choice of farmers, the decision was left to their associations and cooperatives, which were interested in participating.

Regarding how to change mentality and customs: it is necessary to bring economic income to farmers and this is the only way to involve them and make them interested. Farmers need to know that working in a specific way will bring economic advantages.

Regarding production and allocation of the products in the markets/commercialization, it is necessary to first find the market that would be interested in the products and then the production starts. In this way I is almost certain that the products will be sold in the market. To better achieve this objective, it is necessary to produce at a quality level that is much higher than the common products and that adapts to the requests of international markets.

Regarding what kind of funds can be expected from governments, since it falls under the development objectives, the government should have an active role on the economic support to the project.

Part 2 – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of interest

"Agro forests and cocoa production in Cameroon"

The presentation aimed to introduce a particular and unique type of production, which is the Cocoa in agro-forests in Cameroon.

Sophie Tchala, Ministry of Agriculture, and Rural Development, Cameroon

It emphasized the importance of this agricultural product to the Cameroonian economy, representing the 70% of employment of active population, the 30% of the gross domestic product, and 61% of exportations.

The presentation gave also very detailed information regarding the areas of production of cocoa, with a surface of 400,000 ha dedicated to this production.

In seven out of ten regions, the cocoa produced comes from 75% of plants of traditional origin, which have not being turned into hybrid plants (25%). These areas present a high variety of biodiversity of species linked to the ecosystem and that are a not necessarily agricultural product.

The global biodiversity harboured consists of the 59-77% of fruit trees.

The income generated by the commercialization of cocoa allows the community to have access to goods of first need, such as food products, sanitation, and education. The commerce of cocoa allows the communities to purchase complementary food products and this has a strong impact on the food security.

There are also benefits to the environment, such as protection of soils and surrounding areas, conservation of biodiversity, climate regulation.

"Floating Agriculture – A potential GIAHS site in Bangladesh"

This presentation first gave a general overview of the food production and farm holding in Bangladesh, showing five traditional agriculture areas using floating agriculture, situated in the Southern and South-western areas of the country.

These areas remain submerged for long periods every year, especially during the monsoon season.

People in these areas have been coping with submerged/flooded conditions for generations. They have adopted a method of cultivation, locally known as "vasoman chash/Dhap" (floating agriculture) since the time of their forefathers.

Syed Nasim Khalilluzzaman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Floating agriculture is a farmers' innovation that is being practised for centuries in Bangladesh. This system is similar to hydroponics; a floating bed is prepared with the biomass, aquatic algae and other water born creepers, using water, straws and herbs or plant residues. It allows cultivation of fast growing vegetables and seedling and hence contributes to food security and diverse healthy nutrition.

Threats and challenges faced by this system:

- Global warming and carbon emission
- Quality of planting material which leads to lower price of products
- Communication system is poor
- Lack of technical support
- Scarcity of materials for the preparation of floating beds

"GIAHS in Pakistan"

Syed Moazzam Ali, Joint Secretary, Min. of National Food Security and Research

The area of Pakistan covers 796,095 km^2, being also a country with a population of 180,000,000 people.

Agriculture is of fundamental importance for the economy of the country, with main production based on cotton, wheat, rice, sugarcane, fruits, vegetables; milk, beef, mutton, eggs.

The benefits of an initiative as GIAHS in Pakistan would be important for saving the agricultural heritage, for the following reasons:

- Information on the traditional agricultural knowledge and technologies in Pakistan has never been documented.
- The history of agriculture in Indian subcontinent can be traced back in 6th millennium BC in Indus valley
- Generations of farmers and herders developed ingenious farming systems to overcome extreme climatic conditions, geographic isolation and scarcity of natural resources.
- Many of these systems are now under sever threats from global development challenges and are at risk of disappearing forever

Moreover, the majority of the farmers have converted to tractors pulled "karah" made of iron but small farmers are still using the traditional land levelling technology like oxen driven "Karah".

Broadcast Kera and Chopa were the traditional sowing methods and still commonly used while drill sowing and seed cum fertilizer drill are also being used by the progressive farmers.

Animal dung was used as the sole fertilizer in the early human history of crop farming and farmers still believed animal dung as the best fertilizer but its availability is limited due to farm mechanization/ reduction in the number of animals. On the other hands chemical fertilizers usage has created a sizeable space for maximized crop production.

The farmers in the past only needed crop protection measure for wild animals, rodents and birds for which they rear dogs or birds to warn the other birds. Intensive cropping system has forced the farmers to used chemicals despite the fact that they realize the hazardous effects of these chemicals.

In the earlier times, fields were irrigated by Persian wells and small rain waters reservoirs but currently mixed irrigations systems exist in Pakistan.

Harvesting of crops has also been revolutionized the current agriculture farming system as in early times crops were harvested manually. “Phala” is also in practice by the small farmers along with combine harvesters by the progressive farmers.

In the early days after harvesting of wheat, “Neem” (Azadirachta Indica) /ak (Calotropis procera) leaves were use as preservative for protection again pests. These were very cheap and protective methods in those days. Know they were using modern techniques for storages.

In the past, milk, wheat, rice, every farmer for their domestic needs produced vegetables, chicken, etc. Along with modern marketing systems traditional marketing processing is still being used.

Some examples of antique techniques and systems which could be of interest for GIAHS in Pakistan would be:

1. Karez Irrigation System
2. The use of Persian wheel in agriculture
3. Use of Shaduf
4. Kalash Valley, and related Festivals

Threats and challenges:

- Unplanned and uncontrolled population augmentation.
- Lack of interest in rural development
- A huge gap exists in the rural entrepreneurship and its commercialization.

- Poor disaster management in vulnerable areas, which are at high risk especially along the downstream of Indus River and drought areas.
- Rapid decline of rare wildlife species is a major threat to the wildlife and biodiversity.
- Limited availability of resources to the researchers is yet another mega challenge to cope with all such threats.

Potential GIAHS in Indonesia

"Tri Hita Karana for Balinese Agriculture System"

This presentation gave examples of three agricultural systems that could meet the GIAHS criteria: Subak System; Sikkato Kendari South-eastern Sulawesi; Ruteng Natural Park Conservation.

Pamuji Lestari, Deputy Assistant for Community Empowerment

The purpose of this particular presentation was to expose how these systems contribute to the GIAHS Criteria. Listing the five GIAHS selection criteria, the contribution of each system was explained in detail.

1. **Food and livelihood security**

• Agricultural activities practiced are mostly rice cultivation managed using Subak irrigation system.

• Some other agricultural products cultivated are: bananas, corn, long beans and cashew

• Protein comes from tuna, obtained from the local fishermen

2. **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function**

• Wetland ecosystem (in the form of Subak), dry land ecosystem (Abian), and coastal ecosystem.

• Subak (irrigation system) biodiversity consists of rice, banana, corn, beans, and cashew nuts

• Livestock diversity such as pigs, goats, poultry, ducks, and other cattle

3. **Knowledge Systems and Adapted Technologies**

• Knowledge systems and technology adaptation applied in the Bugbug village is Subak irrigation management system.

• In Bugbug village, there are generally known how to control mice based on their local wisdom associated with pest control “Ngaben Tikus”

4. Cultures, value systems and social organizations

• In Subak all activities are the reflection of people’s closeness to the Creator

• There are two sources of water, which are owned by farmers and rice field temple. Both jointly manage water distribution system.

• Local wisdom in pest control called “pengabenan ceremony”

5. Remarkable landscapes

• Landscape formation of terraced rice field is common characteristic of Subak view in Bali.

• It is a water management system from the mountain, dams, rivers, to the field area

• The beauty of terraced rice fields provide more value to the rural agricultural landscape of Bugbug village.

• Landscape formation of terraced rice field is common characteristic of Subak view in Bali.

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• The beauty of terraced rice fields provides more value to the rural agricultural landscape of Bugbug village.

IIndigenous practices of Natural Regeneration in assisted systems of family farms: Ecample of the Village of the Kissane Region, Thiès, Senegal"

Mor Mbacké, Director Regional Rural Development, Thiès

Situated in Thiès (region of Senegal), Kissan is a village situated at 10 Km from Thiès. Population is around 2000 people with a cultivated area of around 200 ha.

The local community has adopted the Naturally Assisted Regeneration to improve family farming agriculture and the livelihood of farmers. This approach has brought important results on soils.

It consists of a community experience based on traditional knowledge with the aim of restoring plants and increase production. The technique consists in associating trees with some cultures such as manioc, nuts, and sorghum, among others. It is an agro-forestry technique.

Main impact on local economy is the increased production (from 800 Kg, to 1500 Kg per ha).

Main ecologic impacts are:

1. Vegetation is recovered;
2. Reduction of erosion
3. Return and improved number of animal species
4. Adaptation to climate change

At socio-cultural level it has enhanced social cohesion and solidarity among community members; strengthened traditional knowledge; heritage to future generations.

At global level it contributes to combat desertification and climate change effects.

"The system of collection and distribution of water in the oasis Trimmoun by Foggara"

Fatah Achour, GIAHS Coordinator in Algeria

This presentation focused on the traditional system for collection and exploitation of water.

Timimoun is a city in the Algerian Sahara located at 1300km south of Algiers, having hundreds of oases. Foggaras have been introduced in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, by El Malik ElMansour, who dug the first foggaras in Tamentit (15 km Adrar). Then foggaras were developed in the Tuat and Gourara. The foggara meaning in Arabic is Fakara (digging).

Among the 1400 Foggaras in the wilaya, 560 have been restored. Their new flow is about 5 m^3 / second, which has led to an increase of cropland acres.

Characteristics of the system are:

- Appropriate management of water resources
- The preservation of the ecosystem animals and plants
- Genetic diversity of date palm
- Ideal micro climate fin oasis that to permit for example allowing for migratory birds to take up residence year-round in this place (herons, swallows, waders)
- The diversity of cultures, in floor: date palm, fruit trees (apricot, pomegranate, fig, vine) and vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, chili, peppers, potatoes, lettuce, onion, garlic, beets, condiments (parsley, anise, etc.), vegetables (mainly small local lens), forage (alfalfa, barley green, basically), small grains (durum wheat and barley) and henna, which is widely used in the region.

"Family farming in the oasis of Tirebane"

Tirebane oasis is located in Adrar at about 12 Km South-West from Aoujeft. It counts 364 families who share more than 13,000 palm trees, of which 7,869 are productive, on a surface of 70 ha.

Ahmed Marrakchy, National Programme Coordinator, Ministry of Rural Development

Land production remains completely familiar, and community management is ensured by the oasis association (AGPO).

Production is simple and adapted to the fragile ecosystem of the oases.

Social cohesion defines land sharing; while women's' association are in charge of mobilizing water for irrigation.

Many handcrafts are created with different parts of the palm tree.

Biodiversity in the area is represented by the following agricultural products:

- dates,
- henna,
- wheat,
- etc.

"The wairs (Chrafis) Kerkennah – an ingenious system of fishing heritage in Tunisia"

Mohamed Hmani, Director of Fisheries Resource Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture

This system has been conceived from traditional knowledge with the use of local palm trees.

This system uses the sea and is a fishing system, which respects biodiversity and natural phenomena of the environment in which it is adapted.

The system consists in placing barriers in the coast water made of palm materials, that helps to trap fish. With this 100% ecologic system fishing production is about 2 to 15 Kg per day.

The particularity of the system is the use of traditional fishing technique, which is threatened by the high scale production of sea products.

"The Egyptian Pilot area"

Siwa Oasis

Abd Refaat Aboushaara, Economic Department, Desert research centre

Siwa oasis is located within Siwa depression (about 980 km^2) in the Northwest part of the Egyptian Western Desert. The Siwa depression covers almost 1,000 km^2. The ground water reaching the surface, in this depression has created a network of oases, of which Siwa is the largest. Siwa is one of the few Egyptian oasis communities that have managed to retain most of its traditional characteristics. This was partially due to the region's isolation from the outer world, which was broken only recently by the construction of asphalt roads connecting Siwa and El Quara to Marsa Matruh, some 300 km away and 750 km from Cairo. The Oasis isolation, however has led to the preservation of the Siwan traditions.

Eleven traditional qabilas (tribes) live in the region totaling some 20,500 people in Siwa and 350 in Qara with a growth rate of 3% per year.

Dune fields, gravel plains, saline lakes, cliffs and scattered acacia groves give the region a rich variety of landscapes and provide habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. Plants include the endangered wild cotton and unique varieties of date palms. Siwa is probably the last refuge in Egypt for several highly endangered mammal species such as dorcas gazelle, fennec fox and slender- horned gazelle. Tourism has become, therefore an emergent key economic sector.

Climatic Condition

The climate in Siwa is dry in summer and warm/dry in winter with declining rain fall at yearly mean of 9.6 mm. The temperature of Siwa is very hot in summer and moderate in winter with average of the maximum temperature from 19.70 Cent-Grade (January) – 37.90 Cent-Grade (July) and average of the maximum temperature of 4.1 (January) – 15.30 (August) while minimum recorded degree is below 4.5 (January). The average temperature excursion from maximum to minimum along the year is in the range of 16 Cent-Grade. Wind speed is low; about 2.4m/constant (October) and the maximum is 3.8m/constant (April) with yearly mean of 3.8m/constant. Humidity in winter is about 52% and 30-46% in summer. Ground water is the only source of water in Siwa for agriculture and household use. It rises naturally by artesian pressure. The rising water table due to the increase in drilling wells and expansion of the brackish water lakes has deteriorated the land productivity due to water logging.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

•Total Number of Inhabitants is 20,000

• Cultivated Area is 8,000 ha

• Main Crops are Dates, Olives, alfalfa

• Available Water Resources is 380,000 m3/day

SIWA traditional agriculture relies mainly on flood-irrigated agriculture in household gardens, which support an abundant production of dates, olives and alfalfa when properly managed. Alfalfa is used to feed small livestock. The cash economy depends on the sale of dates and olives to external buyers.

The total arable area in Siwa is estimated at 17,000 Feddans of sandy and alluvial sandy deep soils in addition to 2,000 Feddans in the vicinity of the existing olives and date palm orchards.

There is no agricultural rotation in practice. Labour shortage, relatively high cost of labour and organic fertilizers limit the diversification of agriculture produce in Siwa.

"Al Jabal Al Akhdar"

The proposed systems is composed by three villages: Aflaj, AlAqr, AlAyn, Ashshirayjah plateau at the top of the Al Hajar mountain at nearly 2000 meters ≈300 mm/y of rain well distributed all over the year (enough to allow the growth of shrubs and trees and support agriculture).

The surrounding is mostly hot and dry desert, which creates a beautiful contrast in landscape characteristics. Perched aquifers resulting in permanent springs and variable flow rates ensuring water and food security for villagers.

Slim Zekri, Sultan Qaboos University (Oman)

The magnificent Aflaj channels and their associated terraces system is a masterpiece of the brilliant local population.

The particularity of this site is in the fact that it presents different characteristics, or aspects: agriculture, landscape, cultural/historic richness.

It is a Millenarian system:

Aini Aflaj are water channels extending from springs and stretching long distances to reach the villages and the terraced fields. They provide water for drinking and irrigation Groundwater is tapped horizontally ensuring sustainability and avoiding overexploitation.

Understory farming systems, agricultural products:

- The date palm (Phoenix dactylifera L.)
- Pomegranate (Punica granatum L.)
- Banana (Musa ssp.)
- Various citrus and other fruit trees
- Roses (Rosa damascena L.).
- Annual crops: garlic (Allium sativum L.); onion (Allium ceta L.)
- Fodder crops: maize (Zeamays L.), barley (Hordeum vulgare L.), oat (Avena sativa L.) and alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.)
- Wheat (local variety)
- Goats, sheep, cattle and hens

Pastures: The natural vegetation is the main source of feed supply for goats, and is 47 - 71% of the daily intake. Another important contribution is water security for the villagers, livestock and natural fauna.

Food security and main source of income of families:

- Vegetables, milk and meat for farmers' consumption
- Marketable products: Niche market of pomegranates, honey, rosewater and walnuts. Prices are 2 to 3 times higher than same conventional products
- Use of biomass for building, fencing, handcrafts.

The mountain oases are a niche for the conservation of traditional germplasm.

Tourism and recreation: local and foreign tourists, though the villagers are not currently benefitting from tourism properly. Landscapes and gardens are positive externalities.

Environmental services of terraces:

- Control erosion
- Reduce risks of landslides
- Reduce flush floods
- Store excessive rain water and improve water use efficiency.
- Organic fertilizer from livestock manure in the terraces increases carbon sequestration
- Home to wild life fauna such as adapted lizards, snakes, insects and birds

"Al Ain and Liwa Historical date palm oases system"

Abdelouahhab Zaid, Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Secretary of the Khalifa International Date Palm Award UAE

Al Ain and Liwa date palm oases are important crop production areas that combine farming, forestry and animal husbandry together:

Date palm and fruit trees occupy 40% of the total plant holdings area

The date's production is around 80,000 tons, from varieties "Nghal", "Khalass", "Barhi".

Many fruit trees are also cultivated such as lemon, orange, mango, banana, grapes, figs and pomegranate; field crops such as alfalfa, wheat, and barley; vegetables such as eggplant, onion, tomatoes, and carrots etc. Most of them are endemic and endangered. Vegetable crops constituted 2% of the total plant holdings area.

1) UAE is the 7th major date producing country in the world, with 6% of the world's total dates' production and more than 40 percent of the world's date trade.

2) Al Ain and Liwa oases have played the central role for national dates production over thousands of years.

3) Considering the current uncertainty of the food supply and demand all over the world, the date palm could be the good source of food and nutrition in the future.

Over long periods of natural and artificial selections, abundant varieties of genetic resources have been formed:

- Varieties of date palm and oasis crops have been formed by adapting to the oases ecological environment, including resistances to drought, salinity and wind conditions:

- Date palm varieties such as: "Nghal", "Khalass", "Barhi", "Saggai", "Sheishi", "Kheneizi", "Shahl", "Fard", "Bu Maan", "Khadri", "Khessab", "Halwa", "Berni", "Rzeiz", "Sukkary" and "Sallaj" etc.

- Many fruit trees such as lemon, orange, mango, banana, grapes, figs and pomegranate; field crops such as alfalfa, wheat, and barley; vegetables such as eggplant, onion, tomatoes, and carrots etc.

- Currently, the main forest tree species planted in Al Ain oases area include those commonly known as Ghaf, Demas, Cider and Raaq, etc

Al Ain and Liwa date palm historical oases and surrounding landscapes are home rich flora and fauna, adapting to and living on various habitats, including the surrounding mountains, alluvial plain, flowing sand dunes, farmlands and desert:

- Deciduous trees and shrubs are found in the mountains, which are also home to wild life fauna such as adapted insects and birds.

- There are also species of amphibians and reptiles, which provide the high biodiversity of this area.

- Various birds and insects are found in farmlands which are rich in various fruit trees

- They are all valuable species and material assurance for world food safety in the future .

"Introduction of Agricultural Heritage in Yemen"

Mohamed Al-Marwani, Director General of Agriculture Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and

This presentation emphasized the fact that Yemeni agriculture, and agricultural literature, flourished in late medieval times, especially during the Rasulid era from the 13th to 15th centuries because it was characterized by:

- One of the oldest terrace-farming systems
- Sophisticated irrigation technology
- Known in Islamic times as Al-Yaman al- Khaḍrā', 'the Verdant Yemen'

There is a wide range of indigenous knowledge on Yemeni farming and the farmers until today repeat proverbs for three wisdoms:

- Ali Bn Zaid, for the northern highlands;
- Al-Humed Bn Mansur, for the southern highlands;
- Sad Al-Sueni, for the north eastern desert plain.

These proverbs are the essence of traditional knowledge and were created by ancient farmers, which transmitted this kind of knowledge to next generations, and influences today agriculture.

"Identification, Assessment and Stewardship of GIAHS in Azerbaijan and Turkey"

Esin Dilbirligi, Coordinator of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock,

This presentation gave an overview on the activities held in Turkey and Azerbaijan, to implement the GIAHS project.

Turkey

The study was carried out by the FAO SEC office, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey/General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies and Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan/ Agrarian Science Centre of Azerbaijan.

The methodology included that while relating the research on agricultural heritage systems that are identified on selected areas and exchange of views;

•Identification of sustainable strategies and implementation for GIAHS areas,

•Generation of a management model for product quality and certification for marketing opportunities of products and producers needs in particular to the GIAHS areas,

•Development of new proposals for recognition of GIAHS areas.

Activities undertaken under this project were:

• Determination of stakeholders

• Preparation of GIAHS documentations

• Preparation of GIAHS promotional information

• Organizing info days and workshop with stakeholders

• Land visits

• Creating inventory

• Finalizing GIAHS proposals

• Organizing joint workshop with partner countries

• Preparation structure of next phase of the project GIAHS and action plan

• Preparation of terminal report.

Traditional Natural Dyeing and Weaving Systems:

- The Mesopotamia sub-region of Iran-Turan region is exactly located around Diyarbakır province.
- Zagros -Tourus mountain chain which is also called “fertile crescent” is also partly located in this area.
- The region’s history dates back to 5000 BC also hosted 26 civilizations in the world’s history. The most valuable and famous symbol of the city is the “City Wall” surrounding the city with 16 castles and 5 gates and it is the second big wall in the world after Great Wall of China.
- 28 civilizations were settled in this region.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan identified pilot areas were Lankaran and Astara districts. Azeri National Project consultant organized several local meeting in pilot areas with smallholders. Some training courses on GIAHS initiatives were organized. He also interviewed some experts for better describing the selected areas and examined pilot areas for seeking potential GIAHS systems.

Azerbaijan potential GIAHS sites proposals were;

•Livestock/Pastoral Agricultural Heritage Systems

•Forest/Livestock Agricultural Heritage Systems

•Hilly/Slope Cultivation Agricultural Heritage Systems •Lowland rice farming system

•Ancient system of beekeeping on mountain areas in Astara region

•Ancient system of cultivation of citrus on the terraces in Astara region

•Old storage system of apple with Gizil Ahmadi varieties from Gabala

•The drying system of autumn plum and cranberry on the shelf

•The old storage method of apple in Guba region

•The fruit drying systems in Guba region

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•The fruit drying systems in Guba region

Agricultural heritage areas strategies and action plan:

A successful transnational GIAHS policy depends on a multi-faceted approach.

•Using communication tools to higher awareness,

•Keeping ensure knowledge to attract policy- makers attention,

•Focusing GIAHS strategy priorities to take the best dynamic conservations

Session 3 – FAO-ISESCO Presentation on GIAHS Way Forward

"Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. Strategy for the Islamic Countries"

The aim of this presentation was to illustrate the opportunities, which can be sought to implement the necessary activities to run a project under the GIAHS concept. It aimed to explain the eventual steps to follow when seeking for funds from governmental or other type of institutions.

Noureddine Nasr, Plant production and protection officer & GIAHS coordinator in the Maghreb, FAO SNE, Tunis.

An important section of this concluding presentation was the action plan that should represent the way forward for the implementation of GIAHS. The presented Action Plan was very detailed and was an example for delegates of the participating countries.

In particular the exposed action plan starts with the steps deriving out of the Workshop, which are:

- Preparation of three workshops, to promote GIAHS programme in three regions (Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Asia).
- National Workshops to launch GIAHS:

- Setting up National Steering Committees for GIAHS;
- Mapping potential GIAHS sites (national list of GIAHS sites and priorities)
- Preparing a GIAHS Action Plan

- Formulation of concept notes for GIAHS activities: Fund for formulation of concept notes for GIAHS activities:

- Training workshops on: capacity building of R&D staff, NGOs, CBOs, Farmers, Private sector

- Public awareness about GIAHS

- Submission to FAO GIAHS sites for recognition

- GIAHS assessment and evaluation

- Formulation of national, sub regional or regional projects for GIAHS:

- Resources Mobilization and partnership: e.g. ISESCO; IDB; Khalifa International Date Palm Award; GEF; IFAD, foundations

- Launch of the project and beginning of activities indicated on the in action plan.

"GIAHS Strategic Planning. Tips and Pointers"

Mary Jane Dela Cruz, FAO Technical Officer

This presentation was aimed to give extra information on how to apply to the GIAHS Initiative. It answered to several questions raised by the delegates from Islamic countries that participated in the workshop.

Setting up GIAHS

1. GIAHS: from concept to practical implementation

2. To distinguish the preparation of GIAHS proposal for designation vs preparation of Action Plan

3. To conceptualize the stages and practical requirements for a GIAHS Action Plan

4. To design simple steps for preparing a GIAHS Action Plan: Short, Mid, and Long term goals

5. To develop a GIAHS Vision and to realize their development potential

Steps to recognition of a GIAHS site are:

- Identification and formulation of a GIAHS proposal;
- Assessment, review
- Designation and listing
- Preparation and implementation of Action Plan
- International Recognition

In particular, the preparation of an Action plan needs the following activities:

• Define the guiding principles for the Dynamic Conservation of GIAHS

• Develop future scenarios for GIAHS

• Map the route to institutionalize GIAHS

• Formulate baseline strategic plans, which needs:

- Conduct of MSP

- Evaluate “operational/financial” opportunities and cooperation

Site’s recognition needs supportive actions from national authorities. These supportive actions can be identified as follows:

• Engagement and advocacy: awareness raising, dialogue, CD, consensus, national/local ownership, and communication

• Mapping of national Policies, planning processes, actions and timelines: policy and legislative frameworks, stakeholders’ mapping, resource mobilization/allocation

• Prioritization based on twin-track approach: consider balancing short and long term interventions

To support and promote GIAHS conservation:

• National Plans and Programmes i.e. Country Programming Framework (CPF), National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP), Heritage, Agricultural policies, etc

• Linkages and synergies - Government Commitments i.e. NBSAPs, ITPGRFA, CBD- Aichi Targets, CGRFA, UNESCO MAB and WHS, etc

• External donors: Foreign funds? GEF, JICA, IFAD, EU, etc

• FAO TCP Facility

• Internal funding (national and local governments)

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Annex 2: Concept Note and Agenda

FAO-ISESCO International Workshop

on

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

For the Islamic Countries

4-5 November 2014

FAO-HQ,Rome, Italy

Rationale

Over centuries, generations of farmers, fisher folks, foresters and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural, fisheries, forestry and pastoral systems, managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that lead to biodiversity conservation, food security, resilience of ecosystems and their provision of essential goods and services for humanity.

The **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)** [2]is an international partnership initiative that aims to identify, support and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural and associated biodiversity, landscapes, knowledge systems and cultures around the world. The GIAHS Partnership recognizes the crucial importance of the well-being of family farming

[2] For more information, www.giahs.org

communities in an integrated approach while directing activities towards sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Over the past decade, the GIAHS Initiative has been piloting an innovative model of engaging communities, local and national governments in the adaptive management of agricultural heritage and conservation of system's goods and services. It has served as a learning laboratory for identifying new ways to sustain nature's bounty, the health of ecosystems, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, protection of traditional knowledge systems, culture, and more importantly, building a bridge for the sustainable future.

In November 2011, the Director-Generals of FAO and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a framework of partnership agreement. The MOU reflects the commitment of both organizations to promote cooperation and develop their capacities to protect agricultural heritage, promote the diversity of culture and cultural expressions, further develop their communication platform, institutional capacity and policies, and promote an exchange of activities and services in Islamic countries.

Following the signing of the MOU, in May 2012, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries was held in Rabat to launch GIAHS with ISESCO member states which coincided at ISESCO Annual Convention. Delegates from 11 countries (Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia) shared their knowledge and discussed future plan.

Moreover, in May 2013, an international forum on GIAHS was held in Noto, Ishikawa, Japan where participants from around the world have shared their knowledge on the fundamental values of agricultural patrimony as well as shared their experiences on managing and revitalizing local economies through GIAHS dynamic conservation. The Forum was highlighted by the presence of the FAO Director General and several High Level officials from existing GIAHS sites and key international organizations. The GIAHS Forum featured, among others, the adoption of the Noto Communique.

The Noto Communique recommends (i) the progressive designation of further GIAHS sites to promote the conservation of agricultural heritage and its contributions towards global food security and economic development; (ii) promotion of on-the-ground projects and activities, particularly in developing countries; (iii) the existing GIAHS support the recognition of candidatures of GIAHS areas in less developed countries; and (iv) promote the twinning of GIAHS sites between developed and developing countries.

Within this background, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries will be held in FAO-HQ from 4-5 November 2014. The international workshop on GIAHS is aimed to launch the GIAHS Initiative in the Islamic region and to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and ISESCO member countries, to enhance understanding and promote awareness of the fundamental values, essential goods and services harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems.

Objectives of the International Workshop

The general objective of the international workshop is to present the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ISESCO member states. The specific objectives are, as follows:

- To familiarize ISESCO member countries with the origin, background and concept of GIAHS, the fundamental values of agricultural heritage, and opportunities for collaboration;
- To share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned on promoting dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage sites and systems; and
- Based on the signed MOU, to explore the joint activities between FAO and ISESCO.

Structure of the Workshop and Provisional Agenda

Opening and welcome ceremony (FAO and ISESCO senior staff)

Session I – Introduction of GIAHS Initiative

This session will discuss the origin, nature, concept of agricultural heritage, criteria for selection, and implementation framework of the GIAHS Initiative. This session will also discuss "GIAHS" – a model of resilient system for sustainable agriculture and rural development. Opportunities and potential thematic areas of collaboration that respond to international development agenda will also be discussed.

Session 2 – Experiences and lessons learned in implementing dynamic conservation of GIAHS

This session will discuss practical opportunities and potential benefits of dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage for food security and sustainable development, capitalizing on the positive experiences, lessons learned and country achievements and to build ISESCO members' capacities.

Session 3- Summary, Conclusion and Way Forward

This session will present the wrap up of Session 1 and 2, and will discuss the way forward.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding and awareness on GIAHS Initiative
- GIAHS concept, experiences and lessons learned are shared with the ISESCO member countries and partners
- Enhanced capacity of ISESCO member countries in identifying, conserving and safeguarding their GIAHS
- FAO and ISESCO Programme of Activities

Provisional agenda

Day 1 Tuesday, 4 November 2014 - Mexico Room (D213bis)	
Welcome and Opening Ceremony / Introduction of Participants *Moderator: Ms. Mary Jane Ramos dela Cruz, Technical Officer, NRL, FAO*	
9:00 – 9:20	***Welcome Address and Opening Remarks*** • *Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO* • *Ms. Aicha Bammoun, ISESCO*
9:20 – 9:30	***Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding***

	between FAO and ISESCO • *Ms. Aicha Bammoun, ISESCO, Rabat, Morocco*
Session 1 – The GIAHS Initiative	
9:30 – 10:45	***Introduction and overview of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative*** ***Experiences and lessons learned on implementing the GIAHS initiative*** • *Ms. Mary Jane Ramos dela Cruz, Technical Officer, NRL, FAO*
10:45 – 11:00	*Coffee/tea break*
Session 2: Experiences and lessons learned in implementing dynamic conservation of GIAHS	
11:00 – 13:00	***Country Presentations*** *Moderator: Mr. Noureddine Nasr, SNE, Tunisia* ▪ ***Algeria, Recognition of Ghot System, (El-Oued South Algeria)****: Mr. Abdellatif Fatah Achour – GIAHS Coordinator in Algeria* ▪ ***Morocco, Recognition of Oasis of Amilchil Amellago and news oases sites in a GEF project :*** *Mr. Seddik Saidi - Head of Department of Ameliortaion and Conservation of Genetic Resources, National Agricultural Research Institute* ▪ ***Tunisia, Recognition of Gafsa Oasis :*** *Mr. Lazhar Cherif – President of ASM Gafsa Oases* ***Discussions***
12:00 – 14:00	*Lunch*
14:00 – 16:00	***Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest*** *Moderator: Dr. Abdelouahhab Zaid,* ▪ ***Bangladesh, Floating Agriculture - a Potential GIAHS Site in Bangladesh :*** *Mr. Syed Nasim Khalilluzzaman - Additional Secretary,*

	Ministry of Agriculture ▪ ***Pakistan,*** *Mr. Syed Moazzam Ali - Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of National Food Security and Research* ▪ ***Indonesia, GIAHS Potential in INDONESIA :*** *Ms. Pamuji Lestari - Deputy Assistant for Community Empowerment, Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare* ▪ ***Cameroon,*** *Ms. Sophie Menyeng Tchal**a -** Directorate of Research, Programs and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development* ▪ ***Senegal, Indigenous Practices of Natural Regeneration in Assisted systems of family farms : Example of the Village of Kissane Region, Thiés, Senegal :*** *Mr. Mor Mbacke – Director, Regional Rural Development, Thiés* ***Discussions***
16:00 – 16:30	*Coffee/tea break*
16:00 – 17:30	***Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest*** *Moderator: Dr. Slim Zekri, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman* ▪ ***Algeria,*** ***The system of collection and distribution of water in the oasis Timimoun by Foggara*** *: Mr. Abdellatif Fatah Achour – GIAHS Coordinator in Algeria* ▪ ***Mauritania,*** *Mr. Ahmed Salem Marrakchi – National Programme Coordinator, Ministry of Rural Development* ▪ ***Tunisia,*** ***The weirs (Chrafis) Kerkennah - an ingenious system of fishing heritage in Tunisia :*** *Mr. Mohamed Hamani - Director of Fisheries Resource Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture* ▪ ***Egypt, The Siwa Oasis :*** *Mr. Amr Abd Elhamed Refaat Aboushaara - Assistant Professional, Economic Department, Desert Research Centre* ***Discussions***
18:00 – 19:30	*Cocktail party*

Day 2 Wednesday, 5 November 2014 - Mexico Room (D213bis), continuation of Session 2

9:00 – 10:45	***Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest*** *Moderator: Mr. Noureddine Nasr, SNE, Tunisia* ▪ ***Oman, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Aflaj and Terraced Fields in Oman :*** *Mr. Slim Zekri – Head of the Department of Natural Resource Economics, Sultan Qaboos University* ▪ ***UAE,*** *Mr. Abdelouahhab Zaid – Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Secretary of the Khalifa International date Palm Award /Ms. Fatmah Obaid Saeed Ali Alkalbani - Acting Director of Health and Agricultural Development Department, Ministry of Environment and Water* ▪ ***Yemen, Introduction of the Agricultural Heritage in Yemen :*** *Mr. Mohamed Al-Marwani – Director General of Agriculture Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation* ▪ ***Turkey,*** *Ms. Esin Dilbirligi – Coordinator of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Division, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock* ***Discussions***
10:45 – 11:00	*Coffee/tea break*
11:00 – 12:00	***FAO-ISESCO presentation on GIAHS Way Forward:*** ***Partnerships and Resources Mobilization Strategy for the Islamic Countries*** *Moderator: Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division* *Ms. Aicha Bammoun -ISESCO – Mr. Noureddine Nasr-FAO SNE* ***Discussions***
12:00 – 12:30	***Closing Remarks*** • *Mr. Moujahed Achouri - Director of Land and Water Division, FAO* • *Ms. Aicha Bammoun - ISESCO*
12:30 – 14:00	*Lunch*