



Food and Agriculture
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Globally Important
**AGRICULTURAL
HERITAGE**
Systems



PROCEEDINGS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS (GIAHS) ROME, FAO HEADQUARTERS 19 APRIL 2018





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Executive Summary

The GIAHS programme was granted the status of FAO corporate programme by the 39th Session of the FAO Conference, in June 2015, with a new governance structure and a roadmap to follow. Since the inception of the new GIAHS status, several global, regional and sub-regional workshops and trainings have been held to further disseminate the GIAHS concept and, based on country requests, to enhance capacities in identifying new GIAHS sites and implementing follow up actions after site designation. The recognition of GIAHS as an effective approach for sustainable agriculture, biodiversity and rural development has been widely diffused among farming communities and policy makers across the involved countries. New member States have expressed interest in GIAHS as a tool to promote UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Global Environmental Goals (GEGs), conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, among other global goals. In particular, the GIAHS Workshop for Europe and Central Asia held in June 2017 demonstrated the potential high interest among several new countries and opened the path for new European sites.

Since 2016, the proposed sites by China, Japan, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and Sri Lanka have been newly endorsed as GIAHS. All these new GIAHS sites officially received a GIAHS certificate, signed by the Director-general of FAO, to praise their efforts in maintaining such an important heritage and encourage their undertakings for follow up activities, namely dynamic conservation.

Furthermore, many of the designated sites have developed significant post-recognition activities and accumulated experiences of for conservation, adaptive management and economic development of the sites. The Forum was an opportunity to take stock of lessons learnt and share such experiences among GIAHS sites as well as other similar agricultural approaches.

The GIAHS International Forum generated numerous outcomes and was an opportunity to design a common way forward and to enhance awareness and capacity of the GIAHS stakeholders, with the aim of scaling up lessons learned to a more strategic level and launch a new phase of the programme.

1. High Level Opening Ceremony “Experiences on GIAHS and lessons learned”

Moderator: René Castro Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Climate Biodiversity Land and Water Department of FAO

Welcome remarks by Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources Department (DDN)



Madame Semedo welcomed the participants to the Forum on behalf of the Director-General to this international forum. She expressed her pleasure to see so many participants as a testimony of the importance of the event. For millennia, communities of farmers, herders, fisher folks, forest people, have created shaped and maintained complex and locally adapted agricultural systems. Systems that reflect a profound harmony between humanity and nature. For generations, such agriculture systems have provided a

legacy of cultural traditions and practices, an imprint of outstanding aesthetic living landscapes. They preserve biodiversity and sustain multiple goods and services, food security and livelihoods, traditions and knowledge.

Recognizing the unique value in linking agriculture and cultural heritage, FAO launched the GIAHS during 2002 World Summit Sustainable Development. Today we are here to take stock of progress made since then, exchange experiences and share lessons learned. As well, we are here to celebrate newly designated GIAHS sites and I would like to congratulate the new comers who joined this big family. Indeed, I am very proud to announce that we now have 50 GIAHS sites in 20 countries, a number that speaks for the GIAHS success, including two new regions: Europe and North America.

By safeguarding GIAHS we are also responding to the World's greatest challenges: climate change, depleting natural resources, urbanization, changes in diets and lifestyles. As such, GIAHS was mainstreamed in FAO's corporate programme in 2015. FAO is not looking at GIAHS in isolation, but in convergence with Agroecology, mainstreaming biodiversity in the agricultural sectors, and other priority areas. We are encouraged by the strong political support from relevant international Fora, in particular the G20, and the impressive number of regional and local authorities present here in this room today. This testifies how GIAHS embraces landscape and territorial approaches and the empowerment of local communities that today are increasingly recognized as key drivers to achieve sustainable development.

Madame Semedo highlighted the lessons that can be extracted from GIAHS, and recalled that GIAHS sites are unique examples of a harmonious relationship of humans and agricultural systems. Smallholder farmers have a leading role in conserving and promoting biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and time tested landscapes. They are not about a nostalgic past but offer solutions for the present and the future. They are founded on the recognition that smallholders and family farmers are the creators and custodians of those services. People's know-how and richness of biodiversity come together in GIAHS.

GIAHS showcase the interlinkages across the SGD's. They bring together the pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, with the added ingredient of culture, in one single landscape. She reminded the need to strengthen and empower local communities, as well as to increase support at national and local level, especially for policy and institutional capacities to reach decision makers

and the general public on the importance of biodiversity for agriculture, sustainable agriculture, agro-ecological approaches, and indigenous knowledge. GIAHS is also about innovation and opportunities, including broadening access to new markets and businesses, such as eco-labelling, geographic indications, agro-tourism, to add value to our agricultural patrimony.

Madame Semedo highlighted the need for a way forward. To this purposed mentioned the need to define clear standards and guidelines to ensure coherence in identifying, monitoring, and managing GIAHS sites. A strategy could be linking in a platform all GIAHS sites allowing them to exchange experiences. To this end, she thanked the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for their hard work and dedication to make GIAHS a success.

All of this requires that efforts to mobilize resources are collectively renovated. On this, she recognized the generosity and commitment of the governments of China and Japan in supporting the programme.

Madame Semedo concluded inviting all GIAHS partners and partners to continue to build on the success of the programme and take it to the next strategic level and discuss the way forward. Emphasizing efforts to create opportunities for the great artists who have sculpted our past, designed our present and will shape our future.



Keynote speech by H.E. Yang Taolin, Vice Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P.R. China



H.E. Taolin, greeted all the delegates and reminded that five years passed since the fourth GIAHS Forum was held in Japan in 2013. He congratulated FAO for the opening of forum. At the same time, congratulated the the 14 new sites which were granted a GIAHS certificate, including four in China, and welcome them as part of this glorious cause of FAO.

Mr. Taolin explained that China is an ancient agricultural civilization of thousands of years, based on timing, location, with great importance of the people and their work, creating an "appropriate code of conduct and harmony" of the farming culture, which created a rich production and ecological functions unified in agricultural production system that became a valuable agricultural cultural heritage, with an important significance and value not only for solving the food and livelihood security, also derived from the Chinese traditional philosophy of "harmony between man and nature". Today, as we all know, China uses less than 10% of the world's arable land and 6% of its water resources to produce one-fifth of the world's food and feed more than 1.3 billion people. This, created the miracle of human agriculture history. On the one hand, this actively developing modern agriculture in China, though various elements enhanced agriculture productivity, and on the other hand, China still has more than 200 million small farmers who adjust measures to local conditions, comply with the natural and ecological cycle in for agricultural development and mainly depends on the pattern of traditional farming that has been passed down from ancestors. He reminded that family farming is the most solid foundation for China's food self-sufficiency and the security of the livelihood of more than 200 million small farmers in China.



Besides having high efficiency, low cost, sustainable production, China's traditional agricultural system also contains rich traditions and agricultural biodiversity, complex knowledge and technical systems, unique ecological and cultural landscape, can be said to be the economic, social, cultural, ecological and other functions in one body. This is feeding agriculture, educating farmers, and maintaining rural communities.

Based on the deep understanding of this type of farming culture, FAO began in 2002 "globally important agricultural cultural heritage" initiative. Since then, China has become the first supporter, successful practitioner, important enabler and major contributor. China works with GIAHS as the guide, excavating from the traditional wisdom, letting old embrace modern, at different levels of agriculture, combining traditions and development.

Since the first designation in 2005, China has developed GIAHS and NIAHS. Due to China's vast cultural diversity, this is the first country in the world to carry out the national agricultural heritage, through which China has identified 91 important national sites.

China is also planning to focus on scientific and technological support. China pays attention to exploring the scientific connotation of GIAHS, and promotes the protection and development of GIAHS sites from the perspective of science and technology. Various sites of the heritage have also established extensive contacts with scientific research institutions, and some places have set up academicians expert workstations and research bases.

Central and local governments actively practice, by setting protection plans, the implementation of development projects, training farmers for ecological compensation, building branding and a variety of measures such as agriculture, agro-tourism development.

In its GIAHS strategy, China is also promoting international exchanges, supporting GIAHS visibility in the international arena. This work was successfully included in the 2014 APEC meeting in Beijing with a declaration on food security that includes GIAHS, and in 2016 with the communique of the G20 meeting of agricultural ministers. China is eager to provide trainings and capacity building at the international level and in fact has used the current FAO trust fund to implement a south-south cooperation project, holding four high-level training courses, which have benefited nearly 50 countries.

This year, the new Chinese government proposed the strategy of rural revitalization, which requires priority development of agricultural and rural areas. This includes the GIAHS and NIAHS strategy as a priority for traditional agriculture and remote areas. In fact, the new government has restructured the Ministry of Agriculture into Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, giving it more functions and responsibilities in rural development. From a new perspective and dimension, the ministry of agriculture and rural development of China will undoubtedly pay more attention to and support the work of agricultural heritage sites.

He concluded hoping that FAO could be a partner to increase investment in this cause, joining efforts to expand its status and influence.

H.E. Andrea Olivero, Vice Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy



H.E. Olivero, expressed his great pleasure to be at FAO and to take part in this important event that brings to the attention of the international community this important FAO programme, aimed at promoting the conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).

An initiative born in 2002 that experienced a increase in quality and ambition two years ago, which quickly led to the recognition of as many as 45 traditional agricultural landscapes in 19 countries, thanks also to the commitment and the Advisory Committee scientific (SAG) chaired by professor Mauro Agnoletti, whom he thanked for the energy lavished in this task.

He continued confessing that in Italy it has been natural to support this program because it fits perfectly with the country's experience in safeguarding local agricultural and food traditions and with what the Italian Government is doing in this regard. Italy's history, also on an artistic level, bears witness to the deep attention to the countryside and to the relationship between nature and the imprint of man that makes our rural landscapes so fascinating. Starting from these precious traditions, Italian Governments have matured a great experience in the dynamic conservation of historical agricultural systems, considering the policies on rural landscape a strong point of the competitiveness of the Italian agricultural system.

In 2012, in particular, a National Observatory for historical rural landscapes was established, to monitor agricultural practices and traditional knowledge, which protects and values traditional rural landscapes through their recognition in a special "National Register". To date there are 12 traditional rural landscapes and traditional practices that have been recognized, starting from the 120 potential sites that had been identified. It is an experience that presents similar aims with those of the GIAHS Program, and is perfectly complementary.

Italy believes that this program has great potential in terms of enhancing agricultural landscapes in their multiple dimensions. Landscapes and agricultural traditions are capable of bringing benefits not only for the environment and biodiversity but also for communities, for the preservation of traditional knowledge and for the production of quality food.

For this reason, in 2016 the Italian Ministry of Agriculture concluded a special Memorandum of Understanding with FAO to support this program at global level. The main objectives are to identify new potential GIAHS sites and develop common strategies for incorporating these landscapes into rural development policies. This is a topic that was also at the center of the great confrontation between Governments, International Organizations and civil society that Italy promoted during Expo Milano 2015. The protection of traditional rural landscapes is one of the ways in which the sustainability and the future of the agricultural and food dimension. With this in mind, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has granted a fund of 2 million Euros to support the GIAHS program. In particular, a high-level education center will be set up at the University of Florence to create managers for traditional agricultural landscapes, through international university masters for young officials from priority countries to development cooperation, as well as other training courses open to all interested parties. The project also aims to identify potential sites, always in priority countries for our development cooperation, to be



included in the GIAHS program. With this effort, Italy intends to confirm its strong support for the program and its diffusion in other countries.

Finally, Vice Minister Olivero recalled that Italy had presented two applications to the GIAHS program: the "Soave Hills of the Soave, Verona" and the "Olive groves in the belt between Assisi and Spoleto", which are being evaluated by the SAG.

H.E. Olivero concluded stating that historical rural landscapes, agricultural practices and traditional knowledge are not only elements of great importance in the culture of Italy, but can also represent a dynamic model of coexistence and fully sustainable social and environmental development. Therefore he renewed to FAO and the GIAHS Secretariat the full availability of Italy in supporting the development of joint actions for the valorization of traditional rural landscapes, in Italy and in the world.

H.E. Jaime Haddad Sánchez de Cueto, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment of Spain



Vice Minister Sánchez de Cueto greeted participants and started by thanking FAO, the GIAHS Secretariat and the Scientific Advisory Group for the organization of the International GIAHS Forum. He expressed his great pleasure to take part in the meeting, especially because it represented a big occasion for Spain. In fact, the first two GIAHS sites were designated in the Basque Country and in Malaga Region, being also the first two sites recognized in Europe. In addition to the special

occasion for Spain, H.E. Sánchez de Cueto highlighted the importance of GIAHS and their conservation, due to the importance of the services they provide to humanity. A combination of cultural, social, ecological and economic services. It is well known that UNESCO's world heritage recognizes its sites among the ones that have an outstanding universal value, linking nature conservation and material goods. GIAHS sites also achieve the safeguarding of agriculture and associated values that contribute to global, national and local benefits, through its dynamic conservation and sustainable development.

For this reason, he welcomed the session included in the program of the Forum, dedicated to the synergies between UNESCO and GIAHS.

Most of GIAHS sites are located in Asia, Africa, Near East, Latin America and North Africa, therefore he expressed his pride that the first European sites were recognized in Spain.

Spain is characterized by richness in culture, landscapes, and biodiversity, and therefore it is a great honor that this country can share it with the world.

H.E. Sánchez de Cueto recalled the good coordination of local stakeholders with regional governments and the Ministry of Agriculture that from the beginning of the GIAHS application supported the process. Having GIAHS sites recognized in a country has a strong unifying and catalyzing power, which is capable of put together different actors and regions for the same objective. In fact, the GIAHS recognition in La Axarquía and Añana, served as an opportunity to establish contacts with other regions that are preparing their GIAHS application. These are the millenary olive groves of Taula del Sènia in Catalonia, the peri-urban irrigation and agricultural system of Valencia, and the agro-pastoral landscape of Valley of Aran.

H.E. Sánchez de Cueto concluded reminding that these recognitions are perfectly embedded in the framework of Agenda 2030 of the UN, which invites to a paradigm shift of what we were used to call "sustainable development", including an integrated approach when thinking of development leaving no one behind. GIAHS is a concrete example on how to put in practice this approach, contributing to the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.

For this reason, and for the pleasure of benefitting now and in the future of all these agricultural systems (products, landscapes, cultural values) he invited all participants to support the dissemination of the GIAHS concept and approach and to look for the protection and recognition that this programme can provide.

H.E. Maria Mashingo, Permanent Secretary of Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania



Madame Mashingo thanked FAO for the organization of the Forum and for the continuous support provided to her country on the development of GIAHS.

She introduced the experience of the two GIAHS sites recognized in Tanzania: agroforestry system on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, and Engaresero Maasai pastoral system.

In Tanzania there are 120 traditional tribes leaving in remarkable landscapes, their livelihoods depend on agricultural systems that have demonstrated to be resilient to stresses and to climate change. The GIAHS experience in Tanzania started with a project of FAO and the support of Germany, implemented by the Ministry of Livestock and from that time two experiences were developed.

In June 2009, a team composed by six institutions made a deep evaluation to select GIAHS sites in traditional areas that were vulnerable and needed a dynamic conservation approach to allow communities to develop sustainably. The process started by a participatory method, visiting and explaining the approach to community leaders and having meetings with members of the local communities.

These experiences gave an important example not only to Tanzania, but to East Africa and Africa.

She concluded by welcoming this approach for the benefit of local and traditional communities and thanked FAO for its support.

Mr. Hajime Furuta, Governor of Gifu Prefecture, Japan



Mr. Furuta congratulated FAO for the efforts to realize the International Forum and expressed the great honor to present the progress of the GIAHS site. He introduced the successful experience of Gifu Prefecture in the development of a GIAHS sites, by introducing the four main pillars of the strategy put in place in the site: clear water, communication, collaboration, contribution.

Gifu is located in central Japan, with mountains and rivers flowing with pristine clear waters which have helped the local people to develop a sustainable way of life, in a unique manner in this region for many centuries. The clear waters of the Nagara River connect livelihoods of the people in the upstream with downstream, connecting also the past with present and future.

The GIAHS designated Nagara River fisheries system, contributed to increase pride of local people and to enhance recognition of the importance of this site. 860,000 people are living along this river, yet the concept of Satokawa applied to this area (deriving from indigenous knowledge) has allowed communities to develop while respecting nature. In fact the river is called “home”. This is also the home to *ayu* a local fish which is found only here.

Mr. Furuta thanked FAO for its tireless efforts to maintain and protect these important heritage sites. He recalled that designation is only the beginning of a series of measures to conserve and sustainably develop a site.



He then highlighted the importance of follow up actions. Among these, communication to the wider public is very important to increase visibility of sites. Gifu has also created the official GIAHS logo to be used for products, publications, pamphlets, and pins.

Gifu prefecture also created a certification of the local fish, which has been very successful in communicating its added value.

The Prefecture is creating a recreational park based on learning the local knowledge, biodiversity, and all the GIAHS values.

National, regional and international exchanges are also very important to share practices, for example through the World Heritage Alliance, among GIAHS and UNESCO sites in Japan. In the future, Gifu is expecting to export *ayu* fish and to reach a global public, both from the commercial and heritage points of view.

GIAHS was a great contribution for Gifu prefecture and Nagara River system, as it increased pride among local communities but also brought new energy to policy makers and site managers to develop new initiatives, which are demonstrating great success.

Mr. Furuta concluded by reminding the famous sentence “give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day, teach a man how to fish and you will feed him for lifetime”.

2. GIAHS Award Ceremony: Certificates to designated sites 2016-2018



The second session of the event was dedicated to the award ceremony, in which the newly designated GIAHS sites received the GIAHS Certificate on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, as a testimony of their recognition as custodians of our agricultural heritage.

Details on newly designated sites from 2016 to 2018

Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas, China 2018



China's rice terraces are mainly distributed in the mountainous area in the south of the Yangtze River. In these areas, the rain is abundant and the mountains are distributed widely.

For hundreds of years, the terraces built along the mountains have not only improved the local farming conditions but also increased the output of grains. Moreover, they are beneficial to the ecology of the

mountainous area and have made great contributions to the sustainable development of agriculture in China.

Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System, China 2018



The Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System is located on the sandy land, which is the ancient course left by the Yellow River when its course changed in the Dongzhou Dynasty. The mulberry trees were planted to control the sandstorms, and to provide agricultural products. Over 20,000 mulberry trees, which are over 100 years old, are living in the heritage site. The heritage system has witnessed the development of China's sericulture industry, and it also reflects the philosophy of harmonious development of humans and nature, and offers many lessons for modern agriculture and social development.



Huzhou Mulberry -dyke & Fish Pond System, China 2017



Zhejiang Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish-pond System originated more than 2500 years ago and includes many traditional and agroecological knowledge. It includes the cultivation of mulberry-dyke trees, silk rearing, and fish cultivation and is based on a very complex irrigation and drainage system. This system allows many farmers to respond to their nutritional and economic needs, while maintaining a huge biodiversity as well as a complex landscape.



Zhagana Agriculture -Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System, China 2017



Zhagana Agriculture-Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System is located in the three major landforms of the Tibetan Plateau, the Loess Plateau and the Chengdu basin in the convergence zone of the three climatic zones. The macro landscape extends vertically and horizontally is the composition of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry. This system is an outstanding example of sustainable management of local natural resources (land, forest, grassland and endemic species) and produces a variety of goods which meet people's daily needs.



Dates production System in Siwa Oasis, Egypt, 2016



Siwa oasis is one of the best illustrations of farmers' ingenuity to adapt agriculture to very harsh climatic conditions. Situated in a very dry region, this oasis provides an effective way to grow food, livestock and preserve wild flora and fauna, which rely on a very scarce resource: water. This smart adapted systems is based on date palm agriculture combined with other crops such as olive trees and alfalfa allowing local people to respond to their needs. The way of sustainably manage water resources is also strongly linked to Siwan's cultural heritage.



Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture, Japan 2017



The Osaki region has developed paddy agriculture by using lowland swamps and wetlands that extend across the basins of Eai River and Naruse River. It is an ingenious system which traditionally controls water temperature and volume by transforming the landscape and making it suitable for paddy agriculture, known as “Osaki Kōdo”.

The region frequently experiences drought and, in some periods of the year, flooding, due to the topographical features of a landscape that rolls down from precipitous mountain areas to low gradient plains, and suffers cold temperature damage caused by the yamase, a cold and moist seasonal wind.



Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System, Japan 2017



Nishi-Awa area is one of Japan's leading areas for controlled burn agriculture, and the cultivation of grains as staple foods has been widespread in the Nishi-Awa area since ancient times. Agriculture in this area is characterized by a land management system that utilizes mountain slopes with versatility.

On steep mountainsides deemed unsuitable for cultivation, a unique method of land use is employed, allocating land for cropping, grassland, and residential land in accordance with the conditions of the steep slope land, and sustainable agriculture is carried out leaving the mountain slopes intact.



Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka, Japan 2018



Wasabi, *Eutrema japonicum*, is a native Japanese plant of the Brassicaceae family that has been highly prized in Japan since ancient times for the sharp flavor produced when its stems are grated. Shizuoka region is the origin of worldwide wasabi cultivation, which is believed to have begun approximately 400 years ago.

Wasabi fields currently possess a structure that is resilient to natural disasters because these fields have high water retention capacity, and they also function to protect downstream areas from flooding disasters.



Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwagae-myeon, Republic of Korea, 2017



Hadong's traditional tea agriculture is a system and culture of symbiosis. In fact, this agricultural production system is the result of 1,200 years of adaptation of the local community to the barren environment of Jiri Mountain and surrounding land. The local community preserved the characteristic tea plantation technology and culture of this region without harming the natural environment which had been passed down from their ancestors.

The Hwagae people relies on tea agriculture instead of rice paddies. Farmers obtain food supply and goods through cultivating indigenous tea trees growing around Hwagae Stream and between rocks in hilly areas around the temples.



Chinampa Agriculture in the World Natural and Cultural Heritage Zone in Xochimilco, Tláhuac and Milpa Alta, Mexico 2016



The chinampa agricultural system is an articulated set of floating artificial islands built in a traditional way 2,000 years ago, which reached its maximum expansion during the Aztec civilization. The system was maintained until our days thanks to oral transmission of the traditional techniques. The uniqueness of this system is that farmers turned an ancient group of lakes into highly productive arable lands to grow plants but also breeding cattle.

Being located in the middle of Mexico City, chinampa agriculture offers an example in which agroecological intensification can co-exist with urban development and modernization. From a cultural point of view, Chinampas are a symbol of Mexico identity and a pride of farmers that allow supplying the city.



Barroso Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral System, 2018



Barroso is a natural landscape of Northern Portugal, integrating part of the Peneda Gerês National Park, where the existing agrarian system is strongly influenced by the soil and climate conditions, with a predominance of smallholdings and cattle, sheep and goat pastoral farming, as well as pig farming, which contributes significantly to household economies and plays an important social role.

This area today a pattern of land occupation marked by human activity for agriculture, forestry and grazing, while a number of very significant and relatively intact environmental areas are still found.



The Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana, Spain 2017



Valle Salado is located in the town of Salinas de Añana in the Basque Country. It is crossed by two small rivers which join at the center of the valley and sits on a giant salt bubble from a sea that disappeared millions of years ago.

The main feature of this ecosystem is that a number of salt water springs naturally emerge at the highest part of the valley, making it possible to harvest salt.

The ancient cultivation techniques have been carefully preserved, with the gradual introduction of changes required to preserve the livelihood of the local community, but respectfully preserving the basic conditions that experience has shown are the key to the system, making it a perfect example of dynamic conservation and harmonious relationship with the surrounding environment.

Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía, Spain 2017



The raisins production in Axarquía has gone through centuries and different civilisations until today, maintaining most of its characteristics. The cultivation of Muscatel grapes in the mountainous areas of Málaga is very important in the agricultural economy, as it is developed on steep slopes without any other agricultural alternative.

Maintaining this grape-growing system and its sun-drying transformation process is essential to maintain the landscape, as it prevents erosion and desertification processes and it is an example of how the people in this area relate with their territory and their cultural traditions.



The Cascaded Tank-Village System (CTVS) in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka, 2017



The Cascaded Tank-Village System is a connected series of tanks organized within a micro-catchment of the dry zone landscape, storing, conveying and utilizing water from an ephemeral rivulet. It is an ancient, widely used and unique traditional agriculture system, mainly found in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. The system has evolved over a period of nearly two millennia. It provides water for irrigation, domestic purposes, animals and ecosystems.

The system takes dominance over all other systems due to its expansive coverage, unique technology, sustainability, and resilience to natural disasters (such as droughts, epidemics, floods, cyclones, and external invasions), high biodiversity and many other beneficial characteristics.

Intervention by the Chairman of the GIAHS Scientific and Advisory Group (SAG)

Prof. Mauro Agnoletti, University of Florence



Professor Agnoletti greeted the audience and thanked FAO for the organization of the Forum. He introduced the members of the SAG in the room. He reminded the participants that the GIAHS Programme has grown considerably in the recent two years. This means that the SAG and the Secretariat have a higher pressure to deal with more applications and in particular the SAG has to pay more attention in the selection of high quality sites.

From the other side, proposals need to be of high quality and meet the GIAHS criteria. This task is becoming more difficult with time, evaluation and monitoring is also becoming a challenge.

Together with the growth of the programme there is also a need to identify and stress and unique characteristics of GIAHS sites, compared to other recognition schemes such as UNESCO. In this respect, GIAHS is the only programme dealing directly with traditional agriculture in the whole UN system. This can be found in the 5 GIAHS criteria. FAO is trying to save and maintain agricultural heritage that belongs to rural communities, because they have created and maintained this knowledge in the attempt to adapt to very difficult environmental, geographical conditions, and to provide what is needed for life: produce food.

The growth of the programme means the SAG needs to become more professional, and this is something that all SAG members feel as a responsibility. In fact, the group is developing clear guidelines and a monitoring system to follow up what happens in the sites once they are designated. Related to this, the SAG is paying more and more attention to Action Plans included in the proposals. In fact, this is a responsibility of each proposing country and therefore Action Plans differ from one proposal to the other. One important tool could be trainings, to educate future managers of GIAHS sites because each one of the GIAHS criteria requires a scientific expertise.

This programme is offering the opportunity to these remote areas to be connected to a wider network that sometimes can help them to develop new opportunities and invited FAO to include among its goals (in addition to eliminate hunger) also the one for high quality food and create a vision that can be applied to all these areas that can't match the current tendencies of the agricultural market.

In a way, FAO is starting a new phase of this programme and it is going very fast because of the big enthusiasm from countries and local communities. This is a big opportunity and at the same time a big challenge that we all need to take care of.

Testimonial on GIAHS from George Steinmetz, Award-winning photographer from National Geographic



Mr. George Steinmetz is a photographer specialized in aerial views of natural landscapes, as well as unique agricultural landscapes. In his career he had the opportunity to visit GIAHS sites around the world and to take fantastic photographs of the sites. In the occasion of this International Forum, a Photo Exhibit called "Farmers: the artists of the earth" was exposed for ten days in FAO Atrium. Mr. Steinmetz expressed his admiration for these incredible sites created by farmers.

3. Session 2: Review of GIAHS implementation activities in Chile, Tunisia, Algeria and Peru

The four countries have GIAHS sites designated as GIAHS in 2011 and they are the pioneer countries in terms of GIAHS experience. They have shared their experience and positive effects of GIAHS after designation. Chile explained various activities including its own GIAHS logo for products and establishment of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS). Peru has shared positive impacts of GIAHS on both local and national level, and ongoing GEP project for sustainable management of agrobiodiversity and recovering of the Andean vulnerable ecosystems through the GIAHS approach. Algeria and Tunisia explained how the local knowledge in the GIAHS sites is being utilized for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

1. Experience of GIAHS in Chiloé Island

Ms. Teresa Agüero Teare, ODEPA, Ministry of Agriculture, Chile



Ms. Agüero shared the experience of Chile in dynamic conservation of their GIAHS site, celebrating the 16th year of activities in the site.

Chiloé is one of the first 6 pilot sites implemented worldwide. The archipelago of Chiloé is composed by forty islands and many of them are inhabited. Some of the characteristics which led to the selection of the archipelago as GIAHS was the diversified agricultural systems that the *chilotes* (local communities) have developed and applied. They work with traditional practices: livestock, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, non-

timber products. They use traditional practices, for example fertilization through the use of seaweeds. Chiloé is one of the centers of origin of potatoes (key crop at global level). In addition to fisheries, the livelihood of the local community is focused in agriculture, livestock and forestry, with two important aspects: unique agricultural practices and a number of protected varieties, linked to strong cultural values. In the year 2000 UNESCO recognized Chiloé's churches and the island became famous due to a number of myths and legends that attract tourists.

The Ministry of Agriculture focuses on GIAHS policies because it gives value to local varieties and protection of locally adapted breeds. Chiloé is home to a number of species that were introduced into the country and then turned into breeds adapted locally. The uniqueness of the system is that it is managed by local communities and have proven to be resilient to climate change, to water scarcity, soil erosion, and loss of biodiversity. Thanks to the maintenance and sustainable use of local agro-biodiversity communities face the challenges affecting agriculture. Local diversified systems are also influencing new patterns of consumption which are changing given to the need for healthier and diversified diets. Local practices, local development linked to traditional culture, contributes to rural development and sustainable agriculture and this is all in line with government policies.

Experiences (10-12 years):

- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity guaranteed by a number of services and products: GI, gastronomy, labels, fair trade, and services such as tourism, hotels, tour operators

- Capacity building activities on how to safeguard GIAHS sites, promoted by exchanging information and knowledge among farmers not universities teaching
- Initiatives and tools: Ministry of Culture, Tourism have other initiatives
- Participation of all stakeholders is key for the development of a GIAHS sites: empower local communities thanks to the GIAHS designation
- Territorial brand

Ms. Agüero also highlighted some challenges:

- Scaling up the experience of Chiloé and applying it into other areas by creating a NIAHS network
- Better governance of the territories

In conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Agüero highlighted how GIAHS can allow a country to face the important commitments at the international level, such as SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ITPGRFA, CGRFA.

2. GIAHS and Biodiversity

Ms. Miriam Cerdán, Director General for Biological Diversity, Ministry of Environment, Peru



Ms. Cerdán introduced the case of Peru sharing the main outcomes of the first phase of the GIAHS projects, the impact on national legislations and the institutional measures for the second phase.

2002-2006: 1st phase to raise awareness at the national and global level on the importance of these systems. Translated into national and regional levels of legislation. The Andean region of Peru is considered the center of origin of crops and domesticated animals, extremely important for global food security. There are crops such as potatoes, oca, olluca, quinoa, kiwicha, legumes, fruits, camelids, and agro-ecosystems which allows to manage our land and have given us over 1000 history of domestication. E.g. ingenious systems to regulate temperatures in highlands, using terraces. GIAHS recognition supported the conservation of local agro-biodiversity and ecosystems, but also traditional knowledge. It increased appreciation of agricultural heritage, strengthened the governance of Andean communities and had a positive impact on livelihoods and poverty reduction.

The lessons learned during the first phase of implementation of the GIAHS approach:

- GIAHS is a powerful tool and concept and approach which can influence national development policies and procurement policies
- The importance of holistic and comprehensive approach in the whole productive value chain: market links is one of the main challenges because GIAHS communities live in remote and small areas which makes it difficult to meet the requirements of the market
- The GIAHS Approach is similar to the ecosystem approach because it works with adaptation, natural resources management
- Helped to identify local needs and to develop local initiatives for development

Impacts of the adoption of the GIAHS approach on national legislation:

2005: Law n. 28477 declares that all native crops and domesticated animals are Natural Heritage of the Nation;

2015: Huanuca Region declares a District as agrobiodiversity zone for having 617 different species of potatoes;

2016: National Decree approves the regulation for the official recognition of Agrobiodiversity Zones for the conservation and sustainable use of native crops, including a novelty that is the economic remuneration for ecosystem services provided by custodians. Responsible authority is the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. This has led to new income sources such as tourism and recreation activities, which gives added value to these traditional systems. Peru needs to create resilience as a country because it is particularly sensitive to climate change.

Ms. Cerdán concluded with highlights on the second phase which will start with a GEF project, mainly focusing on Landscape, Agro-ecosystems and Ecosystem services, but also Gender, biodiversity management and access to market for products and services. The project will involve 5 areas in the south of the country and includes different types of ecosystems: forest, coastal, indigenous areas. The main objective is to add value to traditional production areas, focusing on the following strategies:

- Conservation of agro biodiversity
- Landscape management for generating ecosystem services
- Recovery of forest resources for managing ecosystem services
- Market development for agro-biodiversity products

3. GIAHS and climate change

The Ghout Oasis System: a sustainable and resilient system to climate change in Algeria, Noureddine Nasr, Technical Officer of Subregional Office for North Africa (FAO)



This site was designated in 2011 as a GIAHS, it is an oasis system in south-eastern Algeria managed by the *soufi* community which lives in this unique system. The main features of this incredible oasis are:

- It is a non-irrigated system (dry oasis)
- It is well protected against wind and sand thanks to local knowledge of farmers who developed ingenious methods
- Communities and agro-biodiversity are perfectly adapted to the conditions of Sahara Desert
- It is an agriculture system with very low inputs, without energy use and without emissions

Dr. Nasr described in a very detailed way the method to dig the oasis, which uses the speed and direction of wind, using fences made of dry palm leaves organized in circular lines to protect the ghout. This is totally based on local traditional knowledge of the *soufi* who are called the engineers of wind and water of the Sahara.

This knowledge is also about Climate change resilience and for this reason after GIAHS designation and it gained visibility, the government is encouraging restoration of other ghouts, which were managed with non-agro-ecological techniques and therefore were deeply damaged.

GIAHS has also had an impact on the pride of local farmers, who are now recognized by national authorities and are now subsidized by national investment policies. GIAHS has changed the mindset of policy makers and investors.

The role of GIAHS in adaptation and mitigation to climate change, Hakim Issaoui,



Mr. Issaoui introduced the experience of the historical oasis of Gafsa in Tunisia as an agroforestry system based on date palms. This system is integrated with livestock and in fact production is reinforced thanks to this integration, which brings together agro-ecological practices and sustainability of the system through the maintenance of local knowledge. The global importance of this system also lies on local and adapted varieties to water scarcity conditions, together with local know-how and traditional knowledge (pest management, among others).

Gafsa is a green spot in the desert composed of three layers of vegetation that interact inside the oasis: date palms, fruit trees, and vegetables. This is integrated by livestock production, which provides organic fertilizers, beekeeping is used for pollination, providing important services.

By growing different layers farmers make the best use of soils due to water retention, but also optimize the use of water, and finally create a microclimate limiting plant transpiration and having a fresher temperature inside the oasis. In fact, with this significant biomass this system contributes to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration. This improves the quality of local communities and it also contributes to the conservation of Gafsa because of the occupation during the whole year due to the integration of different production activities. This doesn't mean that the system is not vulnerable to climate change and pests, among other challenges, but it has demonstrated to be more resilient compared to modern oases.

Thanks to GIAHS designation the importance of this system was brought to the attention of policy makers who developed a strategy for facing climate change, which includes:

- Analysis and assessment of the vulnerability of oases to CC
- Capacity building for better planning
- Promotion of innovative actions and green projects for CC adaptation
- Water risk management
- Assessment of carbon sequestration in Tunisian oases
- Setting up of an observatory and warning system against climate change risks

Mr. Issaoui concluded with an overview of the GIAHS strategy in Tunisia and its progress. First of all the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2030) which promotes the development of GIAHS by enhancing research and development in the Gafsa oasis, but also promotes the identification of new sites as GIAHS. These are: the suspended gardens of Djebba, and Ghar el Melah, as well as other oases. Furthermore, as a strategy to develop a stable structure for GIAHS in the country, a National Commission has been established in February 2017 and is currently functioning as the main body to evaluate and select new sites, before their submission to FAO.

4. Session 3: Opportunities and new synergies for GIAHS

1. GIAHS and Agroecology: Key assets of the Agro-Ecological Transition

Francois Léger, Agro-Paris Tech

Professor François Léger from Université Paris-Saclay, France elaborated a presentation on the linkages between GIAHS and Agroecology.



Making our food systems sustainable is a challenge in a globalized world, given the as climate change and loss of biodiversity, deep rooted changes in our societies and economies. Given these challenges the ingenious systems of GIAHS gain importance nowadays and also to highlight the essential link that is common to these new initiatives: Agroecology and GIAHS. The future of agriculture is not input intensive, but knowledge intensive. An integrated approach offered by agroecology is needed. Dr. Léger highlighted that today it became clear

that we can't control nature with technology and inputs, which are difficult to access by many farmers of the world. In order to build sustainable agro-ecological systems we need to work not against nature but with it, as GIAHS and Agroecology demonstrate. The main principles of agroecology are shared by GIAHS principles and definition.

Agroecosystems are developed and created by human activity to overcome their food and nonfood needs, therefore there is no agroecosystem without a community living in it. These need to be built in a way that its techniques, practices and standards, as well as the world view are also ecological factors and do not exploit nature.

GIAHS are ancient agricultural systems with deep knowledge about agroecology, and he argued that we need to learn from GIAHS and think about how we can replicate the agro-ecological knowledge in GIAHS to other areas in order to build sustainable agricultural system based on the traditional agricultural systems. It is imperative to give a multi-disciplinary lens to study and work on these systems. GIAHS should not only be examples of local heritage but also could be elevated to social adaptation to the way that man and women adapt this knowledge to the challenges that we face. These dynamic natural resources need to be used adequately.

Agricultural traditional systems in GIAHS that we have seen are ancient systems that bring together governance of resources, such as water, as well as religious and social rules and regulations. This is the case for many agro-ecological systems and mostly for the ones that we know as GIAHS. The ecological intelligence is essential to these systems and this is what brings together GIAHS and agro-ecology. We need to learn agro-ecological principles, which are replicable. This is not ideological and idealistic; we need to trust this heritage, which is not just folkloric but also models from which we can learn. GIAHS can mobilize farmers and stakeholders to draw on this agro-ecological intelligence.

2. Opportunities for GIAHS products



Ms. Emilie Vandecandelaere from FAO Investment Centre presented product promotion strategies for sustainable agriculture by examining existing geographical indications (GI) and territorial branding. She argued that market strategies can bring various things to GIAHS sites, such as ensuring the future of the local production, strengthening producers' association and value chain coordination, and reinforcing visibility and reputation of the territory. She also suggested the way forward for the local stakeholders to establish territorial branding for future development.

Ms. Emilie Vandecandelaere presented how tapping on the economic and market standpoint of GIAHS sites can be of importance for their promotion and development. More specifically: labelling, territorial markets, among others. Promoting and preserving local products is important because they are the GIAHS ambassadors and can speak for the sites and enable consumers be at the local level or externally to understand what a GIAHS sites represents when it comes to traditional know how, quality, and taste. Also when it comes to sustainable tourism, in which local food plays an important role. Products can give visibility to GIAHS sites and promote conservation of agro-biodiversity. On the other hand, these sites are also a way to provide these products with more visibility on economic point of view. So not only economic value (which is very important for communities) but also if there is no remuneration in local markets, farmers can't cover production costs and could engage in more unsustainable and less costly practices. This is why it is important to give clear messages on the characteristics of these products.

There are two main points to be addressed when developing a marketing strategy for this kind of product. It's important to identify the characteristics of a GIAHS product: just a product coming from the site or a product that reflects ingenious agricultural practices? How to define the products and how to convey this message when trying to give visibility to it. How consumers can support such measure and how private sector can also be involved. Secondly, how to guarantee its quality: certification.

For labelling strategies it is important to combine two complementary approaches:

1. Emblematic products to strengthen territorial reputation
2. Territorial brand: will affect products but also related activities

As for geographical indications: combining geographical indications with GIAHS can be done through the concept of terroir which encompasses food heritage and territorial development. This could lead to sustainable development, official recognition of the product and the system from where it is derived, as well as lead to *in situ* conservation. This can be a market tool with important economic impacts (FAO, 2018) and an important strategy for economic sustainability as a whole.

Concluded with examples from GIAHS sites which also see the interaction with GI: Barroso, Kunisaki peninsula, Lonjing Tea.

Territorial branding, lined to labelling it's very important when it comes to GIAHS branding. The brand has to do with the territory and it also identifies activities and services to make the most of tourism, as well as educational and food related activities. Coordination at the local level is very important to define standards at different categories of products at local level, but also coordination at national and international level to ensure consistency when it comes to labeling.

3. UNESCO World Heritage Center: Synergies with GIAHS

UNESCO Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, Focal point for Europe and North America, World Heritage Center

“Strengthening Synergies on Agricultural Heritage”



Ms. Anatole Gabriel introduced opportunities to find synergies and started by stating that GIAHS sites give justice to the diversity of our planet and UNESCO is also very attached to this diversity (cultural and natural). Thanked the opportunity to take the floor after the presentation on Geographic Indications and marketing of GIAHS products, because it's a way to protect intellectual property rights, which is one of the main entry points for establishing synergies among designated areas and between UNESCO and FAO, as well as the new

guiding principles of GIAHS which are being developed, as mentioned by the Chairman of the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group. In this kind of efforts we can find a combination of different assets: environmental, natural, cultural, economic, which will directly benefit societies and communities which are at the end the keepers of agricultural landscapes.

The presentation focused on two parts reflecting this approach: first part on World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the second part the result of a research activity on the value of agricultural landscapes.

The 1972 Convention for the protection of cultural heritage is very famous and widely ratified. However, it took around 20 years to reach a level where UNESCO recognized the need to integrate culture and nature, and it's only in 1992 that the state parties of the convention created the category of Cultural Landscapes. Since its creation, this category has been diversely used by State Parties to nominate different types of properties. Today there are 103 cultural landscape among which 30% are agricultural landscapes. The highest number is in Europe and North American Region, not because of a particular characteristic of this region but only because the region is the most represented in the World Heritage List, representing half of the sites recognized in the list with more than 1000 properties. Proportionally, Africa and Asia Pacific Region, have the highest percentage of cultural landscapes.

Because of the high number of properties in the list, it becomes an issue to adapt conservation practices of such properties, especially for the living heritages such as the agricultural landscapes. A wide range of essays have been published in the past decades, theorizing modalities of conservation and management of such properties and also a number of publications of UNESCO's main partners such as IUCN and MIDAS trying to combine conservation practices and guidelines, including the Ramsar Convention.

Within UNESCO itself a number of programs such as the Man and Biosphere Reserves (MAB), Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme (LiNKS), and of course the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention of 2003, have contributed to a better understanding of the complexities of sustainable management of agricultural and cultural landscapes at large. There was also an attempt to collect the best practices in managing UNESCO properties.

The issue of best practices brings us to the global challenge for agricultural landscapes:

1. Food and access to land for agricultural uses;
2. Biodiversity and its links for cultural diversity;

3. Sustainable uses of non-renewable and renewable resources.

All these challenges are instrumental in the life of farming communities, and referring to what was mentioned by the Vice Minister of Spain, all these challenges are part of the 2030 agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and GIAHS can help address those challenges contributing to the global agenda.

Ms. Anatole-Gabriel, sees this as a first step of synergies that can be established between GIAHS and UNESCO's WHC, combining efforts and addressing global challenges in one response. In particular, seeing agricultural landscapes and their management as a research subject to build synergies between UNESCO and FAO, because they are recognized through different designation systems such as World Heritage, GIAHS, MAB, Geographical Indications, etc. Part of the response to those challenges have been provided, whether as sustainable land use systems recognition, either for their contribution to the sustainability of biological or cultural diversity, or (in WHC) as reservoirs of tangible and intangible heritage. For example, the vineyards, which are the most representative cultural landscapes in Europe and some of them have developed a very successful market model, such as Piedmont and Burgundy. Some of them have combined UNESCO recognition with Geographical Indication, or other types of recognitions. The second example is the rice terraces in Asia: their huge potential has been already recognized by using GIAHS, and some of them have also used the WHC recognition. But for the rice product, a GI would be a further option. The third example is coffee landscapes in Latin America (Cuba and Colombia), which have succeeded in the combination of large coffee productions but with an adequate branding they have increased income of local communities, despite big brands such as Nespresso and others. But these areas have succeeded in keeping most of the benefits for local farming communities.

By putting together some of the common important sites in GIAHS and World Heritage and trying to develop a research project, combining resources and skills, there are good chances to work together and develop synergies between FAO and UNESCO on this specific topic.

5. Closing of the Forum: the way forward

Remarks by Mr René Castro-Salazar, Assistant Director-General, Climate Biodiversity Land and Water Department of FAO



Mr. Castro thanked the GIAHS team for the organization of this important meeting, since the Secretariat is composed of a very small group.

He then reminded the history of GIAHS and that it took 16 years to reach 50 GIAHS sites in 20 countries. With this, it could be stated that phase 1 is completed. This phase took a lot of efforts: pilot sites were established, hard work to convince stakeholders, and reminded how the program has evolved to the point that in the International Forum the first European and the 1st North American site were recognized. The first phase was a learning process, in which FAO demonstrated that a GEF funded project could be sustainable even after its closure. These are good news for the GEF: it is one of its success stories. Like in any successful story we should ask ourselves what is next, what is the second phase.



Mr. Castro reminded that there is a big challenge we are at FAO, which is the commitment to achieve food security and eliminate hunger. Few years from now there will be 10 billion people on Earth, and this means 50-70 % more food will be needed, and more importantly our planet can't resist if we produce the way we are doing it now. Emitting 6 tons per capita of CO₂ today (US 17, Germany 12, Italy 7, Costa Rica 2,5) is not sustainable, and scientists have been telling the world and alerting us that the maximum the atmosphere can resist is 10 Giga tons per year, only one ton per capita per year.

GIAHS are showcasing sustainable productive methods, so we cannot wait another 16 years to have 100 GIAHS sites. We will need to scale up and scale out this concept. In Mr. Castro's opinion we need to use more markets, and establish more synergies. There is a strong need for alliances with NGOs, the private sector, farmers working closer with us, hoping that a few years from now we can reach at least 50 countries with 200 sites. Prof. Agnoletti and Italy announced that they will help to prepare 75-100 students to understand what means to manage sites like this. We need other partners preparing managers and making these sites sustainable. More countries to be able to identify GIAHS sites in new countries. Also countries which have the national sites like china, we should take the national sites and connect them with the global ones. Finally, there is a need to use modern instruments. National sites should be connected to the global sites in every country and then all the global sites should be connected to wider networks, because we are facing climate change, biodiversity extinction, we need to know if there is a pest attacking one site or if there is a new disease appearing in one country to alert others and inform others about products, services, managers, as a system we can encourage tourists to go to one site and to the other. Mexico, China, Sri Lanka, all linked in the same network.

In conclusion, Mr. Castro invited partners in the audience (member countries, government officials, farmers, and civil society) to indicate the road to the next phase. He exhorted everyone to contact FAO on what they hope for the future of GIAHS. Including support in the form of funding, in kind, technical, students coming to the courses, etc. For the second phase to be faster, quicker, more extensive, that will help us to dream and to have hope that climate change could be tackled.



Side events

GIAHS Products and Photo Exhibition by George Steinmetz “Farmers: the Earth’s artists”

As a side event of the International Forum, FAO held the GIAHS Products and Photo Exhibition in the Atrium of FAO Headquarters. In the event, the visitors to the Forum were invited to see various products from the GIAHS sites and explanation panels with pictures and short description of the agricultural systems. The side event was designed to help the visitors to know GIAHS and how it works with illustrative pictures. In addition to information materials such as brochures, the representatives from GIAHS sites displayed their agricultural products in their own table, which attracted a lot of people. On the walls of the Atrium, the aerial photos taken by Mr. George Steinmetz were displayed to let the visitors see how GIAHS look like from the sky. The aerial photos let us realize the farmers are the Earth’s artists and they are the one that have created the spectacular landscapes of GIAHS.





Lessons learned, increased biodiversity and climate resilience in Tea GIAHS sites in China



Annexes

1. Agenda of the Forum

AGENDA

SESSION 1. Country Experiences on GIAHS and Lessons Learned

	Venue Green Room
10:30-10:35	Welcome Remarks Mr José Graziano Da Silva, <i>FAO Director-General</i>
10:35-11:20	Exchange of Experiences and Lessons Learned - Mr Zheng Taolin, <i>Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China</i> - Mr Andrea Olivero, <i>Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, Italy</i> - Mr Jaime Haddad Sánchez de Cuenca, <i>Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment, Spain</i> - Ms Maria Mashingo, <i>Permanent Secretary of Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania</i> - Mr Hajime Furuta, <i>Governor of Gifu Prefecture, Japan</i>

SESSION 2. Certificate Ceremony of Newly Designated GIAHS sites since 2016

	Venue Green Room
11:25-11:50	GIAHS Certificate Award Ceremony Mr José Graziano Da Silva, <i>FAO Director-General</i>
11:50-12:00	GIAHS and its future – A perspective from the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group Mr Mauro Agnolotti, <i>Chair of GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)</i>
12:00-12:10	Testimonial on GIAHS Mr George Steinmetz, <i>Award-winning photographer for National Geographic and The New York Times Magazine</i>
12:10-12:20	Group Photo
12:30-12:50	Launch of the Exhibition of GIAHS sites (Atrium)

A light lunch in the Atrium will be served from 13:00-14:30

SESSION 3. Presentation of new GIAHS site and Review of GIAHS Activities

	Venue Green Room
14:30-15:30	Presentation of the Newly Designated GIAHS sites Representatives from the newly designated GIAHS sites since 2016
15:30-15:40	Experience of GIAHS in Chiloé Island Ms Teresa Agüero Teare, <i>Ministry of Agriculture, Chile</i>
15:40-15:50	GIAHS and Agroecology Mr François Léger, <i>AgroParisTech – Paris Institute of Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences, France</i>
15:50-16:00	GIAHS and Biodiversity Ms Miriam Cerdán, <i>Director General for Biological Diversity, Ministry of Environment, Peru</i>
16:00-16:10	GIAHS and Climate Change - Mr Nouredine Nasr, <i>FAO Subregional Office for North Africa</i> - Mr Abdelhakim Issaoui, <i>National GIAHS Committee, Tunisia</i>
16:10-16:30	Questions and Answers
16:30-16:40	Opportunities for GIAHS Products Ms Emilie Vandecasteele, <i>Investment Centre/Nutrition and Food Systems Division, FAO</i>
16:40-16:50	UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Synergies with GIAHS Ms Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, <i>World Heritage Centre</i>
16:50-17:00	Closing Remarks Mr René Castro, <i>Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO</i>

SIDE EVENT

	Venue Iraq Room
13:00-14:30	Lessons learned, Increased biodiversity and climate resilience in Tea GIAHS sites in China





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