



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

Informational package



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## I. Origin of GIAHS

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Over centuries, generations of farmers, fisher folks and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural<sup>1</sup> systems with time-tested technologies. The background of creation and maintenance of these systems are farmers' efforts in many places of the world to overcome disadvantageous geographic and harsh climate conditions and to increase and stabilize crop yields in a sustainable manner. These systems have not only provided multiple goods and services for rural communities, but also created, maintained and inherited remarkable knowledge, outstanding rural landscapes, globally significant agricultural biodiversity and unique cultures.

Building on generations of accumulated knowledge and experience by smallholders, family farming and indigenous communities, these systems have been adapted to ever changing environment and climate conditions which finally have acquired resilience and robustness so as to ensure food and livelihood security in the local communities and reduce risks.

## II. Definition

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As defined by FAO in 2002, GIAHS are “remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development”.

## III. GIAHS Criteria (short version)<sup>2</sup>

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GIAHS sites are expected to fulfil the following criteria which well demonstrate the characteristics of GIAHS which focus agricultural production as a basis and has both tangible and intangible effects.

1. Food and Livelihood Security
2. Agro-biodiversity
3. Local and Traditional Knowledge systems
4. Cultures, Value systems and Social Organisations
5. Landscapes and Seascapes Features

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<sup>1</sup> “Agriculture” in the context of GIAHS incorporates forestry and fisheries following the FAO definition.

<sup>2</sup> Full version of the criteria is written together with Action Plan in page 15



## IV. Characteristics of GIAHS

The concept of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is distinct from, and more complex than, a conventional heritage site or protected area/landscape. GIAHS is a living, evolving system of human communities in an intricate relationship with their territory, cultural or agricultural landscape or biophysical and wider social environment. The humans and their livelihood activities have continually adapted to the potentials and constraints of the environment and also shaped the landscape and the biological environment to different degrees. The resilience of many GIAHS sites has been developed and adapted to cope with climatic variability and change, natural hazards, new technologies and changing social and political situations, so as to ensure food and livelihood security and alleviate risk.

## V. Goal and Objectives

**Goal:** The overall goal of the global initiative is to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity<sup>3</sup> and knowledge systems through catalyzing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

**Objectives:** To achieve this goal, the main objectives are:

1. **To leverage global and national recognition of the importance of agricultural heritage systems and institutional support for their safeguard;**
  - a. global recognition is obtained through the creation of the Agricultural Heritage Systems categories supported by governments, FAO governing bodies, UNESCO, World Heritage Centre and other partners;
  - b. national recognition and awareness is raised by improving understanding of the threats that such agricultural systems face, of their global importance and of the benefits that they provide at all levels.
2. **Capacity building of local farming communities and local and national institutions to conserve and manage GIAHS, generate income and add economic value to goods and services of such systems in a sustainable fashion;**
  - a. identify ways to mitigate risks of erosion of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, land degradation and threats posed by globalization processes, and skewed policies and incentives;
  - b. strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, reducing vulnerability to climate change, enhancing sustainable agriculture and rural development and as a result contributing to food security and poverty alleviation;
  - c. enhancing the benefits derived by local populations from conservation and sustainable use of their resources and their ingenious systems and rewarding them through the payment

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<sup>3</sup> See section VI



for Environmental Services, Eco-labelling, Eco-tourism and other incentive mechanisms and market opportunities.

3. **To promote enabling regulatory policies and incentive environments to support the conservation, evolutionary adaptation and viability of GIAHS;**
  - a. assessment of existing policies and incentive mechanisms, and identification of modalities to provide support for sustainable agricultural practices;
  - b. promotion of national and international processes leading to improved policies and incentive mechanisms.

## VI. Dynamic Conservation

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Dynamic conservation aims at conservation and adaptive management of the GIAHS site and agricultural, social/economic development through various available measures implemented by major stakeholders as have been formulated in Action Plans<sup>4</sup>, maintaining the balance between conservation and development.

The measures that should be carried out for dynamic conservation include a wide range of means such as technical support to local farmers in productivity improvement, quality improvement and soil improvement, niche market development, branding of local agricultural products, promotion of agro-tourism, diversification of income sources, involvement of female farmers and local farmers in decision making process, control of development around the GIAHS sites, management programme of agricultural resources and biodiversity.

Dynamic conservation strategies and process allow maintaining biodiversity and essential ecosystem services thanks to continuous innovation, transfer between generations and exchange with other communities and ecosystems. The wealth and breadth of accumulated knowledge and experience in the management and use of resources is a globally significant treasure that needs to be promoted and conserved and, at the same time, allowed to evolve.

## VII. Chronology of GIAHS Development

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### Starting of GIAHS

In response to the global trends that undermine family agriculture and traditional agricultural systems, in 2002, during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, South Africa), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations launched a Global Partnership Initiative on conservation and adaptive management of “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems”.

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<sup>4</sup> Please see Appendix 4: “Action Plan” is one important part of a proposal document, which illustrates effective measures to be implemented by national, local government, public institutions, private sectors, local communities, farmers’ organizations and civil societies to promote dynamic conservation of the site.



#### Expansion of GIAHS activity

Since then, using various extra budgetary financial resources<sup>5</sup>, many global or country projects have been implemented to assist member countries in identifying and conserving the GIAHS sites and making GIAHS propose documents through communication with local communities and involvement of relevant stakeholders. For example, GEF projects which had been carried out 2008-14 resulted in the designation of the first series of 8 GIAHS sites in six countries selected as pilot countries, namely, Algeria, Chile, China, Peru, Philippines and Tunisia as a result of its six years of implementation. There had been several country projects which also had supported making of GIAHS proposals and subsequent designation of the sites.

Moreover, international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training courses to enhance the capacity of member countries and to disseminate the concept of GIAHS have been carried out. This included a large scale of international GIAHS Forum which had been held four times in Rome (2006), Buenos Aires (2009), Beijing (2011) and Noto in Japan (2013) where many stakeholders were invited and shared their experiences on implementation of measures relevant to GIAHS. In particular, Noto Forum adopted "Not Communiqué" which recommends:

- i. GIAHS designated sites should be periodically monitored and their viability maintained;
- ii. The progressive designation of further GIAHS sites to promote the conservation of agricultural heritage;
- iii. The promotion of on the ground projects and activities, particularly in developing countries;
- iv. Existing GIAHS support the recognition of candidatures of GIAHS areas in less developed countries; and
- v. The promotion of twinning of GIAHS sites between developed and developing countries.

As a result of these activities, the designated GIAHS sites have increased to 37 sites in 16 countries as you can see in Appendix 1. Designated Sites and the GIAHS programme has gained considerable recognition both at the international and national levels.

At the global level, GIAHS has been very much appreciated at various intergovernmental fora. At the national level, GIAHS has contributed to the adoption of policies that integrate agricultural heritage into agricultural development programmes. It has also been influential in promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, the protection of traditional knowledge systems, culture and, more importantly, creating a bridge to a sustainable future.

#### New GIAHS Features after FAO Conference in 2015

- ✚ With increased recognition and visibility of GIAHS in many countries and international fora, the 148th session of the FAO Council (December 2013) agreed that the GIAHS should be vested with formal status within the FAO framework.
  - The Council endorsed the initiation of a process for the development of a draft Conference Resolution for anchoring GIAHS within the Organization.

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<sup>5</sup> The donor countries and international organizations which provided financial resources to GIAHS activity were; Germany, Global Environmental Facility (GEF), IFAD. The present donor countries which support GIAHS Programme with voluntary contribution are China and Japan.



- ✚ This initiative was discussed in several governing bodies including the 24th session of the COAG in 2014 and finally has led to the decision by the 39th FAO Conference in 2015 that endorsed GIAHS as FAO Corporate programme in the following ways;
  - Regular budget was made available to support P-5 officer and general service staff costs during 2016-17 with the understanding that the work on GIAHS will primarily rely on extra budgetary funding (currently, GIAHS is funded by Chinese and Japanese trust funds)
  - GIAHS is recognized as contributing to the FAO SO2 in the Strategic framework.
- ✚ The working arrangements of the GIAHS programme have been streamlined to facilitate light and smooth operations through the establishment of a new Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), which initiated its activities since 2016 for a two-year period. (Appendix 2)
  - In 2016, the SAG had 2 sessions and developed guidelines for designation process which clearly stipulates the process for GIAHS designation (Appendix 3) and revised criteria as well as application templates.
- ✚ 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (26-30 September 2016) discussed GIAHS and conclude in the following ways.
  - The COAG supported the work of GIAHS for its contribution to sustainable agriculture, the conservation of biodiversity, food security and environmental sustainability.
  - The COAG encouraged FAO to further align the GIAHS programme and activities within its Strategic Objectives through country and regional level delivery mechanisms.
- ✚ In November 2016, FAO and Italian Ministry of Agriculture signed MoU for disseminating GIAHS in Italy.

## VIII. Relevance with other international activities and international acknowledgment

In the international arena, appreciation for GIAHS was expressed in various intergovernmental fora, such as the Conferences of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 2008<sup>6</sup>, and of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010<sup>7</sup>. GIAHS also has been acknowledged in the international communique and declaration.

The declaration announced by the Third APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in September 2014 supported FAO's work on GIAHS and mentioned GIAHS in its relevance to rural development. G-20 Agriculture Minister Meeting in June 2016 also welcomed GIAHS in the context of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in food and agriculture.

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<sup>6</sup> Resolution X.31 invited Parties to consider recognition or protection of rice paddies “through mechanisms such as the FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems Programme”.

<sup>7</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, Articles 10c and 8j and Decision X/34 called for strengthening approaches, which promote the sustainability of agricultural systems and landscapes such as “the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations”.



## IX. The Promotion of Collaboration with UNESCO

The GIAHS Secretariat is now communicating with the UNESCO to seek collaboration between GIAHS and World Heritage activity in such a way to hold an annual information exchange meeting and invitation of officers to the relevant meeting on both sides. GIAHS is different from UNESCO World Heritage in that GIAHS focuses on agricultural system and how agriculture has been developed and adapted from the perspectives of both tangible and intangible features as is well reflected in the GIAHS five criteria, while UNESCO World Heritage seems to have more focus on landscape and tangible aspects. Nonetheless, it is quite useful to establish communication with UNESCO to exchange information and learn each other.

## X. Future GIAHS Development

Due to increased global interest on GIHAS from various international fora and member countries, GIAHS programme is expected to make further progress and development in the following manner.

### 1. More global expansion of the designated GIAHS sites.

Currently the most GIAHS sites are observed in Asian region. But this does not mean that other countries in different regions do not have potential GIAHS sites. Insufficient information and of awareness of GIAHS concept and their impacts, lack of capacity to identify potential GIAHS sites and make appropriate proposals and difficulty to involve local communities are major obstacles for GIAHS dissemination. FAO should work more closely with these countries which have potential GIAHS sites through its country or regional offices to achieve this objective.

### 2. Pursuant to more effective measures for dynamic conservation

The ultimate goal of GIAHS is to conserve the GIAHS sites while pursuing necessary adaptation to the contemporary natural, ecological, social and economic environments. This means that GIAHS sites are expected to aim at development not only of agricultural production and resource management, but also of social and economic aspects necessary to make them possible to overcome the threats and challenges they has faced, while retaining the core elements and unique features of the sites.

In order to accomplish this, various effective measures should be implemented with involvement of the local communities by local communities, farmer's organizations and local and national government in a collaborative and mutually supportive way under the action plan for dynamic conservation. Normally the action plan for dynamic conservation is made in GIAHS proposal documents. However, this action plan should be preferably evaluated periodically in terms of its effectiveness and appropriate corrected actions as a result of such evaluation.

### 3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring the current state of the GIAHS designated sites should be conducted to grasp the effectiveness of the implemented measures and evaluation of measures and their outcomes also needs to be done to see whether the current measures for dynamic conservation is appropriate and to seek any room for improvement. Appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation methodology should be also established in the future.



#### 4. Dissemination of the knowledge and technology of the GIAHS sites based on scientific analysis

It is expected that more scientific analysis with objective data and evidence and the dissemination of the knowledge, technologies and good agricultural practices using such scientific evidence observed in the GIAHS sites could bring about national, regional and global benefits, thus contributing to the achievement of FAO strategic objectives and SDGs.



## Appendix1: Designated GIAHS sites

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Name of sites/systems</u>	<u>Designation Year</u>	
<u>Algeria</u>	<u>1. Ghout System (Oases of the Maghreb)</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Bangladesh</u>	<u>2. Floating Garden Agricultural Practices</u>	<u>2015</u>	
<u>Chile</u>	<u>3. Chiloé Agriculture</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>China</u>	<u>4. Rice Fish Culture</u>	<u>2005</u>	
	<u>5. Wannian Traditional Rice Culture</u>	<u>2010</u>	
	<u>6. Hani Rice Terraces</u>	<u>2010</u>	
	<u>7. Dong's Rice Fish Duck System</u>	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>8. Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem</u>	<u>2012</u>	
	<u>9. Aohan Dryland Farming System</u>	<u>2012</u>	
	<u>10. Kuajishan Ancient Chinese Torreya</u>	<u>2013</u>	
	<u>11. Urban Agricultural Heritage – Xuanhua Grape Garden</u>	<u>2013</u>	
	<u>12. Jiaxian Traditional Chinese Date Gardens</u>	<u>2014</u>	
	<u>13. Xinghua Duotian Agrosystem</u>	<u>2014</u>	
	<u>14. Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System</u>	<u>2014</u>	
	<u>Egypt</u>	<u>15. Dates production System in Siwa Oasis</u>	<u>2016</u>
	<u>India</u>	<u>16. Saffron Heritage of Kashmir</u>	<u>2011</u>
		<u>17. Koraput Traditional Agriculture</u>	<u>2012</u>
<u>18. Kuttanad Below Sea Level Farming System</u>		<u>2013</u>	
<u>Islamic Republic of Iran</u>	<u>19. Qanat Irrigated Agricultural Heritage Systems, Kashan</u>	<u>2014</u>	
<u>Japan</u>	<u>20. Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi</u>	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>21. Sado's Satoyama in Harmony with Japanese Crested Ibis</u>	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>22. Managing Aso Grasslands for Sustainable Agriculture</u>	<u>2013</u>	
	<u>23. Traditional Tea-grass Integrated System in Shizuoka</u>	<u>2013</u>	
	<u>24. Kunisaki Peninsula Usa Integrated Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries System</u>	<u>2013</u>	
	<u>25. Ayu of the Nagara River System</u>	<u>2015</u>	
	<u>26. Minabe-Tanabe Ume System</u>	<u>2015</u>	
<u>27. Takachihogo-Shiibayama Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry System</u>	<u>2015</u>		
<u>Kenya</u>	<u>28. Oldonyonokie/Olkeri Maasai Pastoralist Heritage</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Morocco</u>	<u>29. Oases System in Atlas Mountains (Oases of the Maghreb)</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Peru</u>	<u>30. Andean Agriculture</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Philippines</u>	<u>31. Ifugao Rice Terraces</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Republic of Korea</u>	<u>32. Traditional Gudeuljang Irrigated Rice Terraces in Cheongsando</u>	<u>2014</u>	
	<u>33. Jeju Batdam Agricultural System</u>	<u>2014</u>	
<u>Tanzania</u>	<u>34. Engaresero Maasai Pastoralist Heritage Area</u>	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>35. Shimbue Juu Kihamba Agroforestry Heritage Site</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>Tunisia</u>	<u>36. Gafsa Oases (Oases of the Maghreb)</u>	<u>2011</u>	
<u>United Arab Emirates</u>	<u>37. Al Ain and Liwa Historical Date Palm Oases</u>	<u>2015</u>	



The current designated GIAHS sites reflect wide variety of agricultural types in different parts of the world and reveal human wisdoms to overcome difficulties. Most of the GIAHS sites in North African region is Oasis agriculture where local farmers have established and maintained for a long time excellent and sustainable water management practices, crop growing technologies to combat water scarcity condition.

Maasai Pastoral System both in Kenya and Tanzania is an example of sustainable nomadic system which has lasted for a long time in harmony with the surrounding nature. Rice terraces in China and the Philippines not only show magnificent landscapes but also have ingenious water management systems and seed management practices.

Chiloe Agriculture in Chile and Andean Agriculture in Peru are the showcases of endemic species of crops important for human consumption. Bangladesh Floating Garden demonstrates how famers who had suffered from flooding can be innovative to counter such a harsh environment.



## Appendix2: The List of the Scientific Advisory Group of GIAHS

Region	Country	Name	Title and Institute/Office/University/Ministry
Africa	Kenya	Helida Oyieke	Chief Research Scientist at National Museums of Kenya
Asia/Pacific	China	Min Qing Wen(*)	Professor of Center for Natural and Cultural Heritage Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS
Asia/Pacific	Japan	Kazuhiko Takeuchi(*)	Senior Vice-Rector of United Nations University (Tokyo)
Europe	Italy	Mauro Agnoletti(*)	Associate Professor of University of Firenze
Latin America and Caribbean	Brazil	Patricia Goulart Bustamante	Researcher of EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation)
Near East	Tunisia	Slim Zekri	Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Natural Resource Economics, College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University
North America	Canada	Anne MacDonald(*)	Professor in Sophia University Graduate School of Environmental Studies (Japan)

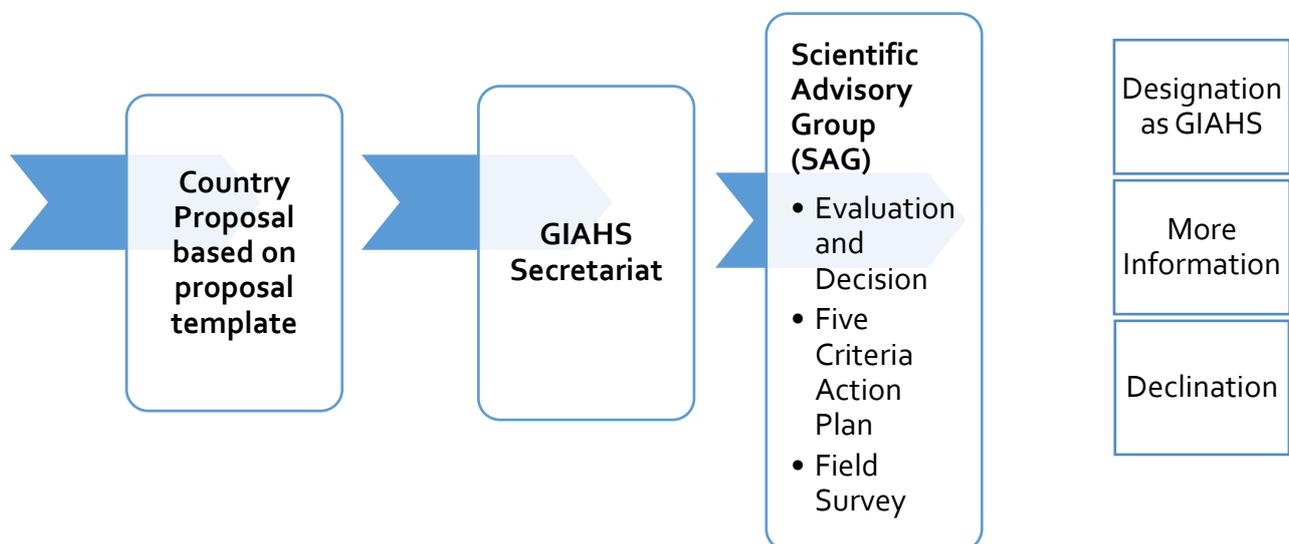
(\*) The experts who were the members of the GIAHS Scientific Committee.



## Appendix3: GIAHS Designations Process

The process for designation of GIAHS sites starts from a proposal from a member country which nominates its potential GIAHS site. A proposal document is expected to be submitted from an appropriate national government ministry or institute or a national GIAHS Committee.

2. The GIAHS Secretariat reviews the proposal document to check whether the document is compliant with the proposal template and sufficient information is provided in line with the GIAHS selection criteria.
3. Once the proposal document satisfies these conditions, it is sent to the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for its scientific evaluation. The SAG makes its comprehensive evaluation including the outcome of field survey of the proposed site.
4. When the SAG conclude that the proposal fulfils the GIAHS selection criteria as a result of its evaluation, the SAG designates it as GIAHS site. When the SAG concludes that more information should be provided in the proposal document, the SAG sent it back to the proposing country through Secretariat for revision and resubmission. The SAG also can make a decision that the proposed site does not meet the criteria.





## Appendix 4: Selection Criteria and Action Plan

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### Preamble

1. The proposed site should be of global importance. This is a composite criterion under which the overall value of an agricultural<sup>8</sup> system with historical background and contemporary relevance<sup>9</sup> is recognized as a heritage of human kind.
2. The features of the system should be summarized in terms of their agricultural and cultural heritage value, their relevance to global concerns addressing sustainable development, biocultural diversity<sup>10</sup>, including agro-biodiversity and ecosystems management.
3. Five criteria have been developed to represent the totality of the functionalities, goods and services provided by the system. The criteria reflect the complex relationships and linkages between the system's elements as an integrative holistic system.
4. The proposed GIAHS site will be assessed based on the following five criteria and an action plan. The assessment will take into account a wide variation in the specific features of the proposed site which has been formed and developed in different geographic, climatic, and socio-economic conditions.

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<sup>8</sup>The term “agriculture” and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products (From Paragraph 1, Article I of the FAO Constitution).

<sup>9</sup> The systems'/sites' contemporary relevance is established by its present and future capacity to provide food and livelihood security, to contribute to human well-being and quality of life, and to generate other local, national and global economic and environmental goods and services to its community and wider society. This relates to the relevance of an agricultural system/site to global or national policy and sustainable development challenges, most prominently achieving food security, human well-being and environmental goals, such as climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, water, land and biodiversity conservation. It should highlight particular lessons learnt or principles that can be derived from the system/site, which might be applied elsewhere.

<sup>10</sup> Biocultural diversity is a dynamic place based aspect arising from the links between cultural and biological diversity. It results from the combination of historical and on-going environmental and land use processes and cultural heritage. The GIAHS sites are multifunctional landscapes and/or seascapes providing a crucial and effective space for integration of biological and cultural diversity for human wellbeing.



## GIAHS Selection Criteria

### 1. Food and Livelihood Security

The proposed agricultural system contributes to food and/or livelihood security of local communities. This includes a wide variety of agricultural types such as self-sufficient and semi-subsistence agriculture where provisioning and exchanges take place among local communities, which contributes to rural economy.

### 2. Agro-biodiversity

Agricultural biodiversity, as defined by FAO<sup>11</sup> as the variety of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries. The system should be endowed with globally significant biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture (e.g. endemic, domesticated, rare, endangered species of crops and animals).

### 3. Local and Traditional Knowledge systems

The system should maintain local and invaluable traditional knowledge and practices, ingenious adaptive technology and management systems of natural resources, including biota, land, water which have supported agricultural, forestry and/or fishery activities.

### 4. Cultures, Value systems and Social Organisations<sup>12</sup>

Cultural identity and sense of place are embedded in and belong to specific agricultural sites. Social organizations, value systems and cultural practices associated with resource management and food production may ensure conservation of and promote equity in the use and access to natural resources. Such social organizations<sup>13</sup> and practices may take the form of customary laws and practices as well as ceremonial, religious and/or spiritual experiences.

### 5. Landscapes and Seascapes Features

GIAHS sites should represent landscapes or seascapes that have been developed over time through the interaction between humans and the environment, and appear to have stabilized or to evolve very slowly. Their form, shape and interlinkages are characterized by long historical persistence and a strong connection with the local socio-economic systems that produced them. Their stability, or slow evolution, is the evidence of integration of food production, the environment and culture in a given

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<sup>11</sup> FAO defines agro-biodiversity as follows: The variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries. It comprises the diversity of genetic resources (varieties, breeds) and species used for food, fodder, fibre, fuel and pharmaceuticals. It also includes the diversity of non-harvested species that support production (soil micro-organisms, predators, pollinators), and those in the wider environment that support agro-ecosystems (agricultural, pastoral, forest and aquatic) as well as the diversity of the agro-ecosystems.”

<sup>12</sup> Social organization is defined as individuals, families, groups or communities that play a key role on the agricultural systems’ organization and dynamic conservation.

<sup>13</sup> Local social organizations may play a critical role in balancing environmental and socio-economic objectives, creating enhancing resilience and reproducing all elements and processes critical to the functioning of the agricultural systems.



area or region. They may have the form of complex land use systems, such as land use mosaics, water and coastal management systems.

### Action Plan for Sustainability of the System

An Action Plan for a dynamic conservation of the proposed GIAHS site must be developed with the proposal. The recommended items to be included in the Action Plan would be an analysis of threats and challenges and detailed descriptions of the policies, strategies, actions and outcomes which are already under implementation and/or will be implemented in the area by various relevant stakeholders to promote dynamic conservation of GIAHS with the following supplementary information:

- ✚ Identify and analyze threats and challenges, including socio-economic pressures and environmental changes to the continuity of the existence, sustainability and viability of the system;
- ✚ What are the proposed policies, strategies and actions and how will they respond to the threats as described;
- ✚ How these policies, strategies and actions will contribute to the dynamic conservation of the proposed GIAHS site;
- ✚ How multi-stakeholders are involved, including local communities, and support the implementation of the Action Plan at local, national and international levels;
- ✚ How policies, strategies and actions can be used to leverage funding and/or mobilize resources at the local, national and/or international level;
- ✚ How monitoring and evaluation of the progress and the effect of the implementation of the Action Plan will be undertaken.



## Appendix 5: Template for GIAHS Proposal

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<b>Name/Title of the Agricultural Heritage System:</b>
<b>Requesting Agency/Organization:</b>
<b>Responsible Ministry (for the Government):</b>
<b>Location of the Site:</b> *please annex land use maps and geographical coordinates of the site
<b>Accessibility of the Site to Capital City or Major Cities:</b>
<b>Area of Coverage:</b>
<b>Agro-Ecological Zones<sup>14</sup> (for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries):</b>
<b>Topographic Features:</b>
<b>Climate Type:</b>
<b>Approximate Population (Beneficiary):</b>
<b>Ethnicity/Indigenous population:</b>
<b>Main Source of Livelihoods:</b>
<b>Executive Summary (one page approximately):</b>

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<sup>14</sup> The agro-ecological zones are defined by FAO as homogenous and contiguous areas with similar soil, land and climate characteristics.



## Appendix 6: Guidelines to describe the agricultural heritage system

### 1. Significance of the Proposed GIAHS Site

Explain the global importance of the Proposed GIAHS Site. Given that this is a composite criterion, the overall value of the agricultural system, as a heritage of human kind, should be described including historical background and contemporary relevance of the site.

Summarize the features and characteristics of the system in terms of their agricultural and other cultural heritage values, their relevance to global concerns addressing sustainable development, biocultural diversity, including agro-biodiversity and ecosystems management.

Explain the totality of the functionalities, goods and services provided by the system. The characteristics of the site should reflect the complex relationships and linkages between the system's elements as an integrative holistic system.

### 2. Characteristics of the Proposed GIAHS Site

The following five characteristics are essential for the assessment that will take into account a wide variation in the specific features of the proposed site, which has been formed and developed in different geographic, climatic, and socio-economic conditions.

#### 1. Food and Livelihood Security

Describe how the proposed agricultural system contributes to food and/or livelihood security of local communities. This includes a wide variety of agricultural types such as self-sufficient and semi-subsistence agriculture where provisioning and exchanges take place among local communities, which contributes to rural economy.

#### 2. Agro-biodiversity

Describe the agro-biodiversity of the site, according to FAO definition (the variety of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries). The system should be endowed with globally significant biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture (e.g. endemic, domesticated, rare, endangered species of crops and animals). A list of agro-biodiversity and related diversity elements should be included.

#### 3. Local and Traditional Knowledge Systems

Describe the current status of invaluable local and traditional knowledge, ingenious adaptive technology and management systems of natural resources, including biota, land and water, which have supported agricultural, forestry and/or fishery activities.

#### 4. Cultures, Value Systems and Social Organisations

Describe how the cultural identity and sense of place are embedded in and belong to the proposed site. In addition, illustrate how social organizations, value systems and cultural practices associated



with resources management and food production may ensure conservation of and promote equity in the use and access to natural resources. Indicate how local social organizations can play a critical role in balancing environmental and socio-economic objectives, in enhancing resilience and in the reproduction of all elements and processes critical to the functioning of the agricultural system.

### **5. Landscapes and Seascapes Features**

Describe the characteristics of landscapes and/or seascapes that have been developed over time through the interaction between humans and the environment, and appear to have stabilized or to evolve very slowly. Identify their form, shape and interlinkages characterized by long historical persistence and a strong connection with the local socio-economic systems that produced them.