

# Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

## Concept note and draft programme

### International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

29 May to 1 June 2013

Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan

## Concept note and Provisional Agenda

**Theme:** Contribution of Agricultural Heritage to a Sustainable World

**Around the world a myriad of family and community managed agricultural systems can be found that are part of humanity's common heritage. Over centuries, generations of farmers and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural systems, managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that lead to biodiversity conservation, food security, resilience of ecosystems and their provision of essential goods and services for humanity. The High Level Session of the GIAHS Forum 2013 will discuss and provide its public with a better understanding of the agricultural heritage concept and raise awareness about evolving traditional systems and sustainable management of natural resources that contribute to world food security.**

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

From concept to implementation, FAO's GIAHS Initiative has promoted public understanding, awareness and international and national recognition. It supports and safeguards Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in which social, cultural, economic and environmental goods and services provided by the family farmers, smallholders, indigenous peoples and local communities are significantly valuable.

Over the past decade, the FAO GIAHS Initiative has been piloting an innovative model for engaging communities and local and national governments in the adaptive management of agricultural heritage and conservation of system's goods and services. It has served as a learning laboratory for identifying new ways to sustain nature's bounty, the health of ecosystems, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, protection of traditional knowledge systems, culture, and more importantly, building a bridge for the sustainable future. The GIAHS concept has been widely acknowledged in international fora, which include, *inter alia*, the inclusion of the importance of the GIAHS initiative in the resolution of the **67th session of the Second Committee, General Assembly of the United Nations in 2012.**

The International Forum on GIAHS is held every other year and is hosted by one of the agricultural heritage sites, to share and exchange knowledge and experiences on dynamic conservation approaches, engaging stakeholders both from public and private sectors, in stewardship of resilient and unique agricultural systems. This year, the GIAHS Forum will be held in the Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan from 29 May to 1 June 2013. At this forum, a High Level Session will be held featuring Ministers, major United Nations and international organizations' officials and a distinct panel of experts. The High Level Session will discuss and provide its public with a better understanding of the GIAHS concept and raise awareness about evolving traditional and sustainable management of natural resources that contributes to world food security. The High level Session will also explore how to further sustain conservation and development efforts while taking into account the diversity of various agricultural conditions at local, national and regional levels.

The High Level Session will be held on 30 May 2013 in Hotel Aenokaze, Nanao City, Ishikawa, Japan.

### **Objectives of the Forum**

- To bring together international, national and local partners, policy-makers, representatives of civil society, farming communities, scientists, research institutions and intergovernmental and development cooperation agencies in order to exchange knowledge and best practices on evolving *agricultural* heritage systems from different continents and countries and to take stock of lessons learned;
- To provide elements for the systematic sustainable and innovative management of the GIAHS Partnership programme, promoting effective partnerships and networking with relevant organizations, institutions and related initiatives;
- To conduct a High Level Session “Contribution of GIAHS towards a sustainable world”
- To conduct the Ishikawa’s Public Forum
- To visit and experience an example of Japan’s agricultural heritage, Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi, Sado island, an epitome of a GIAHS.

### **Tentative Schedule of the Forum<sup>1</sup>**

#### **28 May - Arrival of Participants**

#### **DAY 1 / 29 May**

- Steering Committee Meeting
- Scientific Committee Meeting
- Parallel /thematic Sessions
- Country Presentations

#### **Day 2 / 30 May**

##### **High Level Session – Morning**

##### ***Opening Remarks***

*Mr Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General  
TBC (MAFF)*

*Mr Masanori Tanimoto, Governor, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan*

Keynote Address, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Emeritus Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chairman of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, Father of India’s Green Revolution)

##### ***Panel Session 1 - Sustainable utilization of local resources and contribution to Aichi Targets***

##### ***Panelists:***

*Ministers from selected countries implementing the GIAHS Initiative*

*Mr Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of Global Environment Facility (TBC)*

*Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary (TBC)*

*Mr Emile Frison, DG, Bioversity International*

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<sup>1</sup> Programme Agenda of the GIAHS Forum will be made available in April 2013.

***Panel Session 2 - Role of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in revitalizing rural areas and achieving the goals for sustainable development***

*Ministers from selected countries implementing the GIAHS Initiative*  
**Recognition Ceremony of new GIAHS sites**

**Ishikawa Public Forum - afternoon**

**Welcome Reception**

**GIAHS Exhibits**

**Day 3 / 31 May**

**Closing Session**

**Excursion to Noto (or Sado) GIAHS site (optional)**

- Experience the nature , culture and a taste of food in Noto or Sado island<sup>2</sup>

**Day 4 / 1<sup>st</sup> June (optional)**

**Excursion to Sado GIAHS site**

- Experience the nature , culture and a taste of food in Sado island<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For those attending the Noto site excursion, the last airplane departs from Noto at 16:40 and from Komatsu airport at 19:55. While for those who are interested in the excursion on Sado island will need to take a ship from Noto (2.5 hours) and stay an additional night.

<sup>3</sup> Participants of Sado GIAHS site excursion can go back to Tokyo by ship and train after this tour. Duration of the journey is 4 hours.