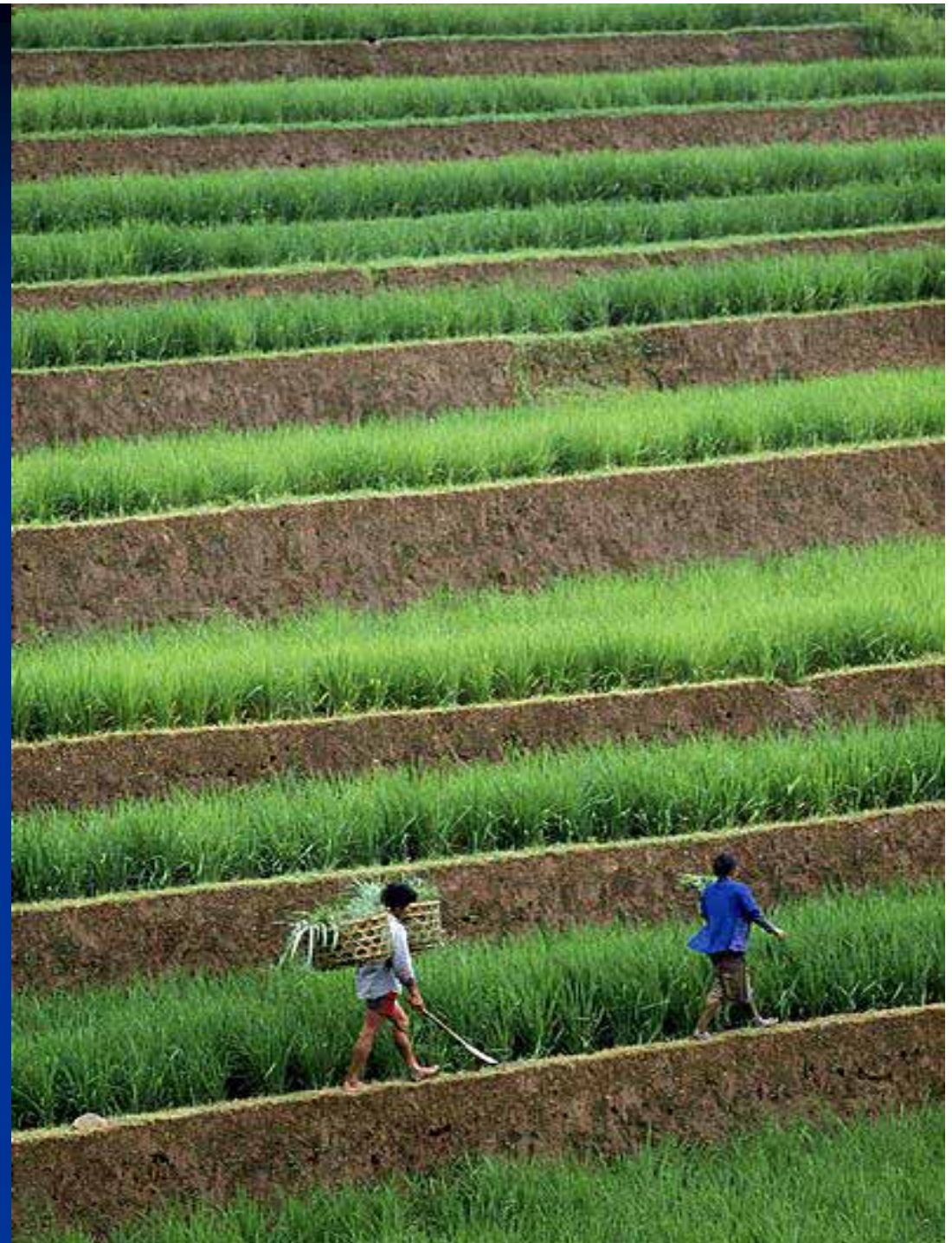


# GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS

## the GIAHS Initiative: From Concept to Implementation

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*What are GIAHS? Remarkable land use systems and landscapes, which are rich in biological diversity evolving from the dynamic co-adaptation of a rural community/population with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development (FAO 2002).*



# GIAHS: Heritage for the future

## *Definition :*

*Remarkable Land Use Systems and landscapes which are rich in biological diversity evolving from the ingenious and dynamic adaptation of a community/population to its environment and their needs and aspirations for sustainable development (FAO, 2002)*

GIAHS defines agriculture broadly, including:

- cropping systems
- pastoral transhumant and nomadic systems
- home gardens and agro-forestry systems
- fishing, hunting and gathering systems
- combinations and variations thereof



## Outstanding Characteristics:

- Agricultural Biodiversity (domesticated to wild)
- Landscapes
- Traditional knowledge and management systems
- Co-adapted forms of social organisation and cultures (values, gender patterns, customary law, etc.)
- Holistic and adaptive management
- Time tested and resilient

## Goods and Services:

- food and livelihood security
- environmental services
- support cultural diversity
- quality of life

Local and well beyond their borders

*Biodiversity can be seen as a "life insurance policy for life itself" - Something specially needed in this time of fast-paced global change. Kofi Annan*

In China



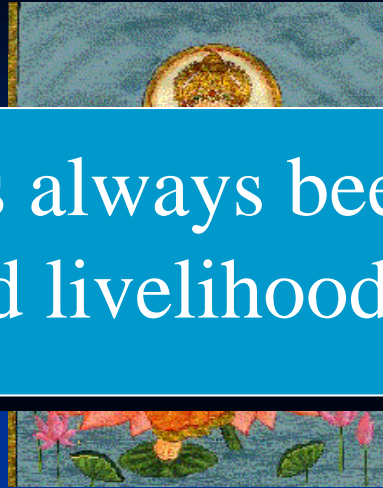
the Goddess **Guan Yin** took pity on humans and gave her milk and blood to create white and red rice.

In the Himalaya



Goddess **Pavarti**, the daughter of the mountains, was the first to grow rice.

In India



Rice is associated with prosperity and with the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, **Lakshmi**.

In Indonesia and Bali.



People perform rituals to honor **Dewi Sri**. As goddess and guardian of rice and the rice harvest,

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

In Japan



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

In Vietnam



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

In Hindu Temples



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



## THEY ARE UNDER THREAT BECAUSE OF:

- Inappropriate policy, legal and incentive environments,
- Industrialization of agriculture and Neglect of diversified systems and local knowledge,
- Low priority given to *in situ* conservation,
- Low community involvement in decision making,
- Population pressure and cultural change.



**The overall goal of the GIAHS initiative is:**

to “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” [cf. CBD: Article 8(j)], specifically within agricultural systems

## HOW ?

➤ **At Global level**

**by identification, selection and recognition of GIAHS**

➤ **At National level**

**by capacity building in policy, regulatory and incentive mechanisms to safeguard these outstanding systems and use them as sustainability bench mark systems**

➤ **At Local Level**

**by empowerment of local communities and technical assistance for sustainable resource management, promoting traditional knowledge and enhancing viability of these systems**















# GIAHS IS BASED ON THE FIVE ASSETS OF RURAL SYSTEMS

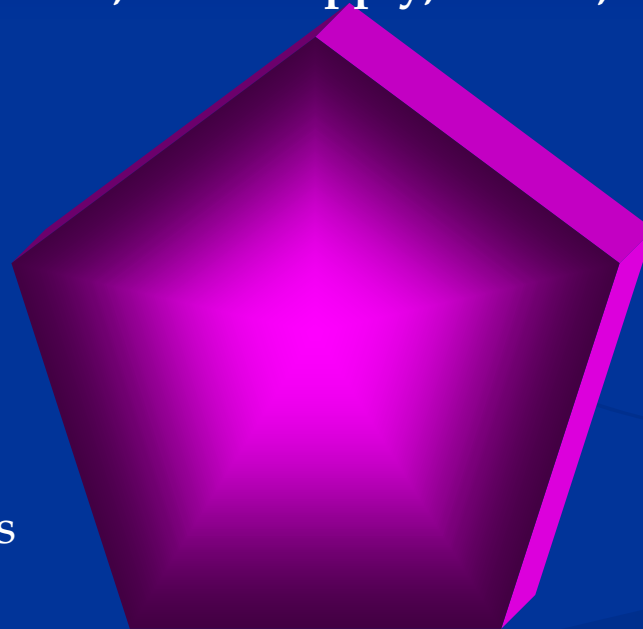
**Natural Capital:**  
nature's goods and services  
(waste assimilation, pollination, storm  
protection, water supply, leisure, wildlife)

**Social Capital:**  
cohesiveness of people  
and societies -  
trust, reciprocity,  
rules and norms,  
networks and institutions

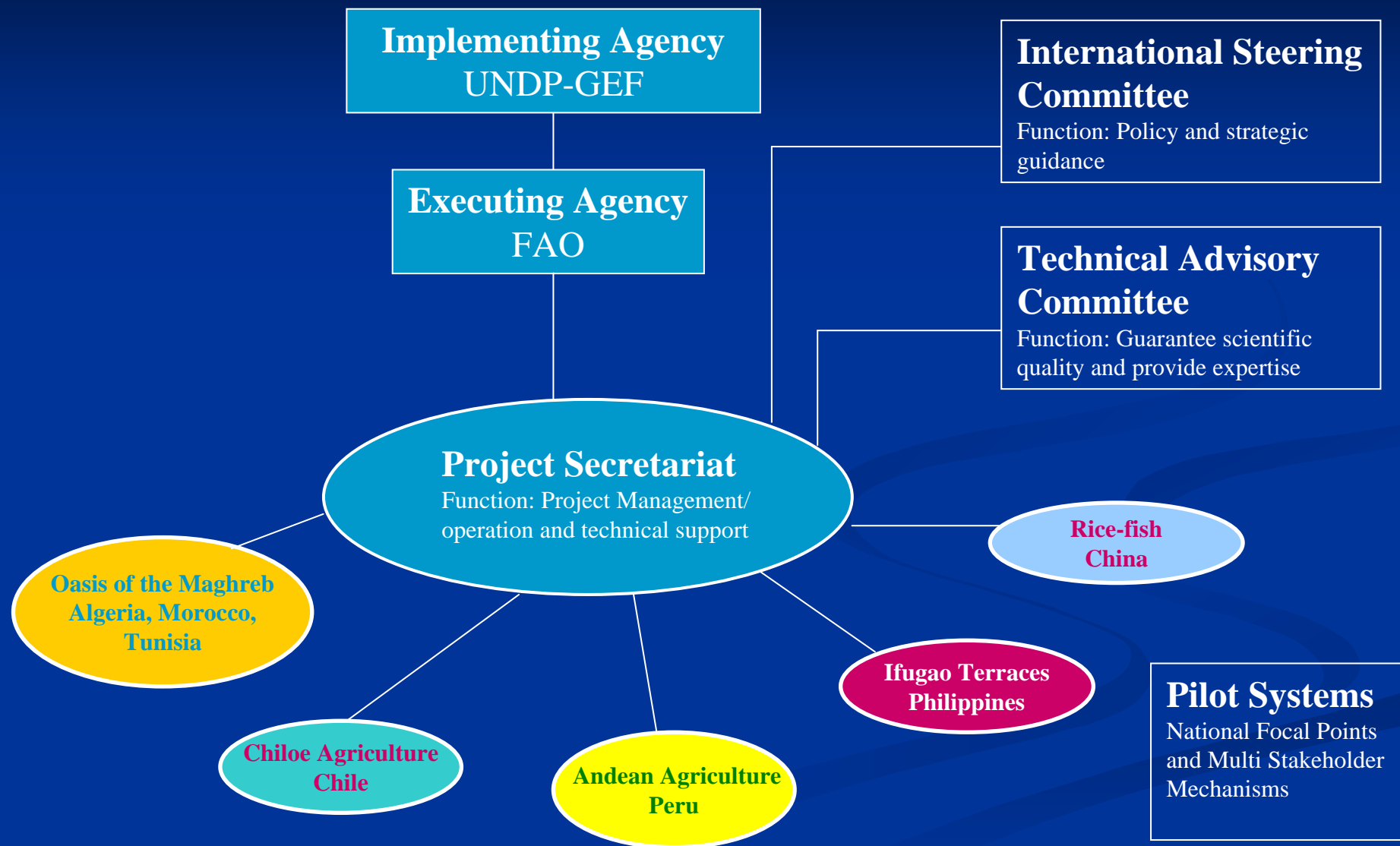
**Human Capital:**  
the status of individuals -  
health, skills, knowledge

**Physical Capital:**  
infrastructure

**Financial Capital:**  
money, savings



# GIAHS ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





# Partners

- **GOVERNMENTS, INDIGENOUS NETWORKS  
NGOS AND PRIVATE SECTOR**
- **FAO, UNDP, GEF, UNESCO, UNEP, IFAD,  
ICCRUM**
- **IUCN, IPGRI and ISNAR & other CGIAR ,  
UNU/PLEC, GTZ, COMPAS; ILEIA; IAC**

[www.fao.org/sd/giahs](http://www.fao.org/sd/giahs)



**GIAHS is not about the past  
but GIAHS is about the future**



# Objectives of the Forum

- Discuss and agree on the principals and scientific underpinning of GIAHS Concept
- Discuss and agree on eligibility and international processes of GIAHS Classification
- Discuss and agree on the modalities of the implementation of Pilot Systems and associated systems
- Discuss and agree on the financing and further partnership building of GIAHS

# Forum Organization and Future Work

- Plenary sessions in the morning and discussions in groups afternoon
- Institutional and personal commitments as GIAHS community member
- GIAHS membership at international and national levels



Thank you

[WWW.FAO.ORG/SD/GIAHS](http://WWW.FAO.ORG/SD/GIAHS)