

(from p. 1)

project interventions at the local, national and global levels. At the national level, experts and representatives from the pilot countries (Azerbaijan, Chile, China, Japan, Tunisia and Turkey) presented their experiences on implementing dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage systems. A key success factor was the economic importance of agricultural heritage, in the form of both monetary and non-monetary values, confirming GIAHS as a sustainable rural development model. Participants agreed that new income streams such as promotion of sustainable tourism, products labelling and improved market access should be assessed on their impacts on biodiversity, land and water quality. One of the main challenges identified for the Initiative was analysis and quantification of the systems' resilience, and determination of key characteristics and practices that have contributed to their survival.

To further strengthen GIAHS visibility and support from governments, it was also suggested that a link be created between GIAHS and Articles 8(j) and 10(c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). One feasible option is working towards a Protocol related to the Aichi Targets under the CBD. This instrument should function as a platform for cooperation among GIAHS and other Conventions with compatible goals, and should provide clear leadership and guidance to communities on how to manage their landscapes and natural resources.

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CHILOÉ GIAHS SITE FEATURES THE DIVERSITY OF HUMAN CULTURE AT SLOW FOOD

The potential of development based on cultural identity

“This world is a diverse garden where knowledge can be harvested to feed the human spirit.” With these words the GIAHS delegation from Chiloé island (Chile) celebrated diversity at Slow Food’s *Salone del Gusto* and *Terra Madre*, an international fair held in Turin (Italy). The event, held from 25 to 29 October 2012, attracted 220,000 visitors from 140 countries. Speaking at the opening ceremony of *Terra Madre*, Carlos Venegas, the Director of the Centre for Education and Technology (CET), FAO local counterpart institution in Chiloé, reminded participants of the importance of cooperative action, so that “aside from giving us each day our daily bread, the earth can nurture the most important seed, the seed that arouses dignity, freedom, equality and joy for all beings on earth.” His intervention followed the speech by the Director-General of FAO, Graziano da Silva, who addressed the links between the diversity of food, agriculture and human culture. “There was a time when humans used tens of thousands of vegetables and cereals but today, we rely on just a few cereals. We must focus on going forward and promoting sustainable models,” he said. Chiloé island is one of the birth places of the potato; more than 200 potato varieties are still grown there today. The *Terra Madre* conference showcased the natural and cultural assets related to the food heritage of Chiloé as part of “Expo Móvil”, a travelling exhibition of innovative examples of the promotion of quality food and agriculture. Among the 14 locations selected for



“Expo Móvil” from around Latin America, Europe and North Africa, Chiloé highlighted the potential of development based on cultural identity and traditional practices. The delegation from Chiloé Island included organic farmer Cecilia Guineo, cheese producer Rafael Maripán, a producer of garlic paste, two fishermen, Chef of Hotel Quilquico Rodrigo Santos and Carlos Venegas, Director of the Centre for Education and Technology (CET) and delegate to *Terra Madre*. Mr Venegas explained, “We have been to *Slow Food* several times, but this year we were invited to show the territory of Chiloé, where traditional culture is part of the development of the people”. Advocating promotion of Chiloé’s gastronomy to boost tourism and local economies, Venegas said, “The Centre for Education and Technology recognizes the importance of sustainability and working with the environment holistically. Along the same lines, by teaming up with the GIAHS initiative, the people of Chiloé recognize that our traditional knowledge and management experiences can make an important contribution to knowledge transmission and exchange with other communities.”

CLICK HERE TO READ CARLOS VENEGAS’ SPEECH

THE LEADING ROLE OF ANDEAN WOMEN IN FAMILY FARMING

Gender as a key element for development and food security

Andean women play an important role in family farming. They assume the management and decision making process of family farm production, food security, children education, and they even assume positions in communal governance. The GIAHS initiative promotes strategies for training and

exchange of experiences, giving a leading role to women in the revaluation and dynamic conservation of Andean agricultural systems: a heritage!

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1

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P2 / CHINA

Aohan dryland farming system in Northern China and Pu'er tea agrosystem in Yunnan province are two new GIAHS sites



P3 / INDIA

What could help millions of small family farmers make a dent in global food security? An evergreen revolution, says Professor Swaminathan



P4 / CHILE

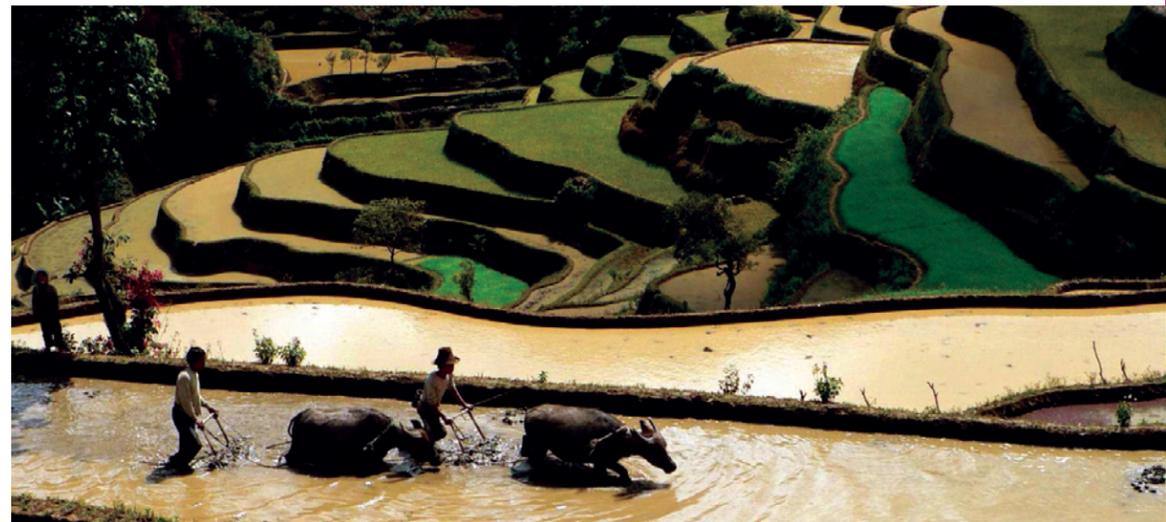
Delegation from GIAHS site of Chiloé island features the diversity of human culture and knowledge at Slow Food international fair



P4 / PERU

The GIAHS Initiative gives a leading role to women in the revaluation and dynamic conservation of Andean agricultural systems

Heritage for the future



Strengthening GIAHS Partnership: The Way Forward

To generate or reinforce the political will of governments, the GIAHS Initiative should focus on demonstrating to decision makers the value of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services provided by GIAHS. Such was the conclusion of the GIAHS Scientific and Steering Committee meeting, held from 29 to 30 October 2012 at FAO headquarters in Rome (Italy). Providing an arena for discussion on the way forward, the meeting was attended by 54 participants. Together, they identified priorities to further develop and sustain the interest of major stakeholders, taking stock of achievements and lessons learned. Spanning over two full days, the discussion provided a wealth of insights emanating from



PARVIZ KOOHFAKAN
GIAHS COORDINATOR

FAO’s effort to recognise and safeguard agricultural heritage systems is of great significance in promoting small holders and family farming to ensure food security, biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge and cultural diversity for sustainable development. For a decade, the GIAHS Initiative has evolved, from concept to implementation of dynamic conservation. Dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage means sustainable and efficient management of land and water, biological resources which are essential to sustainable agriculture, food systems diversity and nutritional security and the conservation of natural resources for future generations. GIAHS is about living in harmony with nature, keeping ecosys-

tems balance, maintaining the range of ecosystem goods and services. The GIAHS Newsletter aims to share information on the project experiences and successes. In our first issue we’ll look into project activities in the East, where countries such as China, India and Japan continue to develop a whole new set of initiatives, placing agricultural

“GIAHS is about living in harmony with nature, keeping ecosystems balance, maintaining the range of ecosystem goods and services”

heritage at the root of their sustainable future. Then, moving towards the Western hemisphere, we’ll focus on Latin America, where Chile and Peru connect with their culture and traditions for biodiversity conservation and food security. GIAHS are a legacy of today and for the future. It is in our hands, as governments, communities and responsible citizens - to support our common heritage for a sustainable global food security.

(continues on p. 4)

GIAHS Saffron site at the heart of the International Saffron Symposium, Kashmir (India)

The GIAHS Saffron Kashmir-India site was showcased at the International Saffron Symposium held 22 to 25 October 2012 in Kashmir (India). Hosted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), participants included researchers, policy-makers, traders and growers from saffron-producing nations, as well as local and other Indian and foreign delegates from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belgium, France, Iran and Spain. Together, they emphasized the need to add value to the traditional saffron cultivation, production and processing chain. In his inaugural statement, **Mr N.N. Vohra** stated, "Whatever is required to be done to boost saffron production must be accomplished speedily," adding that the symposium provided a profitable opportunity to discuss saffron biology, technology, trade and other aspects of saffron cultivation. **Mr Ghulam Hassan Mir, Minister for Agriculture**, said that saffron occupies an important place in the agricultural scenario of the State and referred to the measures taken to revive saffron, including the National



THE ROOT OF THE FUTURE: NEW AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN CHINA

Aohan dryland farming system and Pu'er tea agrosystem receive GIAHS recognition

On 5 September 2012, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) officially recognized China's Aohan Dryland Farming System and Pu'er Tea Agrosystem as two new GIAHS sites. The national ceremony, held in the Great Hall of People, Beijing (China), was attended by Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General at FAO's Natural Resources Department who handed the awards to the governors of the two regions. "The local farming communities in Aohan and Pu'er speak volumes about the richness of agriculture and culture, a richness that we need to support and safeguard," affirmed Mr Müller.

The award ceremony was a highly successful event attended by high-level representatives of the Chinese government as well as by academic Li Wenhua. "On behalf of the 4.6 million people living in Aohan, I warmly invite you to visit our site and enjoy its rich agri-culture heritage", said Mr. Huang Yanfeng, the Governor of Aohan banner, as he received the award. Located in Inner Mongolia, the **Aohan Dryland Farming system** (photo, left) is known as the interface between China's ancient farming and grassland culture. It is the site where the first relics of cultivated foxtail and broomcorn millets were discovered, that date back 8,000 year. The Mayor of Pu'er City Li Xiao Ping reminded the audience that, "When you talk about culture, you talk about people's wisdom that has been conserved and passed on. Ours is an ancient tea culture, with a population of 2.5 million

inhabitants, Pu'er is very happy to have this GIAHS designation." Located in Yunnan Province, the Pu'er Tea Agrosystem is known as the world's provenance of tea, where the Pu'er people have cultivated tea trees for over 1800 years. The Bulang people were the first to learn how to use tea, and are still living in the area today.

Both the Aohan Banner dryland farming system and Pu'er traditional tea agrosystem (photo, right) have relied on knowledge from past generations that has successfully adapted to changing environ-



mental conditions. FAO's effort to safeguard agricultural heritage systems is of great significance for the support of smallholders and family farmers and will ensure food security, biodiversity conservation, traditional knowledge and cultural diversity for sustainable development. "The recognition of these systems is just the beginning of a longer process", commented Dr Parviz Koohafkan, Director of the Land and Water Division at FAO and Global GIAHS Coordinator, "An appropriate institutional mechanism supporting the preparation and implementation of GIAHS dynamic conservation is crucially important and actions should start from now onwards."

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AN EVERGREEN REVOLUTION COULD SPARK LIVELIHOOD SECURITY FOR MILLIONS OF FAMILY FARMERS

Interview with Professor M.S. Swaminathan

GIAHS are repositories of intergenerational wisdom, created by farmers' innovation. What are the issues confronting small famers, the stewards of biodiversity, and how can we sustain their efforts to achieve food and livelihood security? We have asked Professor M.S. Swaminathan, quoted by TIME magazine as one of the three most influential Indians of the 20th century, along with Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. Professor Swaminathan is founder of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation which started its work 20 years ago in the thematic areas of biotechnology, biodiversity and eco-technology. Largely influenced by Gandhi, his view is "nonviolence to nature should become a non-negotiable human ethic". Not surprisingly, his advocacy of sustainable agriculture has led Professor Swaminathan to become an acknowledged world leader in the field of sustainable food security.

scale farmers produce more than 60 percent of the world's food. So, small-scale farming, whether it is in crop husbandry, agro-forestry, animal husbandry or fisheries, is a very significant feature of the global food security system. This is why the future of agriculture depends on our ability to help small farmers, to help the global food security system.

What are the major challenges in helping small-scale farmers sustain their own food security and livelihoods?
An elevated cost of production, the risk involved and the expected return: the market. If we want to help small farmers, we must minimize risk and maximize profits. Otherwise, they won't have cash income. Because part of the produce will be used for home consumption, and part for the market. Therefore, the extent of money they're able to earn from farming will depend upon their ability to increase the productivity of the farm, without damage to the long-term production potential. In other words, what I've been calling "an evergreen revolution, increasing productivity, in perpetuity, without ecological harm".

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What is the contribution of small scale farmers to food security and nutrition?
It is estimated that there are about 400 million farm families in the world, and a population of nearly 2 billion. Among them, the small-



Saffron Mission.. **Mr Sanjeev Chopra**, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Government of India, expressed that the Mission is progressing well, covering the entire saffron domain. **Mr Javed Ahmad Dar**, Minister of State for Horticulture and Agriculture, envisaged the Symposium as a catalyst for enhancing saffron productivity and production for growers' welfare. **Dr Tej Partap**, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, made a presentation on the global scenario of saffron cultivation and related technologies and trade. Working with the International Society for Horticultural Science, **Dr Manuel Carmona** provided details of the establishment, evolution, history, growth and activities of international saffron heritage systems. **Ms Sayed Zehra Bedin** from Iran said that it was essential to promote and improve the industrial aspects of saffron. **Mr Mohammad Hashim** from Afghanistan said that the symposium provided a platform to learn about saffron cultivation practices from various countries, including the Pampore GIAHS pilot site. A brief description of GIAHS, sent by **Dr Parviz Koohafkan** of FAO was read at the Symposium by Professor Irfan Biseti of SKUAST-K. Another presentation was made on behalf of FAO-GIAHS by **Mr Ramesh Tickoo**, Saffron Systems General Manager of HEADS, an India-based partner of GIAHS. A copy of his presentation was distributed to the nearly 200 symposium participants and other stakeholders.

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