**Template for GIAHS Proposal**

**1. SUMMARY INFORMATION**

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| **Name/Title of the Agricultural Heritage  System:** |  |
| **Requesting agency/organization:** |  |
| **Responsible ministry  (for the Government):** |  |
| **Location of the site:**  (please annex land use maps  and geographical coordinates  of the site) |  |
| **Accessibility of the site  to capital city or major cities:** |  |
| **Area of coverage:** |  |
| **Agro-ecological zones[[1]](#footnote-1)** (for Agriculture, Forestry  and Fisheries): |  |
| **Topographic features:** |  |
| **Climate type:** |  |
| **Approximate population (beneficiary):** |  |
| **Ethnicity/Indigenous population:** |  |
| **Main source of  livelihoods:** |  |

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| --- |
| **Typewriter   Executive summary** (one page approximately): |
| **Camera  Pictures** (if any): |  |

**2. DESCRIPTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM**

**2.1. 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[[2]](#footnote-2) system, as a heritage of human kind, should be described including historical background and contemporary relevance[[3]](#footnote-3)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[[4]](#footnote-4), 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.

**2.2. 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.

* **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.

* **Agro-biodiversity**

Describe the agro-biodiversity[[5]](#footnote-5) 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.

* **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.

* **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.

* **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.

**2.3. Action Plan for the Proposed GIAHS Site**

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 are 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 the system 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 sites;
* How multi-stakeholders are involved, including local communities, and support 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 implementation and the effect of the Action Plan will be undertaken.

**Attachments:**

Attach other relevant information, photos, videos, documents, scientific references and studies about the proposed GIAHS site.

1. The agro-ecological zones are defined by FAO as homogenous and contiguous areas with similar soil, land and climate characteristics. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The term “agriculture” and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products (From Paragraph 1, Article I of the FAO Constitution). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Biocultural diversity 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 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.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)