Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Globally Important AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE Systems

Newly Designated Sites

GIAHS International Forum

19 April 2018
FAO Headquarters

1 2
3 4

Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas

China 2018

1. Fujian Youxi Lianhe
2. Jiangxi Chongyi Hakka
3. Guangxi Longsheng Longji
4. Hunan Xinhua Ziquejie

China's rice terraces are mainly distributed in the mountainous area in the south of the Yangtze River. In these areas, the rain is abundant and the mountains are distributed widely. For hundreds of years, the terraces built along the mountains have not only improved the local farming conditions but also increased the output of grains.

Moreover, they are beneficial to the ecology of the mountainous area and have made great contributions to the sustainable development of agriculture in China.

Traditional Mulberry System in Xiajin's Ancient Yellow River Course

China 2018

The Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System is located on the sandy land, which is the ancient path left by the Yellow River when its course changed in the Dongzhou Dynasty. The mulberry trees were planted to control the sandstorms, and to provide agricultural products. In this heritage site there are over 20 000 mulberry trees over 100 years old.

The heritage system has witnessed the development of China's sericulture industry, and it also reflects the philosophy of harmonious development of humans and nature offering many lessons for modern agriculture and social development.

Diebu Zhagana Agriculture-Forestry-Animal Husbandry Composite System

China 2017

Zhagana Agriculture-Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System is located in the three major landforms of the Tibetan Plateau, the Loess Plateau and the Chengdu basin in the convergence zone of the three climatic zones. The macro landscape extends vertically and horizontally combining agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry. This system is an outstanding example of sustainable management of local natural resources - land, forest, grassland and endemic species producing a range of products.

Zhejiang Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish-pond System

China 2017

Zhejiang Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish-pond System originated more than 2500 years ago and includes traditional and agroecological knowledge. It includes the cultivation of mulberry-dyke trees, silk rearing, and fish cultivation and is based on a very complex irrigation and drainage system. This system allows many farmers to respond to their nutritional and economic needs, while maintaining a huge biodiversity as well as a complex landscape.

Dates Production System in Siwa Oasis

Egypt 2016

The Siwa oasis is one of the best illustrations of farmers' ingenuity to adapt agriculture to very harsh climatic conditions. Situated in a very dry region, this oasis provides an effective way to grow food, livestock and preserve wild flora and fauna, which rely on a very scarce resource: water. This smart adapted systems is based on date palm agriculture combined with other crops such as olive trees and alfalfa allowing local people to respond to their needs. Sustainable water management of these sites is strongly linked to Siwan's cultural heritage.

Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture,

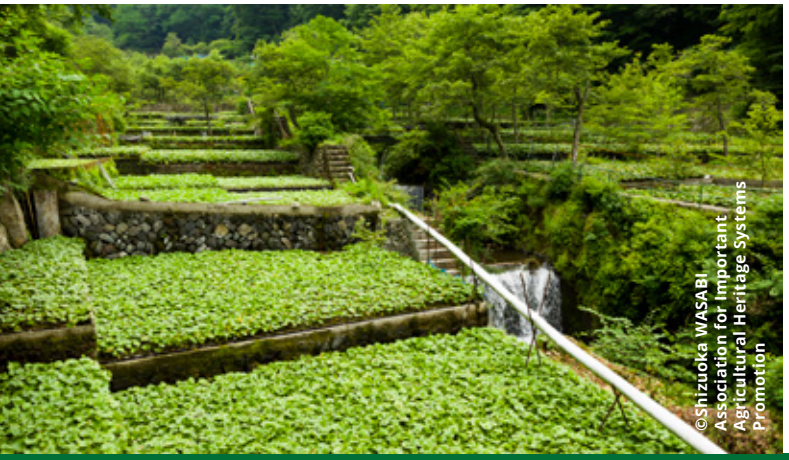
Japan 2017

The Osaki region has developed paddy agriculture by using lowland swamps and wetlands that extend across the basins of Eai River and Naruse River. It is an ingenious system which traditionally controls water temperature and volume by transforming the landscape and making it suitable for paddy agriculture, known as "Osaki Kōdo". The region frequently experiences drought and, in some periods of the year, flooding, due to the topographical features of a landscape that rolls down from precipitous mountain areas to low gradient plains, and suffers cold temperature damage caused by the yamase, a cold and moist seasonal wind.

Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System

Japan 2017

Nishi-Awa area is one of Japan's leading areas for controlled burn agriculture. The cultivation of grains in this area as staple foods has been widespread since ancient times. On steep mountainsides deemed unsuitable for cultivation, a unique method of land use is employed, allocating land for cropping, grassland, and residential land in accordance with the conditions of the steep slope land. Sustainable agriculture is carried out leaving the mountain slopes intact.



Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka

Japan 2018

Wasabi, *Eutrema japonicum*, is a native Japanese plant of the Brassicaceae family that has been highly prized in Japan since ancient times for the sharp flavor produced when its stems are grated. Shizuoka region is the origin of worldwide wasabi cultivation, which is believed to have begun approximately 400 years ago. Wasabi fields currently possess a structure that is resilient to natural disasters thanks to the fields'high water retention capacity. They also function to protect downstream areas from flooding.

Chinampa Agricultural System in Mexico City

Mexico 2016

The chinampa agricultural system is an articulated set of floating artificial islands built in a traditional way 2,000 years ago, which reached its maximum expansion during the Aztec civilization. The system was maintained until our days thanks to oral transmission of the traditional techniques. The uniqueness of this system lies in the transformation of group of lakes into highly productive arable lands to grow plants but also breed cattle.

Due to its location in the middle of Mexico City, chinampa agriculture offers an example in which agroecological intensification can co-exist with urban development and modernization. From a cultural point of view, Chinampas are a symbol of Mexico's identity and a source of pride for farmers that supply the city.

Barroso Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral System

Portugal 2018

Barroso is a natural landscape of Northern Portugal, integrating part of the Peneda Gerês National Park, where the existing agrarian system is strongly influenced by the soil and climate conditions, with a predominance of smallholdings and cattle, sheep and goat pastoral farming, as well as pig farming, which contributes significantly to household economies and plays an important social role.

This area today shows a pattern of land occupation marked by human activity for agriculture, forestry and grazing, while a number of very significant and relatively intact environmental areas are still found.

Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwagae-myeon

Republic of Korea 2017

Hadong's traditional tea agriculture is a system and culture of symbiosis. In fact, this agricultural production system is the result of 1,200 years of adaptation of the local community to the barren environment of Jiri Mountain and surrounding land. The local community preserved the characteristic tea plantation technology and culture of this region without harming the natural environment passed down from their ancestors.

The Hwagae people rely on tea agriculture instead of rice paddies. Farmers obtain food and goods through cultivating indigenous tea that grows around the Hwagae Stream and between rocks in hilly areas around the temples.

Salt Production System of Añana

Spain 2017

Valle Salado is located in the town of Salinas de Añana in the Basque Country. Two small rivers run through the town which lies in a valley that was once a sea that disappeared millions of years ago. The main feature of this ecosystem is that a number of salt water springs naturally emerge at the highest part of the valley, making it possible to harvest salt.

The ancient cultivation techniques have been carefully preserved, with the gradual introduction of changes required to preserve the livelihood of the local community, but while preserving the basic conditions that experience has shown, are the key to the system, making it a perfect example of dynamic conservation and harmonious relationship with the surrounding environment.

Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía

Spain 2017

The raisin production in Axarquía has gone through centuries and different civilizations, maintaining most of its characteristics to this day. The cultivation of Muscatel grapes in the mountainous areas of Málaga is very important in the agricultural economy, as it is developed on steep slopes without any other agricultural alternative.

Maintaining this grape-growing system and its sun-drying transformation process is essential to maintain the landscape, as it prevents erosion and desertification processes and it is an example of how the people in this area relate with their territory and their cultural traditions.

The Cascaded Tank-Village System (CTVS) in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka 2017

The Cascaded Tank-Village System is a connected series of tanks organized within a micro-catchment of the dry zone landscape, storing, conveying and utilizing water from an ephemeral rivulet. It is an ancient, widely used and unique traditional agriculture system, mainly found in the dry zone of Sri Lanka. The system has evolved over a period of nearly two millennia. It provides water for irrigation, domestic purposes, animals and ecosystems.

The system takes dominance over all other systems due to its expansive coverage, unique technology, sustainability, and resilience to natural disasters (such as droughts, epidemics, floods, cyclones, and external invasions), high biodiversity and many other beneficial characteristics.

#AgriculturalHeritage

GIAHS Programme website
www.fao.org/giahs

Link to FAO news Flickr
https://flic.kr/s/aHsmdT5rgJ

Contact
GIAHS-Secretariat@fao.org