



International Workshop on GIAHS and Biodiversity

13 – 15 December 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

<https://www.fao.org/index.php?id=119383>



1. Background

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) sites are home to unique biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, which have been nurtured by farmers through generations by transmitting their traditional knowledge and agricultural methods. In the GIAHS framework, the maintenance of a positive relationship between traditional farming systems and biodiversity conservation is expected to be contemplated in the implementation of *conservation action plans*.

Exchange of knowledge is an important practice, since many GIAHS communities may not be familiar with traditional knowledge systems and practices implemented in GIAHS and non-GIAHS sites located in different geographical areas.

As to the conservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, farmers have been gradually integrated into the market economy and the associated value chains of the agricultural products they cultivate. In many cases, this has a great impact on the number of species and varieties of the crops they grow, as they adapt to the market's needs. This could lead to a deterioration of the diversity of crops cultivated by farmers.

Facing the above-mentioned issues, requires continuous information exchanges on the good practices effective for conservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, as well as finding effective ways and approaches to conserve agrobiodiversity under the pressure of the market economy and other threats.

2. Workshop on GIAHS and Biodiversity

Against this background, a workshop will be held to facilitate exchange on the key factors and effective approaches for promoting the conservation of agrobiodiversity, and to seek effective methods for the conservation of agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites.

The workshop will invite experts, researchers, practitioners, government officers and representatives from GIAHS sites who have been engaged in the conservation of agrobiodiversity from different angles and geographical regions.

3. Dates and Meeting Arrangement

- Dates: 13-15 December 2023
- Venue: FAO, Rome (Iran Room)
- Meeting Arrangement: physical meeting
- The meeting will be webcasted and recorded and uploaded to the GIAHS website. Webcast links are available at: <https://www.fao.org/index.php?id=119383>

4. Presenters and Discussants

- International organizations
- Experts and researchers on agrobiodiversity
- Representatives from GIAHS sites

- Government officers
- FAO officers relevant to this subject

5. Objectives:

- i. Identify and analyze the effective approaches and measures which can assure a balance between agricultural production and agrobiodiversity conservation, highlighting the collaboration among all local stakeholders, and with the support of diverse activities and their synergy effects;
- ii. Discuss on the conditions, challenges and key factors to achieve successful conservation of agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites.

6. Language: English, French, Spanish, Chinese.

Provisional Agenda and Timetable
Day 1: December 13 (Wednesday)

9:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony: Moderator: GIAHS Secretariat		
9:30 -9:35	Opening Remarks	Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate Change Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), FAO
9:35-9:45	Briefing on the Symposium	Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator, FAO
9:45-10:00	Introduction of participants	Moderator: Mr Yoshihide Endo
Session 1: Conservation of agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites: Moderator Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator		
10:00-10:20	<i>The Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework and the role of small-scale farmers in Biodiversity Conservation</i>	Ms Monica Kobayashi, Convention on Biological Diversity
10:20-10:40	<i>Introduction of FAO's Biodiversity Framework and the role of agriculture in biodiversity conservation</i>	Julie Bélanger, FAO Biodiversity Unit
10:40-11:00	<i>Funding opportunities for biodiversity conservation: GIAHS and its potential alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)</i>	Valeria Gonzalez Riggio Global Biodiversity Thematic Advisor, Technical Officer, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-12:30 <i>(50 min. Talk 10 min Q&A)</i>	<i>Conservation of Agrobiodiversity in the GIAHS of Japan</i>	Prof. Ryo KOHSAKA University of Tokyo (Video Presentation)
12:30 -14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	<i>Conservation of agrobiodiversity and the relationship with the forest in the ancestral system of Ich Kool: Milpa Maya</i>	Ms Silvia Terán, Mr Gilberto Gonzáles Kuk, Representatives from Milpa Maya of the Yucatan Peninsula GIAHS, Mexico
15:00-16:00	<i>Conservation practices of GIAHS on germplasm resource and biodiversity in China</i>	Dr Weijian Zhang, Chief Scientist, Agroecology and Farming Systems, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

16:00-17:00	<i>The conservation of agrobiodiversity through traditional knowledge in the Suspended Gardens of Djebba"</i>	Mr Abdelhakim Issaoui, GIAHS National Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Tunisia
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* There will be 15 minutes coffee time in the afternoon as well.

Day 2: December 14 (Thursday)

Session 1 (cont.): Conservation of agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites: Moderator Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator

9:30-10:30	<i>The role of women in the conservation of agrobiodiversity in the Traditional Agricultural System of Chiloé Archipelago</i>	Ms Daniela Acuña, Deputy Director, ODEPA, Ministry of Agriculture, Chile
10:30-11:30	<i>Traditional methods to conserve agrobiodiversity through the increased value of traditional products in the Amazon Chakra Agroforestry System</i> <i>The characteristics of Andean Chakra and GIAHS in Ecuador</i>	Carlos Pozo, Member of Corporación Chakra, Ecuador Érika Zárate Baca, FAO Ecuador
11:30-12:30	The multi-functional system of the Mountains of Leon	Eugenia Rendueles, University of Leon, Spain
12:30 -14:00	Lunch Break	
Session 2: Practices and strategies for Biodiversity and Agrobiodiversity Conservation: Clelia M. Puzzo, Programme Specialist, GIAHS Secretariat/ Hui YIN, Professional officer, GIAHS Secretariat		
14:00-14:50	<i>Successful strategies for agrobiodiversity conservation in traditional farming systems in Kenya</i>	Mary Abukutsa-Onyango, Professor of Horticulture, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology Kenya
14:50-15:40	<i>Experiences of agrobiodiversity conservation projects in Nepal</i>	Dr Bal Krishna Joshi Chief of NAGRC (National Genebank), Khumaltar Nepal
15:40-15:50	Coffee Break	
15:50-16:10	<i>Incentives for conservation of genetic resources for food and</i>	FAO-ITPGRFA (tbd)

16:10-17:00	agriculture (TBC)	
	Showcasing integrated conservation partnerships between communities and the International Potato Center (CIP)	Dr Bettina Heider Genetic Resources Specialist, CIP Genebank, Peru

Day 3: December 15 (Friday)

Session 2 (cont.): Practices and strategies for Biodiversity and Agrobiodiversity Conservation: Moderator Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator

9:30 - 10:00	FAO's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of local crops and varieties	Dr Arshiya Noorani Agricultural Officer (Plant Genetic Resources) Plant Production and Protection Division, NSP FAO
10:00-10:30	Discussion and wrap up of the session 1 and 2	Moderator, GIAHS Coordinator
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	

Session 3: Analyzing the solutions for the future of conservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites

11:00-12:30	Group discussion: Group session (in front of the meeting room). to consider Challenges and Solutions for the conservation of biodiversity and agrobiodiversity in GIAHS sites	Facilitation by Denise Melvin, Communications Consultant, GIAHS Secretariat, and the GIAHS team All Participants and panelists will be divided in 2 groups
12:30-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	Plenary session: Reporting back from the group rapporteurs and conclusions.	Facilitation by Denise Melvin, Communications Consultant, GIAHS Secretariat, and the GIAHS team
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:40	Discussion on the future GIAHS: Analyzing the effective actions for conservation of agrobiodiversity against the increasing influence of market economy on the crop cultivation decisions of famers in GIAHS sites	All Participants and panelists: guided discussion by the GIAHS Coordinator
16:40-17:00	Wrap up of the entire session and Closing remarks	Yoshihide Endo, GIAHS Coordinator