



International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Theme: Dialogue Among Agricultural Civilizations

9-12 June 2011

Xiedao (Crab Island), Beijing, China

Background Note and Provisional Agenda

Organizers



Background

- Worldwide, specific agricultural systems and landscapes have been created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted management practices. These traditional and unique agricultural systems have resulted in well-balanced agro-ecological systems in marginal or extreme ecologies, which could not otherwise have sustainably supported human life and agricultural biodiversity at its present level. These systems often reflect rich and globally unique agricultural biodiversity, within and between species and at the ecosystem and landscape level. Having been founded on ancient agricultural societies, certain of these systems are linked to important centres of origin and diversity of domesticated plant and animal species, the in situ conservation of which is of great importance and global value. The FAO GIAHS Initiative aims to empower smallholder family farming communities, indigenous peoples and minority and tribal groups to dynamically conserve their traditional agricultural systems and to create an economic stake in the conservation of (agricultural) biodiversity so that nature and people can prosper together.
- Since the launching of this Global Partnership Initiative in 2002, a wide range of development activities has been implemented in more than ten countries supporting the dynamic conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and enhancing the role these systems are playing in the provision of food and livelihood security of the poor, the conservation and sustainable use of unique agricultural biodiversity, associated biodiversity and landscapes, as well as traditional knowledge and cultural diversity.
- At the international level, the GIAHS initiative has been recognized by many Institutions, Organizations and Government specific references are made to GIAHS in official United Nations documents, including the recent CBD COP10 and other non-UN documents and declarations. GIAHS development activities receive funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF); the Government of Germany (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV); International Fund for Agricultural Development and collaborates with other UN agencies and other international and national partner institutions.
- GIAHS represent a continuation of historic traditions and knowledge that have evolved over the centuries. These cultures, settlements, landscapes and habitats have suffered dramatically in the wake of industrial and agricultural revolutions and advances in science, technology, commerce and communications in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The few that still survive as flag bearers of earlier traditions are worth safeguarding as they are a part of our world cultural and natural heritage. Agricultural heritage landscapes are not only important landmarks of historical value but also depend on living and dynamically evolving agricultural communities. These communities are the custodians of an institutional, ecological and cultural heritage that provides a variety of benefits and services at the local, national and global levels.
- In this context, the International Forum of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: **Dialogue Among Agricultural Civilizations** will be held from 9 to 13 June 2011 in Beijing, China.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Forum are to:

- Bring together International, national and local partners, policy-makers, representatives of civil society, farming communities, scientists, research institutions and intergovernmental and development cooperation agencies to exchange knowledge and best practices on evolving *agricultural* systems from different continents and countries and to take stock of lessons learned;
- Provide elements for the preparation of a GIAHS Consortium Document that will upscale GIAHS programme, promoting effective partnerships and networking with relevant organizations, institutions and related initiatives;
- Present the newly identified GIAHS and award certificates to their custodians;
- Prepare the next steps for inclusion of the GIAHS consortium in the Rio+20 process for sustainable development;
- Visit China's agricultural heritage, the Xuanhua Traditional Grape Gardens, an epitome of a GIAHS.

Provisional Agenda

The four-day Forum will include the presentations of key note speakers on best practices and experiences on dynamic conservation management of GIAHS, film screenings, project exhibitions, agricultural products fair and a field trip.

Wednesday, 8 June 2011

Arrival and Registration

- International and local participants from outside of Beijing arrive in Beijing. They will be met at the airport, and taken to the hotel.
- Country consultation/meetings will be arranged during the Forum.

18:30-20:00 Welcome Reception (hosted by IGSNRR)

Day 1 Thursday, 9 June 2011

On the first day of the Forum there will be the opening ceremony and exhibits, and will feature the keynote addresses and presentations on the major contribution of agricultural heritage and its components to food security and rural livelihoods; the nature-cultural links to humanities; the social, cultural and environmental fundamentals and topics on challenges to redress biodiversity conservation, strategies and approaches to sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Morning Session

9:00-10:00

Opening Ceremony

Chair: Film projection: GIAHS Documentary

Prof Li Wenhua

Rapporteur: Welcome Address:

Prof Min Qingwen Prof Liu Yi, Director-IGNSRR/CAS

Mr Percy Wachata Misika, FAO Representative, China

Keynote Address:

Hon. Hong Fuzeng, Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), China

Special Remarks:

Hon. Mme JIANG Zehui

Vice Chair of Committee of Population, Resources and Environment, CPPCC;
Co-chair of INBAR Board of Trustees; Chair, China Eco-Culture Association

Messages:

Mr Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) , Canada (video)

Prof M.S. Swaminathan, Chair (and Awardee), World Food Prize, described by UNEP as Father of Economic Ecology, MSSRF, Chennai, India (video)

Dr Parviz Koohafkan, Director, Land and Water Division and Global Coordinator, FAO, Rome

10:00 – 11:00

Opening of the Exhibits: "GIAHS: Our common Heritage"

Book Presentation: In search of Biohappiness

Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00

Keynote Presentations

Chair: Dr Parviz Koohafkan

Rapporteur: Mr Jean Gault

11:00-11:15

Agricultural Heritage Systems: assessing their resiliency and sustainability for the future

Prof Miguel Altieri, University of Berkeley, USA

11:15-11:30

Traditional Knowledge Systems

Prof. Pietro Laureano, IPOGEA, Italy

11:30-11:45

The Amazing Performance and the Scientific "Secrets" of Some Traditional Agricultural Practices in China

Prof. Luo Shiming, SCAU, China

11:45-12:00

Conservation and Management of traditional Agricultural Systems

Prof Jeremy Eades & Prof Malcolm Cooper, Asia Pacific University, Japan

12:00-12:15

UNESCO

Ms Beatrice Kaldun, Programme Specialist for Culture,
UNESCO, Beijing

12:15-12:30

Agricultural Heritage Systems Conservations: View from the European Union

Mr Hans-Christian Beaumont, First Counsellor, Agricultural Affairs, Delegation of the European Union to China and Mongolia

12:30-12:45

China's Traditional Agri-culture and the New Countryside Building
Prof Cao Xingsui, China Agricultural Museum, China

12:45-13:00

Discussions

13:00 – 14:30

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon Session

An overview of the agricultural heritage systems will be presented during this session by the pilot and participating countries. This will include their research and development activities, shared experiences and lessons learned, as well as positive impacts and obstacles encountered in achieving their objective of implementing the dynamic conservation of GIAHS. There will be a chance for the participants to have an interactive exchange of experiences, their perspectives and opportunities, as well as to share obstacles and success stories in implementing the GIAHS Initiative. The presentations and discussions will aim to identify synergies, local actions and effective implementation mechanisms involved in the dynamic conservation of GIAHS.

14:30 – 18:30

Values of GIAHS, the basis for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development

Chair: Dr Jane dela Cruz

Rapporteur: Prof Kazem Vafadari

14:30-14:45

Chiloé Agriculture

Dr Carlos Venegas, Centro de Educación y Tecnología, CET, Chile

14:45-15:00

Andean Agriculture (Cuzco-Puno Corridor)

Mr Alipio Canahua, Peru

15:15-15:30

GIAHS: Progress and Perspectives in China

Prof Min Qingwen, IGSNRR-CAS, China

15:45-16:00

Gafsa Oases System

Mr Atef Dhahri, ASM de la Medina de Gafsa, Tunisia

16:00-16:15

Oases System in Atlas Mountains of Morocco

Mr Seddik Saidi, INRA, Morocco

16:15-16:30

El Oued Oases (Ghout System)

Mr Fateh Achour, INRA, Algeria

16:30-16:45

Ifugao Rice Terraces

16:45-17:15	Mr Clarence Baguilat , DENR, Philippines
	Tea/coffee break
17:15-17:30	
17:30-17:45	<i>Maasai Pastoral Heritage System</i> Mr Philip Sironka , Kenya
17:45-18:00	<i>Shimbwe Juu Kihamba Agro-forestry Heritage Area, Tanzania</i> Mr Marco, Arpakwa Sikorei , Tanzania
18:00-18:15	<i>Ancient Tank Systems</i> Engr. Ganila Paravithana , CECB, Sri Lanka
18:15-18:30	<i>Saffron Heritage System of Kashmir</i> Prof Firdos Ahmad Nehvi , HEADS, India
	<i>Dong's Rice Fish Duck System</i> Prof Min Qingwen , IGSNRR-CAS, China

18:30-20:00 Dinner: hosted by Honghe Government

20:00-21:30 Evening: Dong Minority's song and dance performances

Day 2 Thursday, 10 June 2011

Morning Session

9:00-10:30 Rural landscapes and ecosystems goods and services: opportunities and challenges
Chair: Dr Coosje Hoogendorn
Rapporteurs: Prof Malcomn Cooper/Mrs Ximena George-Nascimento/
 Mrs Teresa Aguero/Mr Jitsuya Nagata

9:00 –9:15 *Strategies for Traditional Rural Landscapes Management*
Prof Mauro Agnoletti, DEISTAF, Firenze, Italy

9:15-9:30 *Satoyama and Satoumi Initiatives for Conservation of Biodiversity and Reactivation of Rural Areas in Noto Peninsula*
Prof Koji Nakamura, Kanazawa University, Japan

9:30-9:45 *Tourism Application of Agricultural Heritage System*
Prof Kazem Vafadari, Asia Pacific University, Japan

9:45 -10:00	GIAHS: Conservation in Partnership with Tourism Dr. M. Jansen-Verbeke , Visiting Professor Chinese Academy of Sciences
10:00 – 10:05	Satoyama for GIAHS Mr Akira Nagata , Minsitry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
10:05 -10:20	Sado’s Satoyama with Ibis Mr Koichiro Takano , Mayor, Sado City, Japan
10:20-10:50	Tea/coffee break
10:50-11:05	Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi Mr Bunpei Takemoto , Mayor, Nanao City, Japan Ms Anne McDonald , Director, UNU-IAS, Ishikawa/Kanazawa, Japan
11:05-11:20	Ms Alia Malik , Shangrila Farms, China
11:20-12:30	DISCUSSIONS
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon Session

The challenges of sustainable agricultural development and poverty reduction are formidable but there is greater human capacity and ingenuity than at any time in our common history. With the right policies, investments and political will to reach into poor communities, the formidable challenges of our century will be met. FAO GIAHS, over the past eight years, have raised awareness of the importance of traditional and evolving agricultural systems in promoting sustainable agricultural development. The objective of the parallel sessions is to facilitate understanding of GIAHS and the need for continued awareness-raising and the building of partnerships and alliances and to discuss and provide recommendations on how implementation of GIAHS dynamic conservation can be sustained, upscaled and enhanced to contribute to achieving the MDGs targets, Nagoya Protocol and provide support to other global development agendas.

14:00 – 15:45	Building Partnerships and Networking for GIAHS: A Consortium Facilitators: Dr Parviz Koohafkan/Dr Maharaj Muthoo
Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIAHS Global Initiative (where are we, way forward) • Innovative partnerships and networking for a strengthened collaboration (institutional setting and operationalization) • Sustainability and innovation to raise awareness and support to GIAHS Activities
15:45-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:30	Summary of Outcomes

16:30 – 18:00 (1) Steering Committee Meeting (1 representative per country)
(2) Field survey in Xiedao (Crab Island) Eco-farm

18:30-20:00 Dinner (hosted by Aohan Government)

Day 3 Saturday, 11 June 2011 Closure

Morning ■ **Awarding of Certificates**
9:00-12:30 ■ **Wrap Up of the Forum and other matters**
■ **Closing /Adoption of the Recommendations**
■ **GIAHS Consortium Document/Declaration**

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**

Afternoon (1) **Tour in the Cultural and Historic City of Beijing**

14:00-17:30 (2) **China's Agricultural Heritage Conservation: Opportunities and Challenges**
(Chinese participants only)

18:30-20:00 Dinner (hosted by Congjiang Government)

Day 4 Sunday, 12 June 2011

Field Visit to potential GIAHS site – The Xuanhua Traditional Grape

07:00-09:00 From Xiedao to Xuanhua district by coach

09:00-12:30 Field survey

12:30-14:00 Lunch (hosted by Xuanhua Government)

14:00-15:00 From Xuanhua to Badaling Great Wall

15:00-17:00 Visit to Great Wall

17:00-18:30 From Badaling to Xiedao

18:30-20:00 Dinner (hosted by Pu'er Government)

The Xuanhua Traditional Grape Garden

The Xuanhua traditional grape garden has over 1 300 years history of culture and cultivation. Known in ancient times as “the Grape Town”, to this day Xuanhua farmers have continuously grown unique varieties of table grapes to nourish the population. The grapes are uniquely oval shaped and have an outstanding flavour, they are thin skinned, and the thick pulp is fragrantly sweet. The grapes are high quality and large in size (the biggest cluster of grapes weighs over 2 kg). During the Qing Dynasty, the grapes were used as offerings and tributes to the royal family. The grapes are also part of traditional cuisine. Approaching the Grape Town, the traditional Xuanhua grape garden provides a magnificent view of funnel-shaped grape trellises along family backyards. The indigenous design of the funnel-shaped trellises conserves soil and water and protects the grape vines from frost and strong wind. The dynamic conservation of these unique varieties of grapes is part of the Xuanhua farmer's tradition, culture and livelihood.

Organizers

The Forum is organized through GIAHS Global Partnership Initiative (supported by GEF, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany; IFAD and FAO) in partnership with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research - Chinese Academy of Sciences in China.

Co-organizers and Co-sponsors:

- Qingtian County People's Government, Zhejiang Province, China
- Honghe Prefecture People's Government, Yunnan Province, China
- Wannian County People's Government, Jiangxi Province, China
- Congjiang People's Government, Guizhou Province, China
- Pu'er City People's Government, Yunnan Province, China
- Aohan Banner People's Government, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China
- Xuanhua District People's Government, Hebei Province, China
- Xiedao Eco-Resort, Beijing, China
- Chinese Association of Agricultural Science Societies
- Ecological Society of China
- China Society of Natural Resources

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For more details about the Forum, please visit, www.giahs.org, or email: GIAHS-secretariat@fao.org