

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

GIAHS - INDIA

- Koraput Traditional Agriculture Systems, India
- Kuttanad below sea level farming system, India

Team MSSRF/ 20June 2022

Importance of GIAHS

KORAPUT

- Cultural value systems and associated traditional knowledge
- Ecological and agricultural diversity maintained as unique systems of agriculture
- Contribution in terms of food and nutritional security to the future generations
- Tribal groups have conserved a large number of landraces of rice, millets, pulses and medicinal plants
- Koraput has also been identified as an important centre of origin for rice genetic diversity (Secondary Origin of Rice)
- The agrobiodiversity recorded in the region include: 340 landraces of paddy (24 aromatic, 27 flood resistant, 2 deep water, 1 drought resistant and others having resistance to insects/ pests, and puffing types etc.)

KUTTANAD

- Below Sea Level Farming – Rice diversity, Coconut, Fruits and Vegetables
- Rich wetland aquatic biodiversity in India
- Indigenous Knowledge - Cultural Heritage of the region
- Ramsar Recognized system
- Climate Resilient Systems of Agriculture
- Unique Landscape and Agricultural Systems Surrounded by Brackish backwaters
- Unique Tourism Location in India

Process of selection

- Baseline Documentation
- Landscape and land and water resource management characteristics
- Indigenous and Local knowledge systems
- Conservation of Agro-biodiversity - traditional community conservation system sacred groves/ ex-situ conservation efforts
- Goods and Services Provided by the System
- Threats and Challenges
- Drivers of Change
- Reward and recognition
- Policy and Development Relevance

Team Constituted by MSSRF

Member from MSSRF
Members from Local Organizations
Community Members

The team conducted the various studies , Field visits, Surveys , Interaction with Line departments of Governments

Submitted a report to FAO

Stakeholders

Government of India
Government of Odisha and Kerala
Farming Families of Koraput and Kuttanad

Contemporary Changes in GIAHS sites

KORAPUT

- Reduced Podo Cultivation
- Reduced forest fire and Increased reserve forests in the region
- Popular landraces by State Govt. and various NGOs to check varietal loss.

KUTTANAD

- High yield, less water intensive and short duration rice varieties introduced
- Clean Vembanad Project Initiated
- Cage aquaculture of indigenous species promoted
- Flood mitigation projects has been implemented

Efforts of Community, NGOs and Governments in GIAHS Site

KORAPUT

- Development of Eco-tourism in GIAHS site
 - Focus on climate resilient crops in a mission mode (Odisha Millet Mission)
 - Focus on Integrated Farming System
 - Study on Guptheswar - Biological Heritage Site
 - Introduction of Natural Farming System
 - Introduction of Odisha Rainfed Agriculture Mission (ORAM)
 - Introduction of Odisha Jackfruit Mission
- MSSRF - conservation and enhancing livelihoods of local communities
- Central University of Odisha and Biju Patnaik Tribal Agro-biodiversity Centre, MSSRF, Jeypore

KUTTANAD

- Special Packages declared by Kerala Government for Kuttanad region
- International Research and Training Centre for Below Sea Level Farming setup by the Government of Kerala
- Modernization of Thanneermukkam Saltwater Barrage
- Special wild aquaculture conservation projects by department of Fisheries , Govt of Kerala
- Biodiversity Conservation based tourism activities (www.mangomeadows.in)
- Place branding website for kuttanad (www.kuttanadan.com)
- Kuttanad Heritage Centre (Heritage Museum)
- Value addition of Kuttanadan products and its marketing

Work of MSSRF in GIAHS Site

KORAPUT

- Conservation of local landraces of paddy, millets, pulses and wild edible fruits & tubers
- Documentation of ITK, promising varieties and their characters
- Establishment of Community Gene-Seed Banks and Strengthening traditional seed distribution system
- Varietal purification and Participatory Varietal Selection, Popularisation of some of the farmers' preferred rice varieties like- *Kalajeera*, *Machhakanta*, *Haldichudi*, *Sapuri*, *Bodikabori*, *Muktabali* etc. and millet varieties like – *Jam mandia*, *Bati mandia*, *Bhalu Mandia* etc.
- Creating awareness on Access and Benefit sharing mechanism

KUTTANAD

- Rainwater Harvesting based sustainable drinking water solution
- Promotion of Indigenous kuttanadan Duckery projects
- Coconut Based enterprises for value addition (SAARC Project)
- Promotion of Rural Innovation for Dewatering in Paddy Fields
- Community Resources Centre for resource mapping
- River Health Training (APN Project)
- Pandanus (Screwpine) value addition projects

Aspirations of Stakeholders in GIAHS, India

- Development of a database of existing plant, animal genetic resources of the region
- PBR - This process will help to document the local biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge in a village level
- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library
- Development of Agro-eco tourism in GIAHS region linking local livelihoods
- Bioprospecting - Bio technology approaches, tissue culture / Embryo culture to reserve RET and low populations medicinal plants
- Identification of climate resilient landraces to mitigate the climate change risk
- Genome Clubs/ Nature Clubs in Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Declaration of Special Agriculture Zone by National Level
- NIAHS and GIAHS Conservation Projects