



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**FAO-ISESCO International Workshop**  
on  
**Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**  
**For the Islamic Countries**  
4-5 November 2014  
FAO-HQ, Rome, Italy

### Rationale

Over centuries, generations of farmers, fisher folks, foresters and herders have developed complex, diverse and locally adapted agricultural, fisheries, forestry and pastoral systems, managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that lead to biodiversity conservation, food security, resilience of ecosystems and their provision of essential goods and services for humanity.

The **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**<sup>1</sup> is an international partnership initiative that aims to identify, support and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural and associated biodiversity, landscapes, knowledge systems and cultures around the world. The GIAHS Partnership recognizes the crucial importance of the well-being of family farming communities in an integrated approach while directing activities towards sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Over the past decade, the GIAHS Initiative has been piloting an innovative model of engaging communities, local and national governments in the adaptive management of agricultural heritage and conservation of system's goods and services. It has served as a learning laboratory for identifying new ways to sustain nature's bounty, the health of ecosystems, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture, protection of traditional knowledge systems, culture, and more importantly, building a bridge for the sustainable future.

In November 2011, the Director-Generals of FAO and Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a framework of partnership agreement. The MOU reflects the commitment of both organizations to promote cooperation and develop their capacities to protect agricultural heritage, promote the diversity of culture and cultural expressions, further develop their communication platform, institutional capacity and policies, and promote an exchange of activities and services in Islamic countries.

Following the signing of the MOU, in May 2012, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries was held in Rabat to launch GIAHS with ISESCO member states which coincided at ISESCO Annual Convention. Delegates from 11 countries (Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Tunisia) shared their knowledge and discussed future plan.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, [www.giahs.org](http://www.giahs.org)

Moreover, in May 2013, an international forum on GIAHS was held in Noto, Ishikawa, Japan where participants from around the world have shared their knowledge on the fundamental values of agricultural patrimony as well as shared their experiences on managing and revitalizing local economies through GIAHS dynamic conservation. The Forum was highlighted by the presence of the FAO Director General and several High Level officials from existing GIAHS sites and key international organizations. The GIAHS Forum featured, among others, the adoption of the Noto Communiqué.

The Noto Communiqué recommends (i) the progressive designation of further GIAHS sites to promote the conservation of agricultural heritage and its contributions towards global food security and economic development; (ii) promotion of on-the-ground projects and activities, particularly in developing countries; (iii) the existing GIAHS support the recognition of candidatures of GIAHS areas in less developed countries; and (iv) promote the twinning of GIAHS sites between developed and developing countries.

Within this background, an international workshop on GIAHS for the Islamic countries will be held in FAO-HQ from 4-5 November 2014. The international workshop on GIAHS is aimed to launch the GIAHS Initiative in the Islamic region and to strengthen the collaboration between FAO and ISESCO member countries, to enhance understanding and promote awareness of the fundamental values, essential goods and services harbored in globally important agricultural heritage systems.

### **Objectives of the International Workshop**

The general objective of the international workshop is to present the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ISESCO member states. The specific objectives are, as follows:

- To familiarize ISESCO member countries with the origin, background and concept of GIAHS, the fundamental values of agricultural heritage, and opportunities for collaboration;
- To share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned on promoting dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage sites and systems; and
- Based on the signed MOU, to explore the joint activities between FAO and ISESCO.

### **Structure of the Workshop and Provisional Agenda**

#### ***Opening and welcome ceremony (FAO and ISESCO senior staff)***

#### ***Session 1 – Introduction of GIAHS Initiative***

This session will discuss the origin, nature, concept of agricultural heritage, criteria for selection, and implementation framework of the GIAHS Initiative. This session will also discuss “GIAHS” – a model of resilient system for sustainable agriculture and rural development. Opportunities and potential thematic areas of collaboration that respond to international development agenda will also be discussed.

#### ***Session 2 – Experiences and lessons learned in implementing dynamic conservation of GIAHS***

This session will discuss practical opportunities and potential benefits of dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage for food security and sustainable development, capitalizing on the positive experiences, lessons learned and country achievements and to build ISESCO members’ capacities.

### Session 3- Summary, Conclusion and Way Forward

This session will present the wrap up of Session 1 and 2, and will discuss the way forward.

#### Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding and awareness on GIAHS Initiative
- GIAHS concept, experiences and lessons learned are shared with the ISESCO member countries and partners
- Enhanced capacity of ISESCO member countries in identifying, conserving and safeguarding their GIAHS
- FAO and ISESCO Programme of Activities

#### Provisional agenda

Day 1 Tuesday, 4 November 2014 - Mexico Room (D213bis)	
<b>Welcome and Opening Ceremony</b> Moderator: Ms. Mary Jane Ramos dela Cruz, Technical Officer, NRL, FAO	
9:00 – 9:20	<b>Welcome Address and Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO</li></ul>
9:20 – 9:40	<b>Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and ISESCO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Aicha Bammoun, ISESCO, Rabat, Morocco</li></ul>
<b>Session 1 – The GIAHS Initiative</b>	
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Introduction and overview of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO</li></ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Experiences and lessons learned on implementing the GIAHS initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Mary Jane Ramos dela Cruz, Technical Officer, NRL, FAO</li></ul>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break
<b>Session 2: Experiences and lessons learned in implementing dynamic conservation of GIAHS</b>	
11:00 – 13:00	<b>Country Presentations</b> Chairperson/Moderator: Mr. Nouredine Nasr, SNE, Tunisia <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Algeria, Recognition of Ghot System, (El-Oued South Algeria):</b> Mr. Abdellatif Fatah Achour – GIAHS Coordinator in Algeria</li><li>▪ <b>Morocco, Recognition of Oasis of Amilchil Amellago and news oases sites in a GEF project :</b> Mr. Seddik Saidi - Head of Department of Ameliortaion and Conservation of Genetic Resources, National Agricultural Research Institute</li><li>▪ <b>Tunisia, Recognition of Gafsa Oasis :</b> Mr. Lazhar Cherif – President of ASM Gafsa Oases</li><li>▪ <b>Iran,</b></li></ul>
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	<b>Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest</b> Moderator: Ms. Mary Jane dela Cruz, NRL, FAO, Rome

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Bangladesh, Floating Agriculture - a Potential GIAHS Site in Bangladesh</b> : Mr. Syed Nasim Khalilluzzaman - Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ <b>Pakistan</b>, Mr. Syed Moazzam Ali - Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of National Food Security and Research</li> <li>▪ <b>Indonesia, GIAHS Potential in INDONESIA</b> : Ms. Pamuji Lestari - Deputy Assistant for Community Empowerment, Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare</li> <li>▪ <b>Cameroon</b>, Ms. Sophie Menyeng Tchala - Directorate of Research, Programs and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>▪ <b>Senegal, Indigenous Practices of Natural Regeneration in Assisted systems of family farms : Example of the Village of Kissane Region, Thiés, Senegal</b> : Mr. Mor Mbacke – Director, Regional Rural Development, Thiés</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee/tea break
16:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest</b> Moderator: Ms. Aicha Bammoun, ISESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Algeria, The frik in Saharan areas, Biskra, Algeria</b> : Mr. Malek Belguedj – Director General, Technical Development Institute of Agronomy Saharan, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>▪ <b>Mauritania</b>, Mr. Ahmed Salem Marrakchi – National Programme Coordinator, Ministry of Rural Development</li> <li>▪ <b>Tunisia, The weirs (Chrafis) Kerkennah - an ingenious system of fishing heritage in Tunisia</b> : Mr. Mohamed Hamani - Director of Fisheries Resource Conservation, Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ <b>Libya</b>,</li> <li>▪ <b>Egypt</b>, Mr. Amr Abd Elhamed Refaat Aboushaara - Assistant Professional, Economic Department, Desert Research Centre</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>
18:00 – 19:30	Cocktail party

<b>Day 2 Wednesday, 5 November 2014 - Mexico Room (D213bis), continuation of Session 2</b>	
9:00 – 10:45	<p><b>Country presentations – Potential GIAHS sites and expressions of Interest</b> Moderator: Mr. Nouredine Nasr, SNE, Tunisia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Saudi Arabia</b>, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim ElHaidary – Director General, Agricultural Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ <b>Oman, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Aflaj and Terraced Fields in Oman</b> : Mr. Slim Zekri – Head of the Department of Natural Resource Economics, Sultan Qaboos University</li> <li>▪ <b>UAE</b>, Mr. Abdelouahhab Zaid – Advisor, Ministry of Presidential Affairs and Secretary of the Khalifa International date Palm Award /Ms. Fatmah Obaid Saeed Ali Alkalbani - Acting Director of Health and Agricultural Development Department, Ministry of Environment and Water</li> <li>▪ <b>Yemen, Introduction of the Agricultural Heritage in Yemen</b> : Mr. Mohamed Al-Marwani – Director General of Agriculture Extension, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation</li> <li>▪ <b>Turkey</b>, Ms. Esin Dilbirligi – Coordinator of Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Division, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussions</b></p>

10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break
11:00 – 11:20	<b>FAO-ISESCO presentation on GIAHS Way Forward</b> Ms. Aicha Bammoun -ISESCO
11:20 – 11:40 11:40 – 12:00	<b>Partnerships and Resources Mobilization Strategy for the Islamic Countries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Nouredine Nasr</b>, SNE, Tunisia</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Sameh Hussein</b>, Capacity Development Department - Islamic Development Bank</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:40	<b>Discussion, Synthesis and Conclusion</b>
12:40 – 13:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Moujahed Achouri - Director of Land and Water Division, FAO</li> <li>• Ms. Aicha Bammoun - ISESCO</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch