

Evolving *systems*,

Evolving *culture*:



Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

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Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

Our Common Heritage

GIAHS: remarkable land use systems and landscapes, which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a rural community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development.

GIAHS objectives

Article 8(j) CBD: respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Article 10 (c) CBD: Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices.

An aerial photograph of a lush green valley. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by terraced rice fields, which are arranged in a series of curved, step-like patterns following the contours of the land. A small village with several buildings, including some with red roofs, is situated in the center of the valley. The background shows more terraced fields extending up the slopes of the surrounding hills, which are covered in dense green vegetation. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Examples of GIAHS

- Rice based traditional systems
- Maize and root crop based agro-ecosystems
- Pastoral transhumant and nomadic systems
- Irrigation, soil and water management systems in drylands
- Multi-layered home gardens and agro-forestry systems
- Taro-based systems
- Fishing, hunting and gathering systems

Agricultural Heritage Systems, evolving and changing over millennia, are a global heritage to preserve and nurture



**GIAHS reflect:
the co-evolution
of humanity and
culture with the
ecological
processes of
their
environment.**

**GIAHS exemplify:
the convergence of
biological diversity,
socio-cultural
diversity and centres
of origin of
domesticated plant
and animal species.**

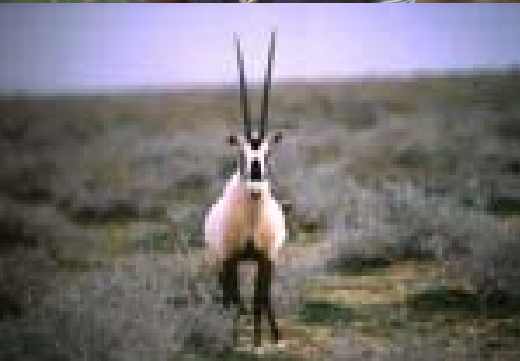
GIAHS have other values beyond production of foods, fibres...

These living and evolving systems and communities have kept their distinct identities intact on the strength of unifying values such as **nature, family, community, history, and a sense of belonging to their natural habitats.**



GIAHS contributions and characteristics

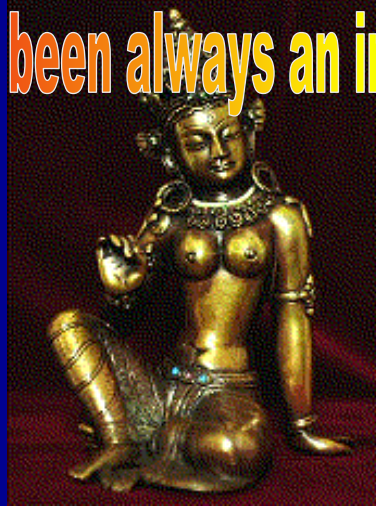
- ⇒ food and livelihood security
- ⇒ environmental services
- ⇒ outstanding landscapes diversity and remarkable beauty
- ⇒ the co-evolution and maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity and ecosystem diversity
- ⇒ valuable indigenous knowledge of soil, water, and other natural resources management systems
- ⇒ adapted forms of social organisation, culture and cultural heritage



Tradition and culture has been always an integral part of Rice based livelihood systems



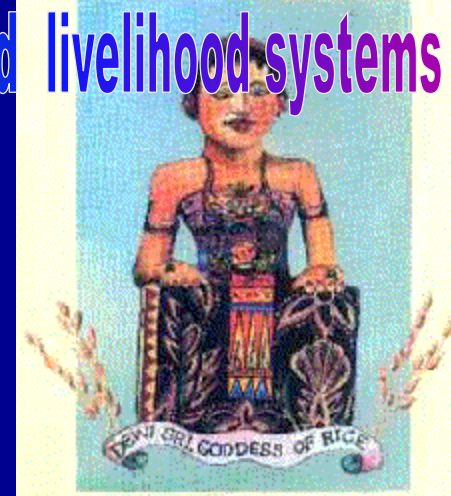
In China: Chinese folklore tells us that it was a humble Chinese woman who first grew rice in the lower basins of the Yangtze River. the Goddess **Guan Yin** took pity on humans and gave her milk and blood to create white and red rice.



In Himalaya: In the northern Himalayas, Goddess **Pavarti**, the daughter of the mountains, was the first to grow rice..



In India rice is associated with prosperity and with the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, **Lakshmi**.



In Indonesia, Bali. people perform rituals to honor **Dewi Sri**. As goddess and guardian of rice and the rice harvest.



In Japan, it is said that the first cultivator of rice was the Sun Goddess **Amaterasu-Omi-Kami**. She grew rice in the fields of heaven, giving the first harvest to Prince Ninigi. He was told to take it to "The Land of Eight Great Islands," Japan.



In Vietnam, For the Rungo people, the shadows on the moon are created by the Rice Goddess stacking up her freshly harvested rice in the shade of a Bo tree.



Large tapestries of rice cakes are made as offerings to Hindu temples.

Machupicchu



Lago Titicaca





The Ifugao Rice Terraces and their culture



About a hundred traditional social culture are being practiced by the Ifugaos, many of which are associated with the rice production cycle: from planting to harvesting and other rituals for every event in the community (wedding, burial, sickness, birth, etc.)



Mumbaki – a native priest





Paad rice ritual conserves and sustains fish and shellfish production in same terraces.



The same social culture exists in China's *rice-fish agriculture*. The traditional culture forms related rice-fish system that include the typical diet culture (dried slice fish and fish dishes), folk arts (song, dance and stone carving), folklores, proverbs, hymeneal cultures, traditional farm tools, etc.

一条鱼工程
(四县利国整区)

天津某开发局
在工程田

2006.4.

田家村世界重要农业文化



An aerial photograph of a lush green mountain valley. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by terraced rice fields, which are arranged in a series of steps down the slope. The terraces are filled with vibrant green rice plants. In the background, there are more terraced fields and a small cluster of buildings with red roofs. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is one of a well-maintained agricultural landscape in a mountainous region.

Dynamic adaptation of living and evolving agricultural systems

Conservation without fossilisation

Strengthening “what is there”: the human management systems and cultures that underpin the sustainability and resilience of GIAHS

Creating better policy and regulatory environments and incentive structures at all levels

Improving peoples’ livelihoods and viability

Thank you



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