

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN CHINA

By Xi Fang

In order to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched an initiative for the conservation and adaptive management of [Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS](#) with the support of Global Environment Facility (GEF). China has been one of the countries giving active response to the initiative in the first place.

Since 2004, the Ministry of Agriculture of China (MOA) has carried out a series of activities including pilot site selection, recommendation, exploration, conservation and development, as well as expertise extension and research facilitation with cooperation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), local governments, experts and local people. Now it is already an effective platform of China's agricultural heritage systems conservation, evaluation and practice. A bunch of scholars are attracted by the project led by Professor Li Wenhua, the director of CNACH and academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering. Furthermore, in order to promote the knowledge and understanding of GIAHS, lots of training courses are designed on the local level to relevant government officials, communities and farmers.

With a history of 5,000 years in farming civilization, China is home to diversified agricultural heritage of great economic, ecological and cultural value. Conserving and developing such agricultural treasure will be conducive to increasing agricultural productivity, farmer's income and prosperity of rural community.

At present, a total of 31 sites of 13 countries have been inscribed on GIAHS List, among which, China has 11 GIAHS sites on the List, ranking top in the world. The 11 enlisted pilot sites include: Qingtian Rice-Fish Culture in Zhejiang (青田稻鱼共生系统), Hani Rice Terraces in Honghe of Yunnan (红河哈尼稻作梯田系统), Dong's Rice-Fish-Duck System in Guizhou (从江侗乡稻-鱼-鸭系统), Wannian Traditional Rice Culture in Jiangxi (万年稻作文化系统), Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem in Yunnan (普洱古茶园与茶文化系统), Kuaijishan Ancient Chinese Torreya in Zhejiang (绍兴会稽山古香榧群), Aohan Dryland Farming System in Inner Mongolia (敖汉旱作农业系统), Xuanhua Traditional Vineyard System in Hebei (宣化城市传统葡萄园), Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System in Fujian (福州茉莉花与茶文化系统),



Xinghua Duotian Agrosystem in Jiangsu (兴化垛田传统农业系统) and Jiaxian Traditional Chinese Date Gardens in Shaanxi (佳县古枣园).

Over years, efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture of China have produced significant social, ecological and economic benefits. The work on GIAHS has substantially pushed forward sustainable agricultural development and rural ecological conservation, and identified effective approaches to improve agricultural efficiency, increase farmers' income, maintain rural stability, and address problems related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers. It has also made remarkable contributions to agricultural heritage conservation and agricultural cooperation at the global level.

From 25 to 28 October, 2014, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS in China have been first exhibited at the 12th China Agricultural Trade Fair (CATF 2014) held in Qingdao, it has been the first national exhibition of GIAHS in China.

On January 28, 2015, FAO and the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding under the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Framework to support the implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS Initiative, opening a new page of China's efforts to contribute to global food security and sustainable agriculture.

To know more

[Ministry of Agriculture of The People's Republic of China website](#)

[FAO-GIAHS](#)

[News on FAO website](#)

[Journal of Resources and Ecology](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 1: Qiantian Rice-Fish Culture, Zhejiang](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 2: Hani Rice Terraces in Honghe, Yunnan](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 3: Wannian Traditional Rice Culture System](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 4: Dong's Rice Fish Duck System, Guizhou](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 5: Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem, Yunnan](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 6: Aohan Dryland Farming System, Inner Mongolia](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 8: Shaoxing Torreya Grandis cv. Merrillii Community, Zhejiang](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 9: Jiaxian Traditional Chinese Date Gardens](#)

[GIAHS Pilot Site 10: Fuzhou Jasmine and Tea Culture System](#)



GIAHS Pilot Site 11: Xinghua Duotian Agrosystem

