

GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS – GIAHS 2018

Fourteen new sites have been designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.

In 2018, 50 sites in 20 countries are designated as GIAHS.

In response to the global trends that undermine family agriculture and traditional agricultural systems, in 2002, during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations launched the initiative for the conservation and adaptive management of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS.

The goal of the GIAHS initiative is to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity, knowledge systems and culture. A GIAHS is a living, evolving system of human communities in an intricate relationship with their territory, cultural or agricultural landscape or biophysical and wider social environment.

The fourteen new systems highlight agricultural traditions that promote sustainability, safeguard biodiversity and protect the environment while supporting the social and economic development necessary for stable, decent livelihoods. The GIAHS page in FAO website presents their most important features:

1. [Siwa Oasis, Egypt 2016](#)
2. [Chinampa Agriculture in the World Natural and Cultural Heritage Zone in Xochimilco, Tláhuac and Milpa Alta, Mexico 2017](#)
3. [Zhagana Agriculture -Forest-Animal Husbandry Composite System, China 2017](#)
4. [Huzhou Mulberry-dyke & Fish Pond System, China 2017](#)
5. [Osaki Kodo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture, Japan 2017](#)
6. [Nishi-Awa Steep Slope Land Agriculture System, Japan 2018](#)
7. [Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem in Hwaqae-myeon, Republic of Korea 2017](#)
8. [The Agricultural System of Valle Salado de Añana, Spain 2017](#)
9. [Malaga Raisin Production System in La Axarquía, Spain 2017](#)
10. [The Cascaded Tank-Village System, Sri Lanka 2017](#)
11. [Rice Terraces in Southern Mountainous and Hilly Areas, China 2018](#)
12. [Xiajin Yellow River Old Course Ancient Mulberry Grove System, China 2018](#)



13. [Traditional Wasabi Cultivation in Shizuoka, Japan 2018](#)

14. [Barroso Agro-sylvo-pastoral System, Portugal 2018](#)

The GIAHS initiative works through a long-term program supporting the GIAHS systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived from their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and increased viability.

In particular, [the initiative supports the actors of the GIAHS Sites](#), local farming communities and local institutions, in their work to achieve the following benefits for local development:

- identify ways to mitigate risks of impoverishment of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, land degradation and threats posed by globalization processes, and skewed policies and incentives;
- strengthen conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, reducing vulnerability to climate change, enhancing sustainable agriculture and rural development and as a result contributing to food security and poverty alleviation;
- enhancing the benefits derived by local populations from conservation and sustainable use of their resources and their ingenious systems and rewarding them through the payment for Environmental Services, Eco-labeling, Eco-tourism and other incentive mechanisms and market opportunities.

The [GIAHS Initiative invites FAO member countries and other stakeholders](#) to submit a proposal to nominate GIAHS sites through effective participation of the relevant communities, and their prior and informed consent. Proposal shall explain the unique nature and specific features of agricultural practices and systems that exhibit remarkable characteristics in the proposed site, including: Food and livelihood security; Agro-biodiversity; Local and Traditional Knowledge systems; Cultures, Value systems and Social Organizations; Landscapes and Seascapes features.

The GIAHS Initiative website indicates the procedure to be followed. The actors engaged in fostering territorial development processes can find in this initiative a way to enhance the traditional economic activities of small producers, safeguarding landscapes and promoting the local culture for a sustainable development.

To know more

[FAO-GIAHS](#)

[14 new sites of GIAHS Initiative](#)

[GIAHS News 2018 in FAO website](#)

[Designation process](#)

[GIAHS slideshare.net](#)

[GIAHS in sustainabledevelopment.un.org](#)

[GIAHS photos in Chinadaily.com.cn](#)

[GIAHS in world agricultural heritage foundation.org](#)

