

# GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS – GIAHS 2020

[In 2020 four new sites have been designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.](#)

During the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, in response to the global trends that undermine family agriculture and traditional agricultural systems, 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.](#)

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 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.

[62 sites in 22 countries are designated as GIAHS in 2020.](#)

The four new systems of Brazil, Republic of Korea and Tunisia designated in 2020 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:

- [Traditional Agricultural System in the Southern Espinhaço Meridional in Minas Gerais, Brazil](#)
- [Damyang Bamboo Field Agriculture System, Republic of Korea](#)
- [Hanging gardens from Djebba El Olia, Tunisia](#)
- [Ramli agricultural system in the lagoons of Ghar El Melh, Tunisia](#)

The GIAHS initiative works through a long-term program supporting the local 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](#)

[GIAHS around the world in 2020](#)

[GIAHS News](#)

[Designation process](#)

[Sowing seeds in Tunisian sands – GIAHS Stories](#)

[GIAHS slideshare.net](#)

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

