SITES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, PORTUGAL AND TAJIKISTAN RECOGNIZED IN 2025 AS GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS GIAHS

September 2025

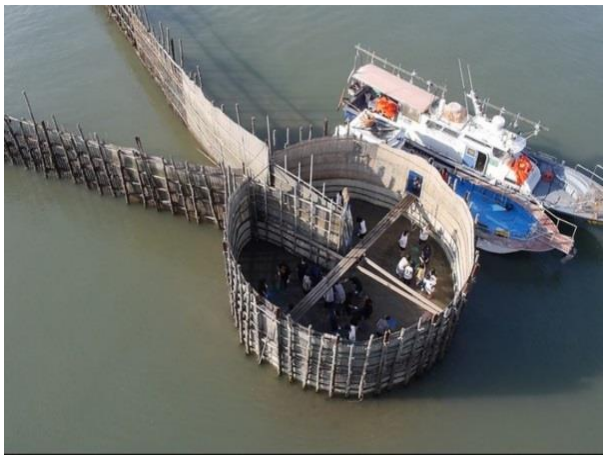
In 2025, during a meeting of the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group from 7 to 8 of July, four new sites in the Republic of Korea, Portugal and Tajikistan have been recognized as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS.

With the latest addition to the global agricultural heritage systems list, FAO's worldwide agricultural heritage network now comprises of 99 systems in 29 countries.

The website presents the four new GIAHS included in the list:

Uljin Pinetree Agroforestry System. Republic of Korea Farming communities in this eastern area of the country have developed a unique pine-based agroforestry system adapted to mountainous terrain and coastal climates. For generations, red pine forests (Pinus densiflora) have been co-managed with beekeeping, mushroom foraging, dryland farming, and traditional salt production.Its pine forests support over 300 species, including wild edible plants, fungi, and pollinators vital to ecosystem health. The forest structure protects against erosion, regulates microclimates, and stabilizes mountain slopes.Pine forest management involves traditional techniques such as resin tapping, fire prevention through undergrowth clearing, and selective thinning to improve forest health. Pinetree Agroforestry System in Ul-Jin

Traditional Jukbangryeom Fishery System in Jijok Straits. Republic of Korea. In the tidal waters of Korea's Jijok Straits, the Jukbangryeom system uses bamboo fish weirs to harvest anchovy without fuel, bycatch, or habitat damage. Practiced for centuries, it reflects traditional ecological knowledge and a semi-agricultural coastal lifestyle. This low-impact system sustains biodiversity, livelihoods, and cultural identity in harmony with fish migration.Local fishers use a Passive trap system with fixed structures placed perpendicular to tidal flow to guide fish into holding chambers. The technique, involving high selectivity, has a history of at least 500 years of documented use.The system supports small-scale fishers, local markets, anchovy drying industries, and women-led processing cooperatives. It coexists with marine life without disrupting migration routes, breeding grounds, or seabed ecosystems.Traditional Jukbangryeom Fishery System in Jijok Straits



Montado Agrosilvipastoral System of the Serpa Hills. Portugal. The Montado da Serra de Serpa, located in southern Portugal, stands out as one of Europe's oldest agrosilvopastoral systems, where cork and holm oak woodlands are managed with remarkable ecological awareness. Through low-intensity and extensive grazing, dryland farming, and forest stewardship, communities have shaped a multifunctional landscape that conserves biodiversity, sustains rural economies and embodies a Mediterranean model of climate resilience and land restoration. The system is home to rich wild fauna with over 120 bird species, forests mushrooms, and threatened species such as the Iberian lynx and black vulture.Tree cover reduces erosion, enhances water retention, and stores carbon in soils and biomass. The woodlands are integrated with cereals, legumes, pastures, beekeeping, and extensive grazing of sheep and goats, generating income from cork, meat, honey, herbs, mushrooms, and nature tourism. It has been recognized within the EU as a High Nature Value farming system, a designation given to low-intensity agricultural landscapes that support high biodiversity and contribute to climate and conservation goals. Montado Agrosilvipastoral System of the Serpa Hills

Almosi Valley integrated agropastoral system adapted to mountain conditions. Tajikistan. This integrated agropastoral system combines seasonal transhumance of sheep with the cultivation of grapes, cereals, orchards, and vegetables across harsh mountain landscapes. Shaped over centuries, it supports food and livelihood security, conserves agrobiodiversity, and preserves cultural heritage. Rooted in ancestral knowledge, it sustains resilient communities facing soil erosion, water scarcity, and climate variability.The valley hosts diverse ecosystems and a wide range of crops and livestock, including landraces of wheat, barley, and vegetables, and the local Hisori sheep. The Pink Toifi grape is central to the valley's identity, valued for its quality and processed into raisins, syrup (shirini), juice, and wine.Farming is guided by ancestral practices, including contour planting, organic fertilization, the Muchal calendar, guiding agriculture based on environmental cues, and ancient irrigation methods to conserve water.Community management is coordinated through mahalla (neighbourhood) committees, family farms, cooperatives, and collective farms, ensuring knowledge transmission, shared resource use, and cultural continuity. Almosi Valley: an integrated agropastoral system adapted to mountain conditions

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) are agroecosystems inhabited by communities that maintain an intricate relationship with their territory. These evolving sites are resilient systems characterized by remarkable agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures and landscapes; they are sustainably managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people in ways that contribute to their livelihoods and food security. Under FAO's GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) programme, the selected sites demonstrate global importance through their contributions to food and livelihood security, agro-biodiversity, sustainable knowledge systems and practices, social values and culture as well as outstanding landscapes. Many of these sites showcase exemplary practices that enhance the resilience of agrifood systems to climate change, promote biodiversity use and ensure the sustainable management of ecosystems.

Traditional agriculture systems continue to provide food for nearly two billion people worldwide. They also sustain biodiversity, livelihoods, practical knowledge and cultural heritage. -This global agricultural heritage needs to be recognized and supported in ways that enable it to evolve while continuing to provide essential goods and services for the present and future generations.

“As it extends to new regions and countries, the GIAHS network is once again demonstrating its distinctive role in showcasing agricultural systems that promote traditions nurtured by communities and ways of pursuing their livelihoods in harmony with nature,” said Kaveh Zahedi, Director of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and environment at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). “As we confront the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity, the contribution age old ways to build resilience and use biodiversity sustainably is all the more vital in transforming our agrifood systems to keep up with the challenges.”. With rising interest from across the globe the GIAHS designations are set to exceed 100 by the time a Certificate Award Ceremony will take place on 31 October in the context of FAO’s 80th anniversary celebrations

Since 2005, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has designated 99 systems in 29 countries as agricultural heritage sites. The GIAHS website allows users to check the list by region and country of the global agricultural heritage sites. In this section it is possible to visit each designated system's dedicated webpage to discover further information, photos, videos, news and stories

To know more

News in GIAGS website

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Initiative

Twenty years of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems - 2022 FAO publication

Preparation and submission a GIAHS proposal