

GROWING NUMBER OF GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

Since 2005, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) [has designated](#) 86 systems in 26 countries as agricultural heritage sites, and currently the initiative received 10 new proposals from 6 different countries.

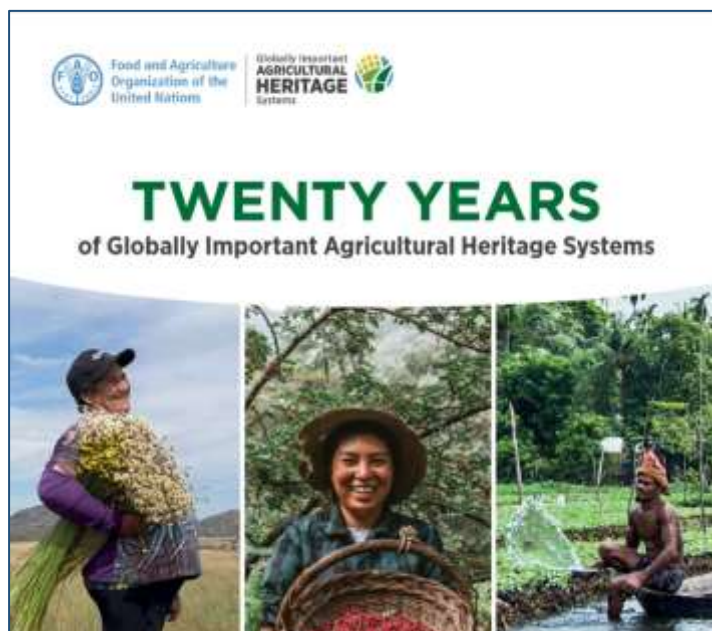
In particular, since 2018, 24 new GIAHS in 12 countries have been designated. They represent not only stunning natural landscapes but also agricultural practices that create livelihoods in rural areas while combining biodiversity, resilient ecosystems, tradition and innovation. In May 2023, representatives from these new sites participated in a ceremony at FAO Headquarters to receive their certificates and present their agricultural heritage systems to the world. GIAHS official certificates were delivered to new GIAHS sites located in: Brazil (1), China (4), Ecuador (2), Iran (2), Italy (2), Japan (2), Korea (2), Mexico (1), Morocco (2), Spain (3), Thailand (1) and Tunisia (2)

[The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\) Initiative](#) recognizes agro-ecosystems where communities live in an intricate relationship with their territories. These evolving agricultural systems, characterized by remarkable agro-biodiversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures and landscapes, are resilient and built on traditional knowledge and invaluable cultural values. Farmers, herders, fisher folk and forest people sustainably manage agrobiodiversity and landscapes in these sites, in ways that also contribute to their livelihoods and food security.

[Traditional agriculture systems are still providing food for some two billion people today.](#) They also sustain biodiversity, livelihoods, practical knowledge and culture. -This global agricultural heritage needs to be recognized and supported in ways that allow it to continue evolving – and provisioning goods and services for the present and future generations.

In order to provide systematic support to the conservation and adaptive management of agricultural heritage systems, the GIAHS Programme promotes intervention strategies at three distinct levels:

- At the *Global level*, it facilitates international recognition of the concept of GIAHS wherein globally significant agrobiodiversity is harboured, and it consolidates and disseminates lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level.
- At the *National level* in pilot countries, project activities ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectorial and inter-sectorial plans and policies.



- At the *Local/Site level* in pilot countries, the project activities address conservation and adaptive management at the community level.

In all countries of the world, with the rapid expansion of industrialization and urbanization, a great number of agricultural heritage systems are at risk of disappearing. [Conserving and developing such agricultural practices](#) today allows not only to face the great challenges for increasing agricultural productivity and farmer's income, but also to sustainably manage essential natural resources such as water, to conserve biodiversity and maintain basic ecosystem services adapted to cope with climatic change

The [Report *Twenty Years of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems*](#). *Success stories of dynamic conservation for sustainable rural development* published in 2022 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a collection of success stories from different Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and aims to showcase the achievements made over the past 20 years since the establishment of the GIAHS Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The publication features success stories from Tanzania, China, Japan, Italy, Spain, Peru and Algeria to give an insight into what has changed since the designation of these systems as GIAHS.

The [GIAHS website](#) allows to check the list by region and country of the [global agricultural heritage sites](#). In this section is possible to visit each designated system's dedicated webpage to discover more information, photos, videos, news and stories.

To know more

[The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems \(GIAHS\) Initiative](#)

[Agricultural heritage around the world](#)

[Twenty years of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems - 2022 FAO publication](#)

[Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: Iran and Japan get additional sites](#)

[Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: China, Mexico, Morocco and Spain get additional sites, along with first one in Thailand](#)

[20 Years of GIAHS Collection](#)

[Preparation and submission a GIAHS proposal](#)

