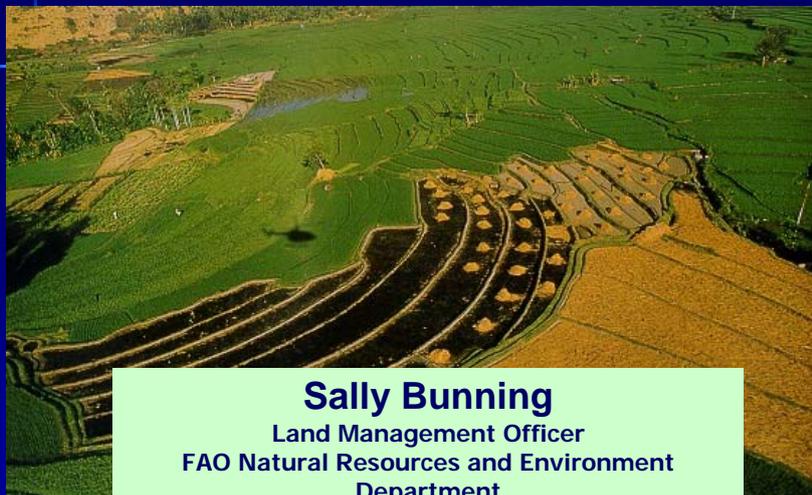


Conservation and Sustainable Management of Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)



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Outline of Presentation

1. What are Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
2. Threats to GIAHS
3. GIAHS Programme
4. GIAHS Approach
5. GIAHS Partners
6. How to Join GIAHS Programme

GIAHS Programme

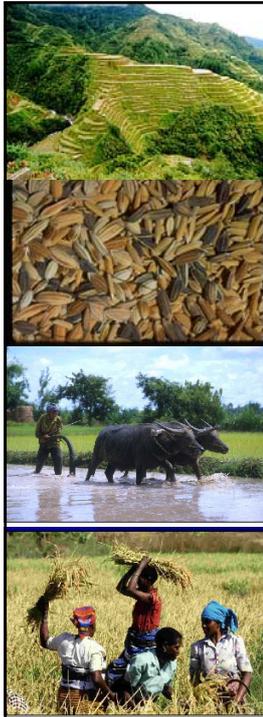
In 2002, FAO launched GIAHS "the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems" as a partnership initiative of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002)

The GIAHS program is a multi-stakeholder umbrella framework that engages governments and intergovernmental organizations, civil society and farmers' organizations in a joint effort towards achievement of Agenda 21 and the MDGs in a vital but hitherto neglected area.

GIAHS: Heritage for the Future

Definition : Remarkable Land Use Systems and landscapes which are rich in biological diversity evolving from the ingenious and dynamic adaptation of a community/ population to its environment and the needs and aspirations for sustainable development (FAO, 2002)

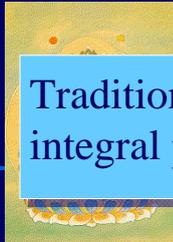
- Integrated Agricultural, Forestry, Livestock & Fishery systems
- Result of co-adaptation and co-evolution of plants, animals, humans and landscape under specific environmental circumstances
- Managed through highly adapted social + cultural practices and institutions
- Provide food & livelihood security and range of ecosystem services- social, cultural and environmental
- Important at local, national and global levels but under **THREAT**



GIAHS make a vital contribution to:

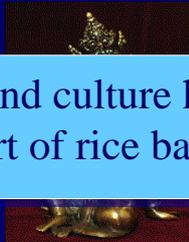
- Food security, health & nutrition of millions of poor, often isolated people
- Agri-“cultural” diversity of human kind
- Biodiversity and genetic resources
- Agro-ecosystem and landscape diversity
- Provision of Ecosystem services through functional diversity
- Products and services diversity
- Collective & individual knowledge systems
- Resilience and adaptive capacity to change over time

In China



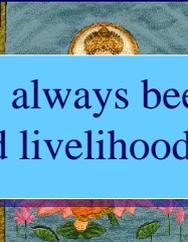
the Goddess **Guan Yin** took pity on humans and gave her milk and blood to create white and red rice.

In the Himalaya



Goddess **Pavarti**, the daughter of the mountains, was the first to grow rice.

In India



Rice is associated with prosperity and with the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, **Lakshmi**.

In Indonesia and Bali.



People perform rituals to honor **Dewi Sri**. As goddess and guardian of rice and the rice harvest,

Tradition and culture has always been an integral part of rice based livelihood systems

In Japan



It is said that the Sun Goddess **Amatereshu-Omi-Kami** grew rice in the fields of heaven, giving the first harvest to **Prince Ninigi**. He was told to take it to "The Land of Eight Great Islands," Japan.

In Vietnam



For the **Rungo** people, the shadows on the moon are created by the rice Goddess stacking up her freshly harvested rice in the shade of a Bo tree.

In Hindu Temples

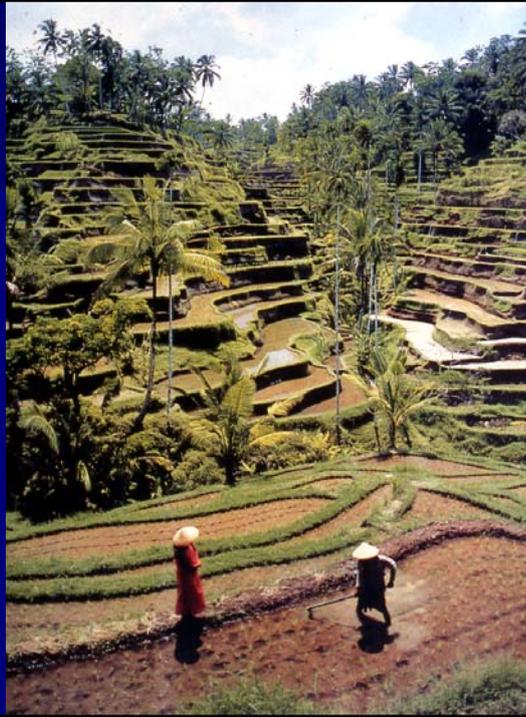


Large tapestries of rice cakes are made as offerings to Hindu temples.



WHY UNDER THREAT:

- Policy, legal + incentive environments
- Neglect of diversified systems & local knowledge
- Low priority given to *in situ* conservation
- Low community involvement in decision making
- Population pressure and cultural change



Examples:

- **Rice based traditional farming systems**
- **Maize- and root crop- based agro-ecosystems**
- **Taro based systems**
- **Pastoral transhumant and nomadic systems**
- **Ingenious irrigation and soil and water management systems of drylands (oases, Karez and Qanat)**
- **Multi-layered home gardens & agro-forestry system**





griculture (Peru)



Ifugao rice terraces (Philippines)

Chiloe agricultural system



Oases of the Maghreb
(Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)



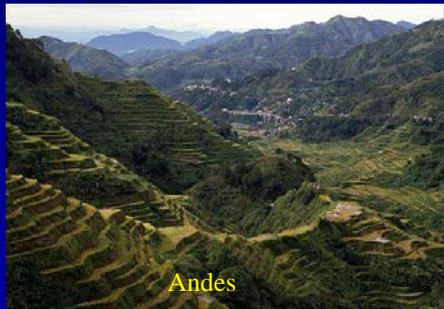
NUMEROUS EXAMPLES OF GIAHS EXIST ACROSS THE WORLD



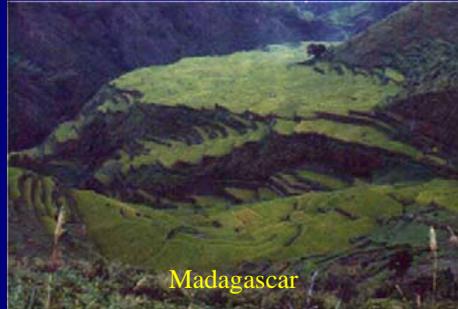
Peru



Indonesia



Andes



Madagascar

GIAHS is not about the past but the future



Overall goal of GIAHS Project

to “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements”, **specifically within agricultural systems**. CBD: Article 8(j)



Objective: to promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in GIAHS.

***Biodiversity can be seen as a
“life insurance policy for life
itself” - Something specially
needed in this time of fast-
paced global change.***

Kofi Annan



GIAHS APPROACH

- Promote traditional, family and community driven agricultural and indigenous knowledge systems
- Provide best-farmer practices for dissemination to other farmers and areas
- Provide criteria for technology development (local goals & priorities, gender, etc.)
- Provide leads for identifying alternative opportunities for technology development

GIAHS DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

- Improve understanding of agriculture systems - environmental, socio-economic policy & cultural dimensions
- Generate recognition for global significance of agricultural systems
- Build capacity of national / local institutions and promote dynamic conservation and sustained viability
- Conservation, sustainable use & rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity (**genetic patrimony, ecosystem services & landscape diversity**)
- Recognition and safeguard the resilience provided by the knowledge systems and social organisation
- Mitigate threats of degradation & root causes of dysfunction and enhance environmental & socioeconomic benefits (**local & global**)
- Add economic, environmental & cultural value to products, artefacts and knowledge systems of GIAHS by supportive policies & incentives for their sustainability and viability

HOW ?

➤ At Global level

by identification, selection and recognition of GIAHS

➤ At National level

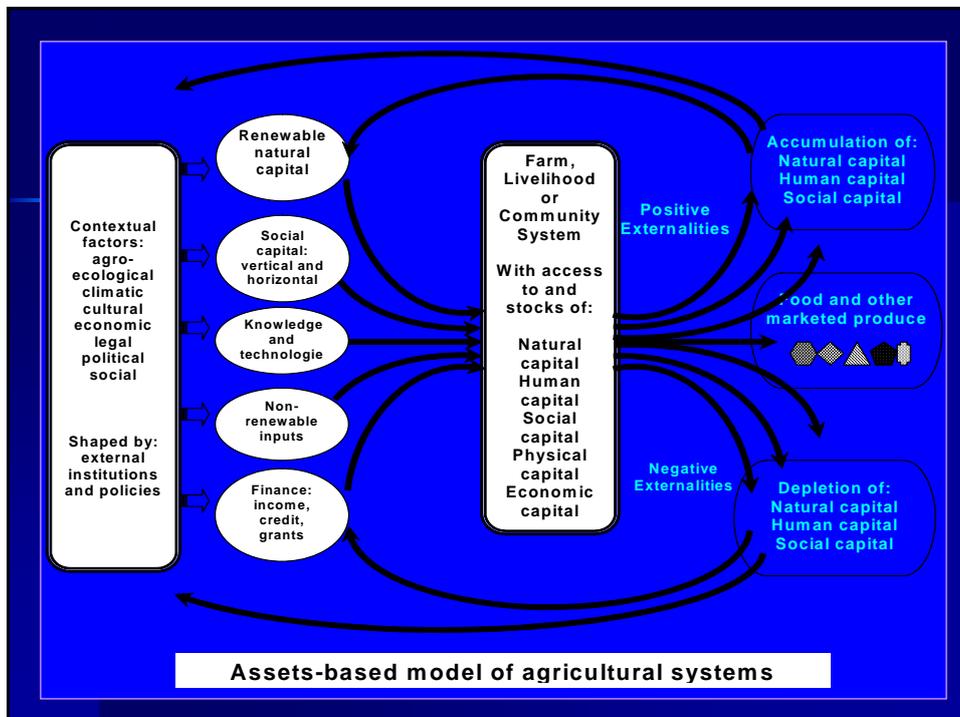
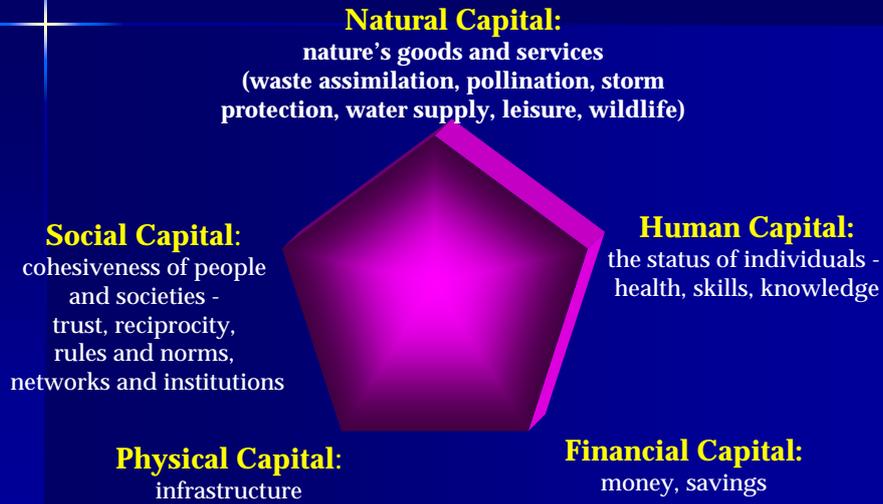
by capacity building in policy, regulatory and incentive mechanisms to safeguard these outstanding systems and use them as sustainability bench mark systems

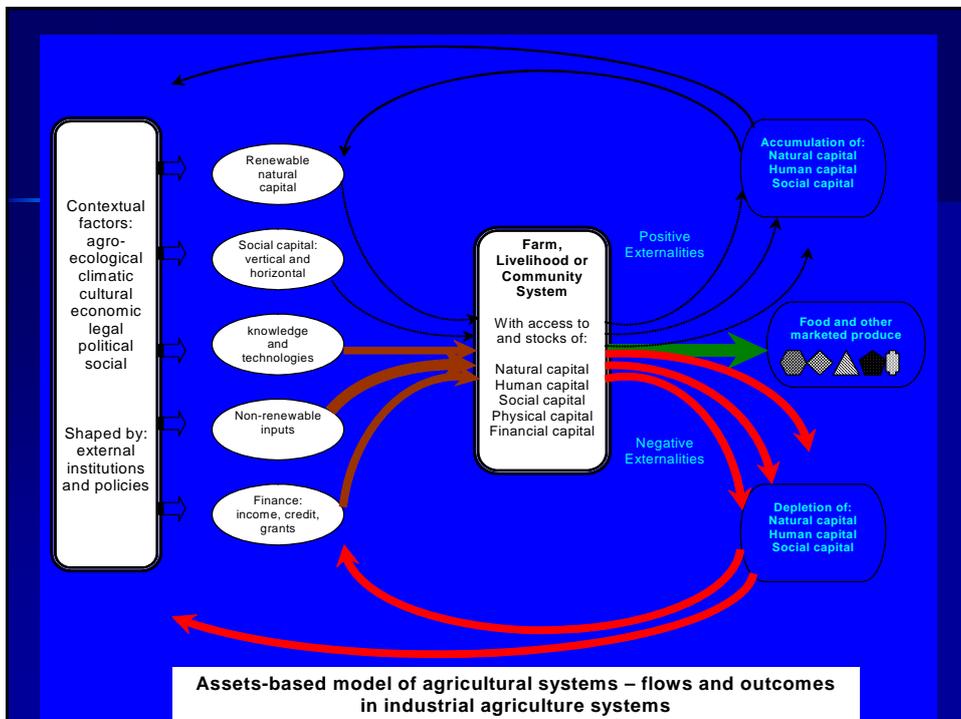
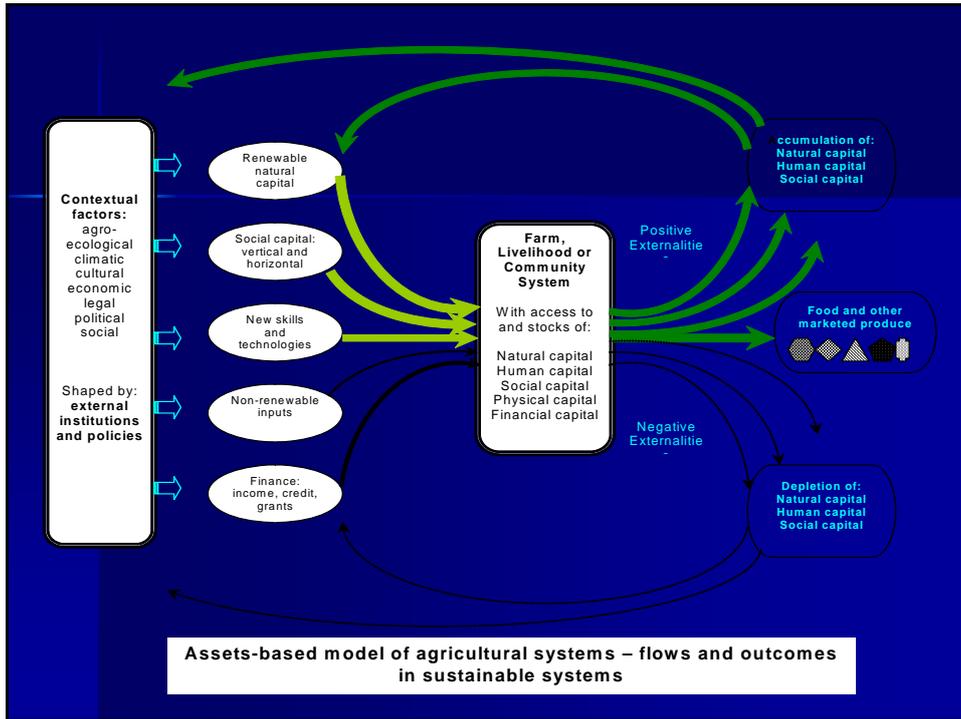
➤ At Local Level

by empowerment of local communities and technical assistance for sustainable resource management, promoting traditional knowledge and enhancing viability of these systems



GIAHS IS BASED ON THE FIVE ASSETS OF RURAL SYSTEMS





GIAHS and POVERTY REDUCTION:

What are the best options for the poorest?

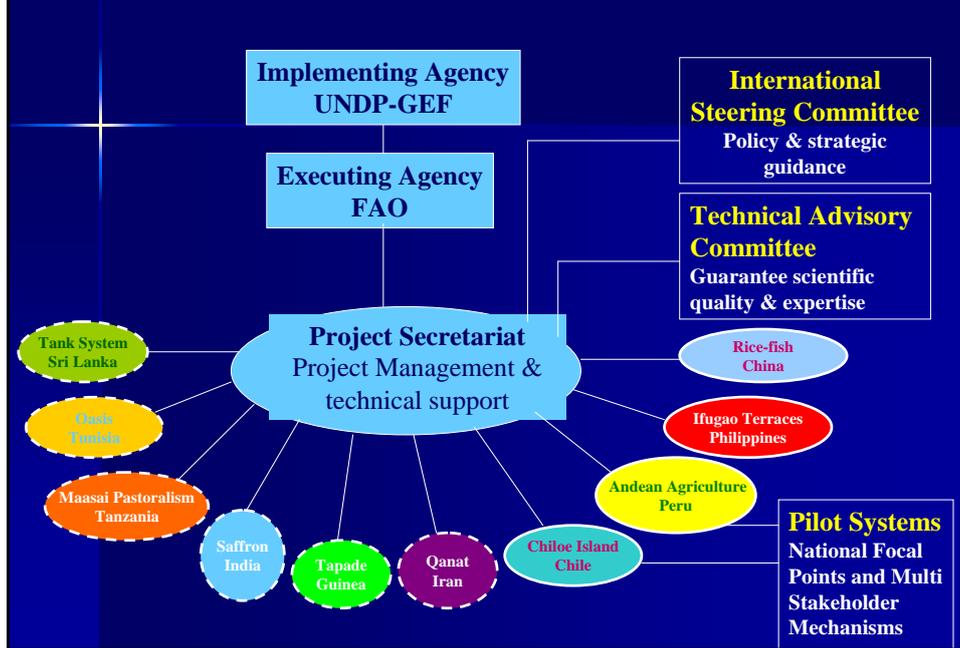
- **Which land use systems work best for the poorest (still 790 million people are food poor)**
- **Key questions:**
 - to what extent can farmers improve food production with low-cost and locally-available technologies and inputs?
 - What impacts do these methods have on environmental goods and services, and the livelihoods of people relying on them?

GIAHS Pilot Systems

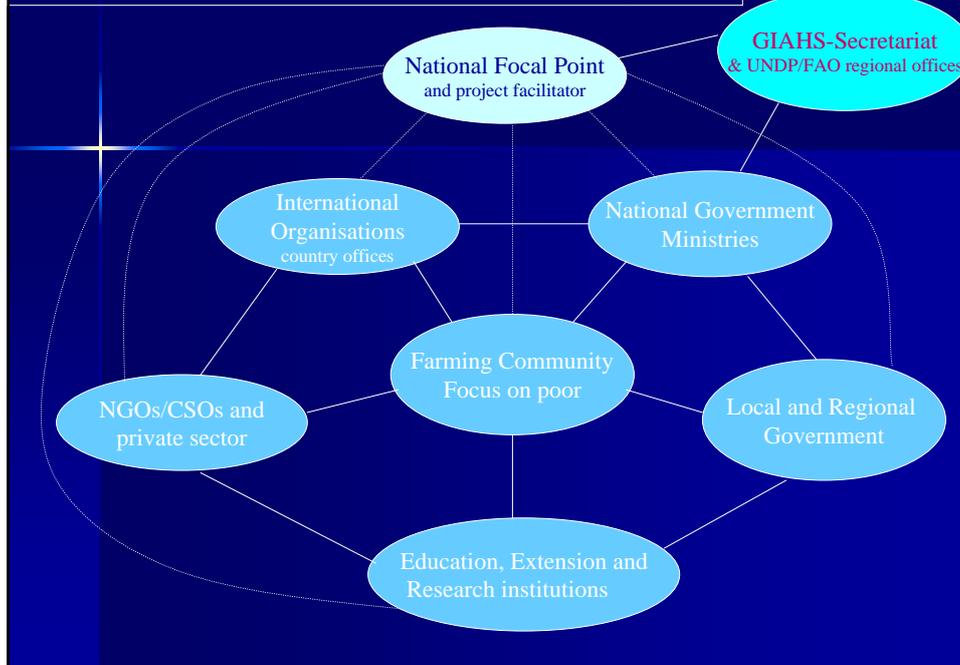
1. Andean agriculture (Peru)
2. Chiloe agriculture (Chile)
3. Ifugao rice terraces (Philippines)
4. Oases of the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia)
5. Rice-fish agriculture (China)

(about 40 agricultural heritage systems around the world are on the initial list and there are more coming in)

GIAHS ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Multi-stakeholder Processes in Pilot Systems





GIAHS Partners...



- National Ministries and agencies
- Indigenous Peoples & their organizations
- Farmers communities
- Civil Society & Private Sector
- Scientific institutions & Universities



International Partners

Co-funding/ technical assistance

- UNESCO
- IFAD
- IUCN
- Bioversity Internat'l
- IFPRI + other CGIAR
- UNU
- GTZ
- COMPAS / ILEIA
- Roman Forum
- **and interested others**



Thank you for your attention

contact:

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