



This project is funded by
the European Union



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Globally Important
**AGRICULTURAL
HERITAGE**
Systems



Ministry of
Agriculture
of the Republic
of Azerbaijan

What are Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems?

GIAHS

April, 2021



What are Globally Important

Agricultural Heritage Systems?

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems recognize outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty full of life and biodiversity. These sites are composed of resilient ecosystems with unvaluable cultural heritage managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people. Communities preserve and develop to this day diverse, and locally adapted sustainable agricultural systems. These systems provide food, goods and services as well as livelihood security for millions of people around the world.

What is FAO-GIAHS Programme?

FAO-GIAHS Programme aims to identify and safeguard Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalyzing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.



**Warm &
clean hands**



**Quality
product**



AGRO-BIODIVERSITY

How to become a GIAHS site?

FAO member countries or other parties/stakeholders can develop a proposal to nominate potential GIAHS sites through effective participation of the relevant communities, and their prior and informed consent.



Proposal shall explain clearly the unique nature and specific features of agricultural practices and systems that exhibit remarkable characteristics in the proposed site, including but not limited to:

- ✔ food and livelihood security;
- ✔ agro-biodiversity;
- ✔ local and traditional knowledge systems;
- ✔ cultures, value systems and social organisations;
- ✔ landscapes and seascapes features.

The proposed **GIAHS** site will be assessed based on these criteria, as well as, on the action plan which must be developed with the proposal for a dynamic conservation of the proposed site.

The recommended items to be included in the action plan would be an analysis of threats and challenges and detailed descriptions of the policies, strategies, actions and outcomes, which are already under implementation and/or will be implemented in the area by various relevant stakeholders to promote dynamic conservation of GIAHS.

The benefits of becoming a GIAHS?

- ✔ securing present and future capacity for providing food and livelihood security;
- ✔ adaptation of knowledge and practices of agricultural systems to national and global policies;
- ✔ support sustainable development through climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation;
- ✔ assist traditional and family farming communities in addressing the challenges of globalization while maintaining agro-ecosystem goods and services;
- ✔ adoption of policies that integrate agricultural heritage into agricultural development programmes;
- ✔ promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- ✔ strengthened multi-stakeholder collaborations and policy support;
- ✔ increased national and international visibility and value for local products and territories;
- ✔ attraction of private investments for the development of agri-tourism facilities, processing and labeling of products, as well as, new employment opportunities;
- ✔ increased awareness on the preservation of local cultures and natural heritage;
- ✔ improvement of health and wellbeing of the local community as a result of strengthened natural, social, human and economic capital.





Identification of potential GIAHS sites in the north-west region of Azerbaijan

The north-western region of Azerbaijan (namely Gakh, Zagatala and Balakan regions) is one of the oldest and geographically rich regions of the country. The ethnic structure and local traditions of the region are very diverse, which gave impetus to the formation of various agricultural practices here.

Currently, the project “Development of sustainable and inclusive local agri-food systems in north-west region of Azerbaijan” is being implemented. The goal of this project is the development of effective and inclusive agri-food systems that support smaller-scale agriculture and contribute to poverty reduction in Azerbaijan’s north-west region. It is also aimed at strengthening the business environment for inclusive and effective development of agriculture and food systems with the support of community agricultural consulting services in the region.

Within the framework of the project, it is planned to identify and safeguard sustainable and inclusive local agri-food systems, put differently, potential GIAHS sites in the region. This will draw attention to partially forgotten traditional agricultural practices and increase the level of national and global recognition and fame of the region. This, in turn, is expected to attract more investors and tourists to the region, as well as help to support the preservation of the traditional agricultural system and food production.

The project will leverage national and global recognition of the importance of agricultural heritage systems through awareness-raising and capacity building based on an assessment of existing policies and incentive mechanisms related to agricultural heritage, and identify regulatory policies and incentives to support the conservation and viability of the target region.



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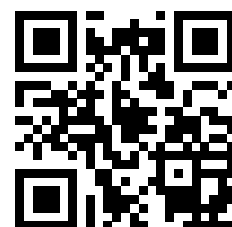
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This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union.

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CB4500AZ/1/05.21