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Agricultural Planning, Economic  
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Food and Agriculture  
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**AGRICULTURAL  
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Systems



CENTRE ON INTEGRATED  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**In the Name of God, Most Gracious,  
the Merciful**





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# The Role of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in the Integrated Sustainable Agricultural, Rural, and Food Tourism Development

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**APERDRI**



CHINA



IRAN



SRILANKA



BANGLADESH



THAILAND

## 1. Introduction

## 2. GIAHS:

- ❖ Definition
- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Current Status
- ❖ Process

## 3. GIAHS & Rural Based Sustainable Development

## 4. GIAHS & Sustainable Agricultural, Rural and Food Tourism Development

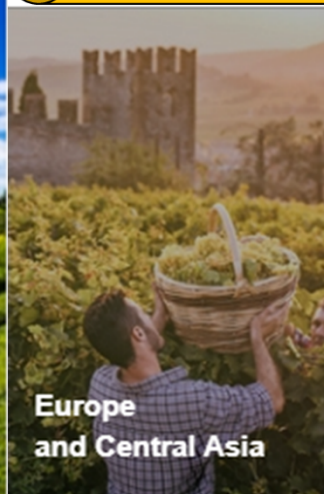
## 5. Conclusion



Africa



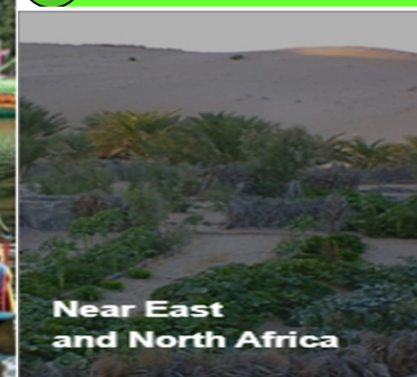
Asia  
and the Pacific



Europe  
and Central Asia



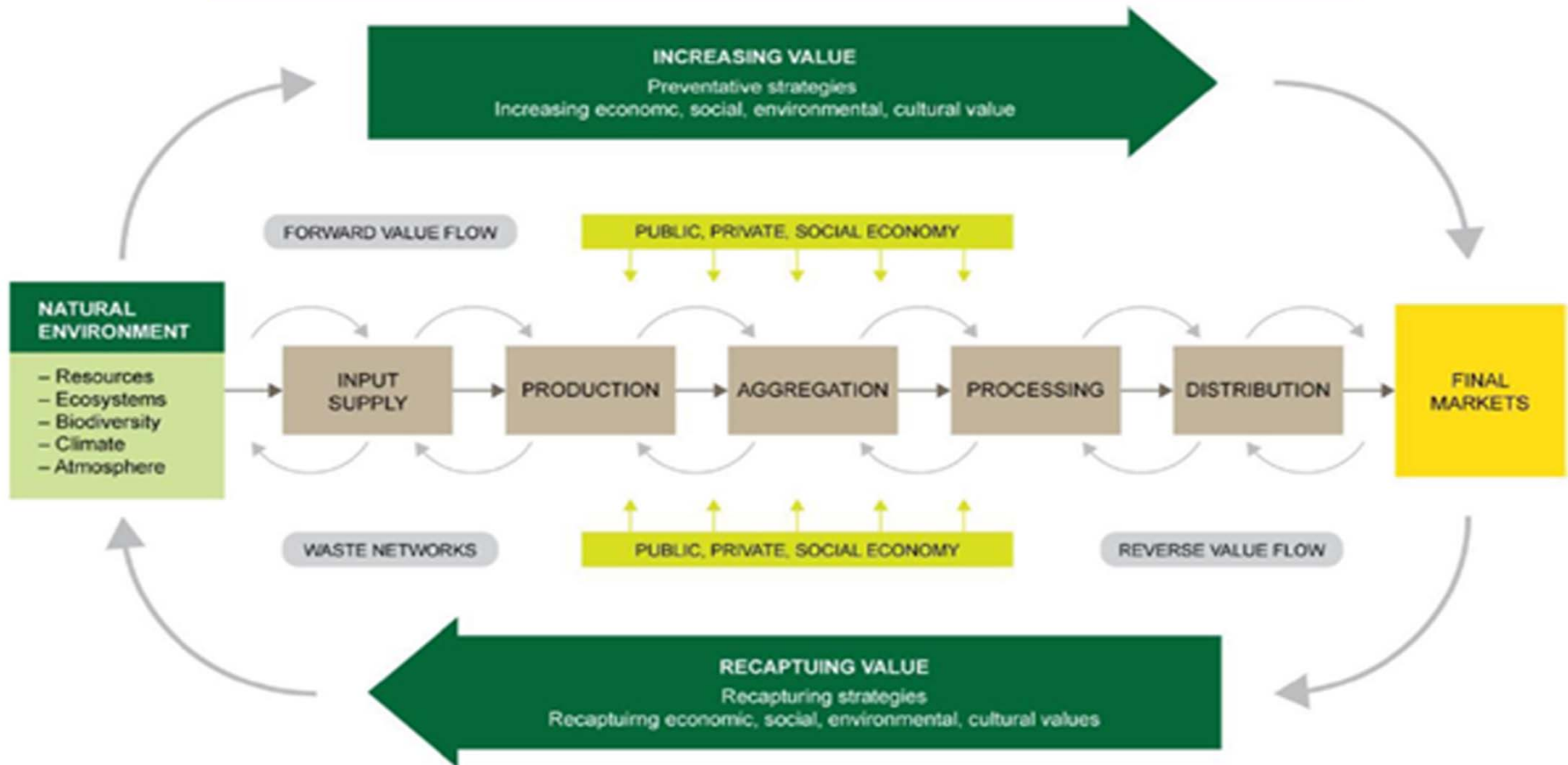
Latin America  
and the Caribbean



Near East  
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## AgriFood Value Chain: From Gene to Cell







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For a considerable period, farmer communities, herders, fishermen, natural resource users, and villagers have crafted inventive agricultural systems fostering food security, livelihoods, and the conservation of natural and cultural diversity.



**Famers had to establish complex and innovative land  
use/management practices due to :**

**(a) geographic isolation:**

**(b) fragile ecosystems:**

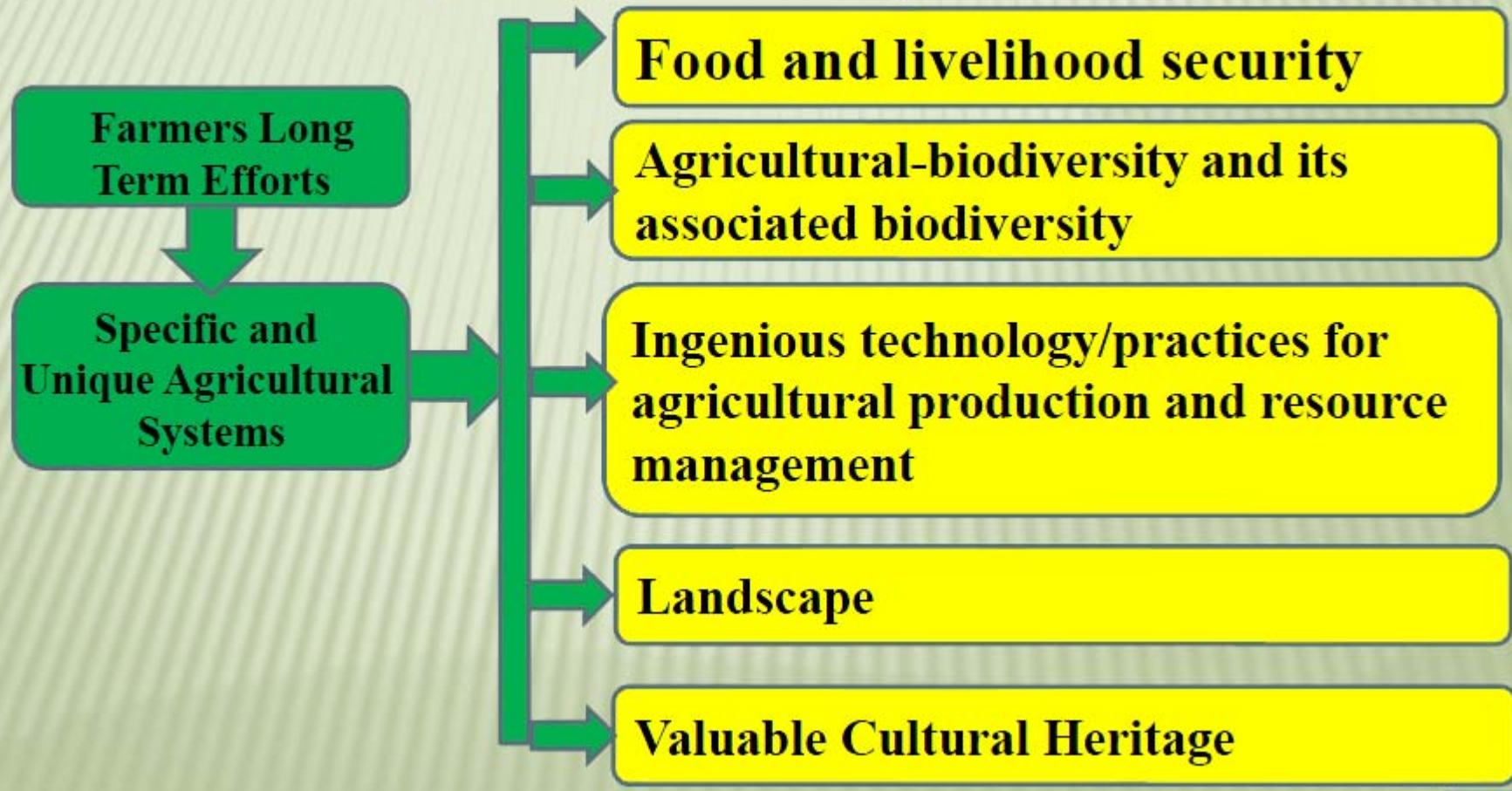
**(c) limited natural resources:**

**(d) extreme climate conditions**

**Famers developed a strategy to minimize risks  
by planting several species/varieties of crops**



## Remarkable/Unique Agricultural Systems





Since approximately 100  
years ago,



Small and traditional agricultural  
systems, condemned to low  
productivity and income, were  
disregarded in development  
plans and policies.



Facilities, services, markets,  
incentives, etc., were  
primarily directed towards  
modern agriculture.



**The failure of industrial and modern agriculture, despite the values of science and technology in agriculture, led to the following problems:**

**Climate change and damage to agriculture**

**Increasing competition for exploitation of natural resources**

**Weakening the livelihood resources of farmers and villagers**

**Reduction of ecological reserves and biodiversity**

**Migration of young people from agriculture and rural sector**

**Gradual deterioration of cultural values**

**Reduction of social capital in farmers and villagers**

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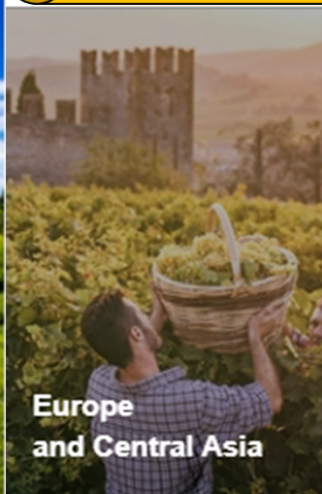
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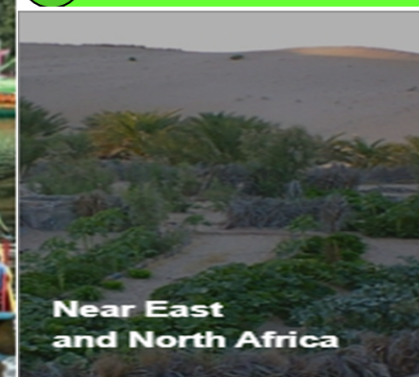
Asia  
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CIRDAP

**2002**

During the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)** in Johannesburg, South Africa, the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the **United Nations** launches a Global Partnership Initiative to protect and support family farming and to conserve "**Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.**"

**2012**

With 16 sites designated and many more proposed in various countries within the first 10 years, GIAHS has earned international recognition and appreciation at various intergovernmental fora. In the meantime, international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training courses to enhance the capacity of member countries and to disseminate the concept of GIAHS have been carried out.

**2013**

At the 148th session of the **FAO Council**, members have agreed that **GIAHS** shall become an integral part of **FAO's** framework and receive a formal status. A first Conference Resolution for anchoring GIAHS within the Organization was drafted.



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2014-2015

Following discussions during the 24th session of the Committee of Agriculture (COAG) in 2014 and during the 39th FAO Conference the following year, the GIAHS programme has been officially endorsed as a **FAO Regular Programme** in 2015.

2016

In order to streamline and facilitate designation processes, in 2016, GIAHS launches the **Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)** with the aim to provide scientific advice on the GIAHS programme and conduct designation of GIAHS sites. The SAG is elected on a rotational 2-year term.

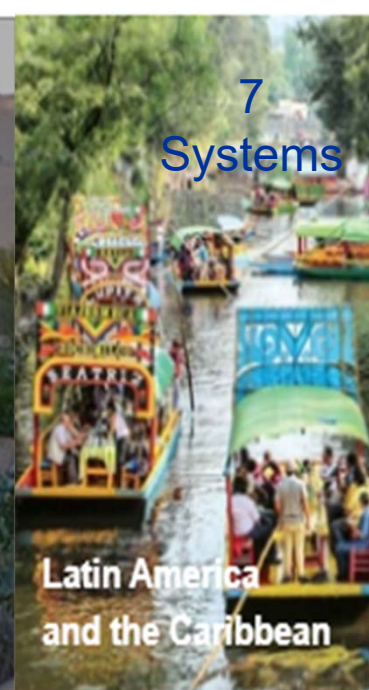
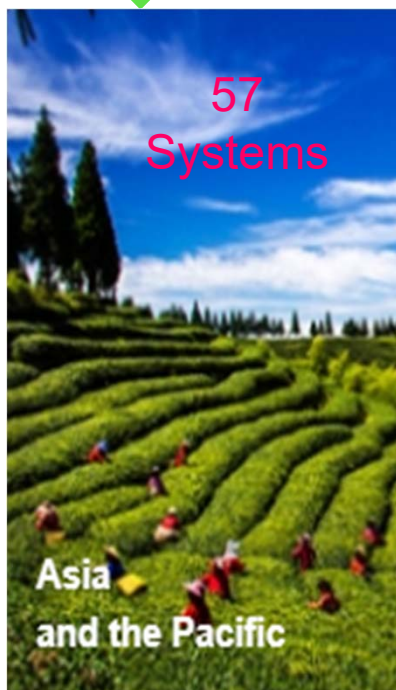
2022

Looking back on 20 years of GIAHS, GIAHS has organized **capacity building workshops** for local farming communities, civil society organizations and Government Official. The programme promoted **policies and incentives** to support the dynamic conservation and potential of GIAHS and helped to implement concrete rural development actions, while promoting traditional knowledge and local cultures.



2024

Since 2005, FAO has designated **86 systems in 26 countries** as agricultural heritage sites, and currently, **10 new proposals** from 6 different countries were received.



**2024**

Since 2005, FAO has designated **86 systems in 26 countries** as agricultural heritage sites, and currently, **10 new proposals** from 6 different countries were received.

Rank	Country	Number of Designated Sites
1	China	22
2	Japan	15
3	Republic of Korea	7
4	Islamic Republic of Iran	6
5	Spain	5





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The GIAHS Programme promotes public understanding, awareness,  
national and international recognition of Agricultural Heritage systems.



**Globally Important  
Agricultural Heritage  
Systems (GIAHS);  
combines  
agricultural  
biodiversity, resilient  
ecosystems,  
traditional  
agricultural  
experiences and  
cultural identity.**

**Remarkable land use systems and landscapes**

**which are: rich in globally significant biological diversity;**

**evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its  
needs; and aspirations for sustainable development**





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The overall goal of the GIAHS Programme is 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.





To achieve this goal, the main objectives are:

- 1.To leverage global and national recognition of the importance of agricultural heritage systems and institutional support for their safeguard;
- 2.Capacity building of local farming communities and local and national institutions to conserve and manage GIAHS, generate income and add economic value to goods and services of such systems in a sustainable fashion;
- 3.To promote enabling regulatory policies and incentive environments to support the conservation, evolutionary adaptation and viability of GIAHS;





## 1. Preparation and Submission of GIAHS proposals

1

## 2. Acceptance and Screening of GIAHS Proposals

2

## 3. Evaluation and Designation of the GIAHS sites<sup>2</sup> by the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG)

3

## 4. Certification and Registration

4

## 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5





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# Guidelines for Developing a GIAHS Proposal Document

November 2023





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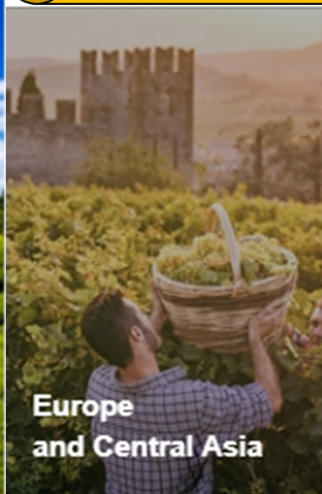
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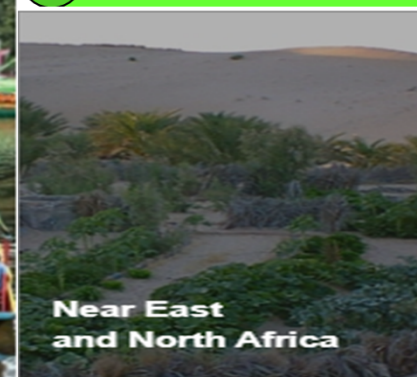
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Europe  
and Central Asia

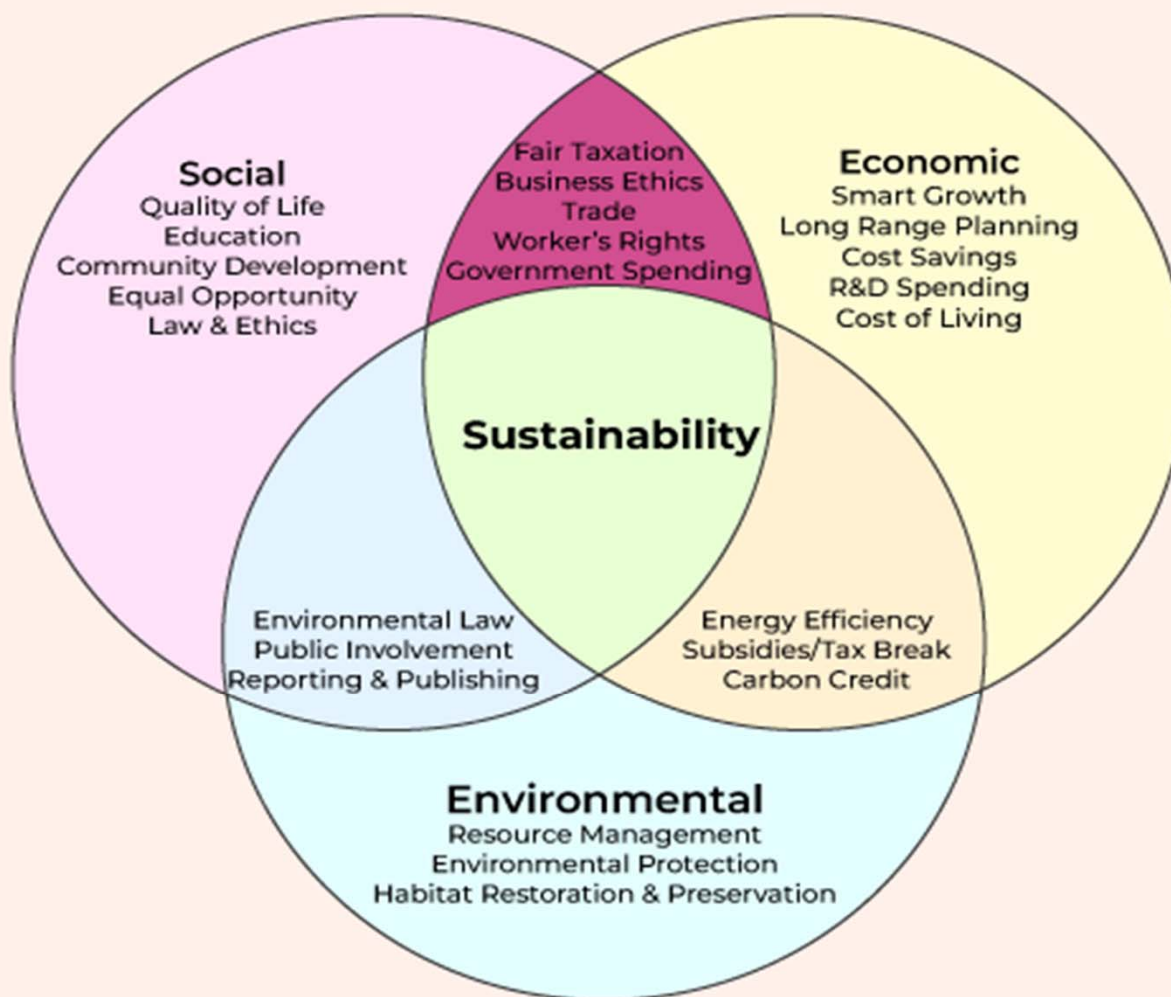


Latin America  
and the Caribbean

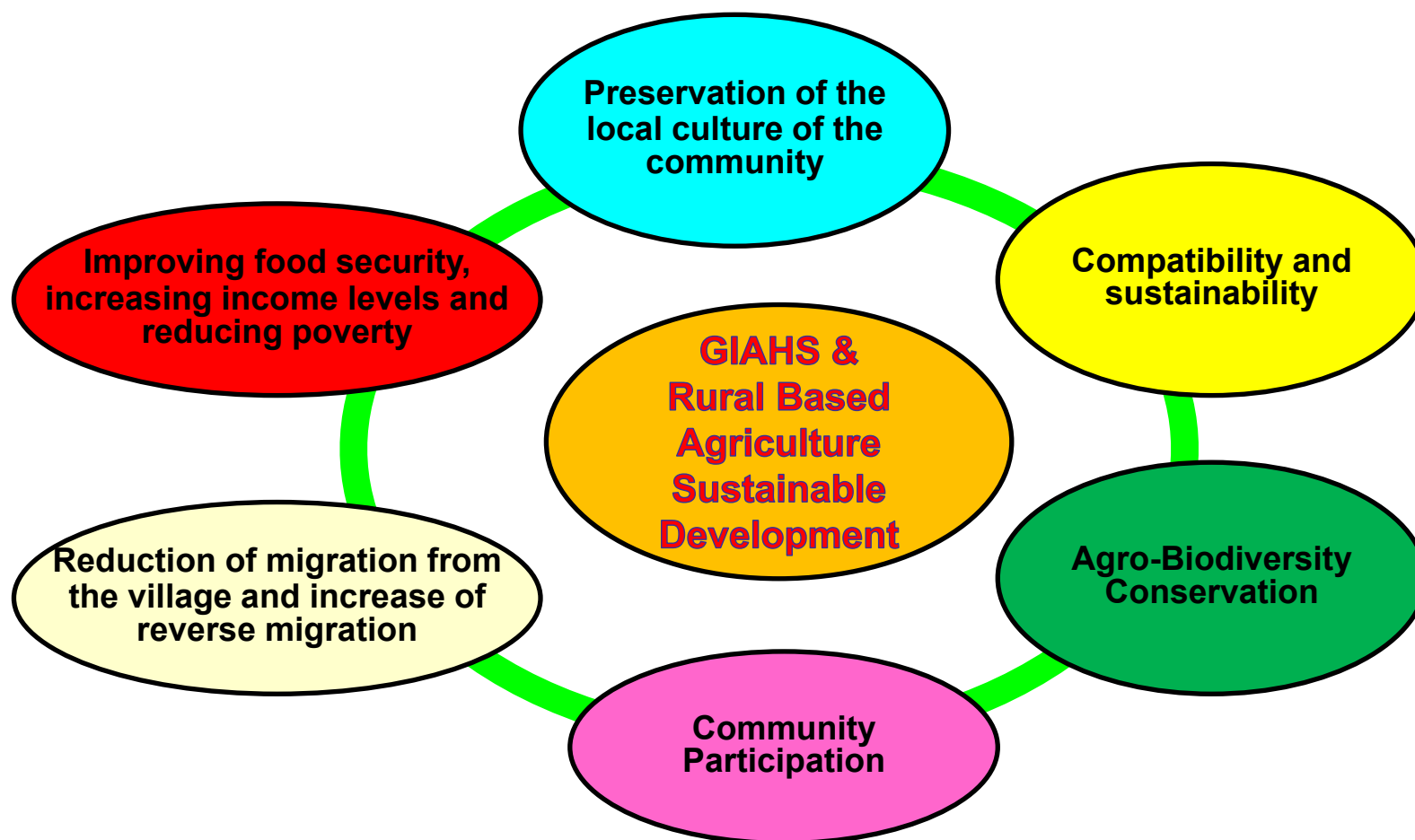


Near East  
and North Africa









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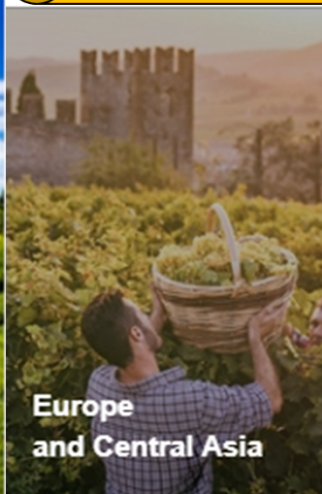
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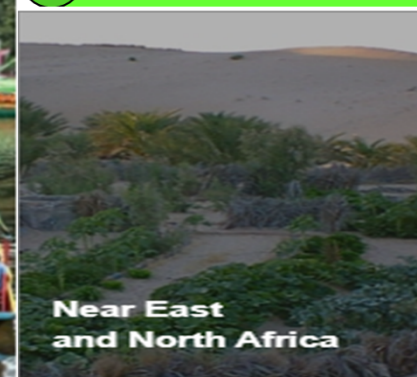
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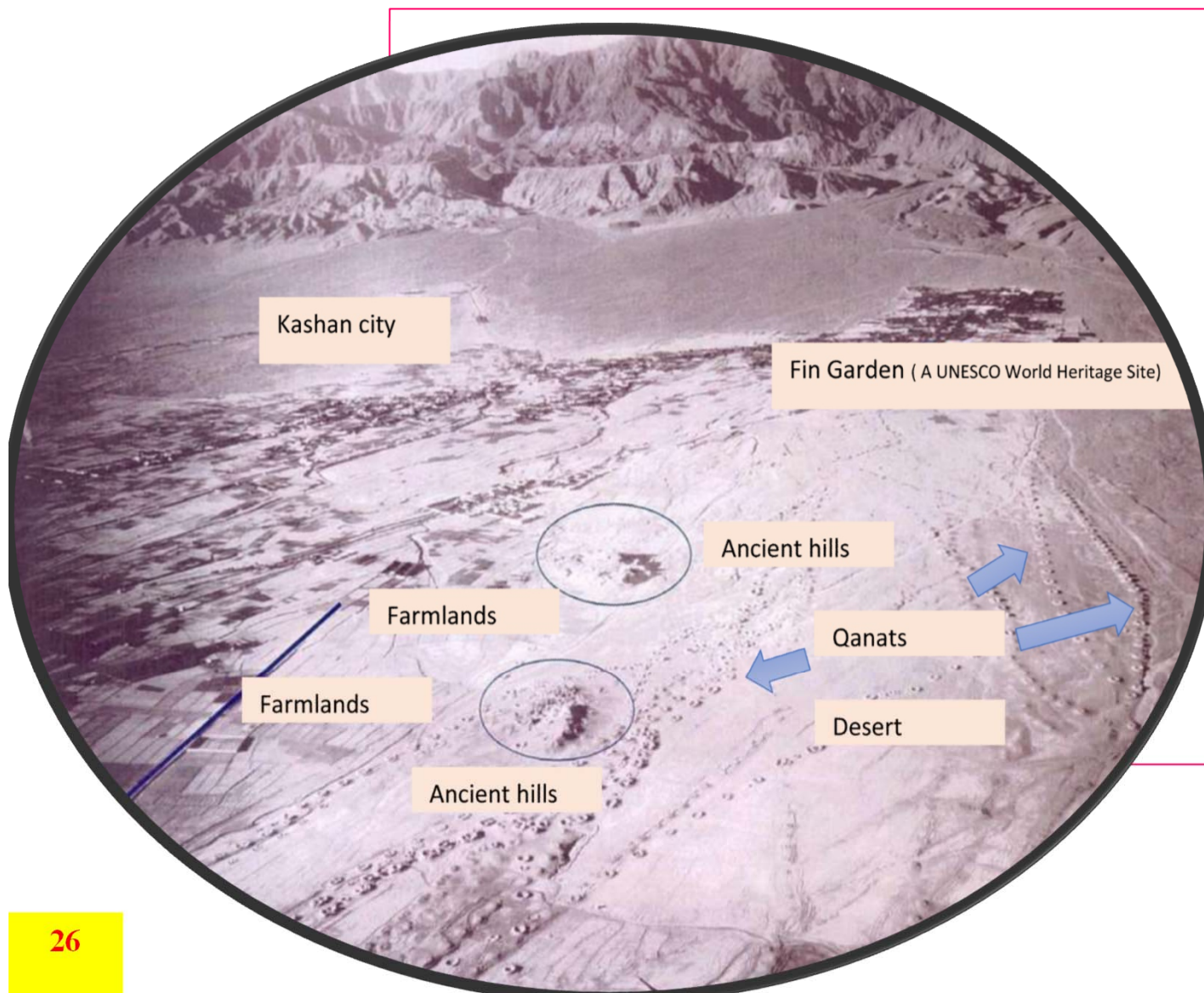
Europe  
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**Historical  
Relevance**





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## Contemporary Relevance





i) Food and  
Livelihood  
Security

Contemporary  
Relevance



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Livelihood  
Security**

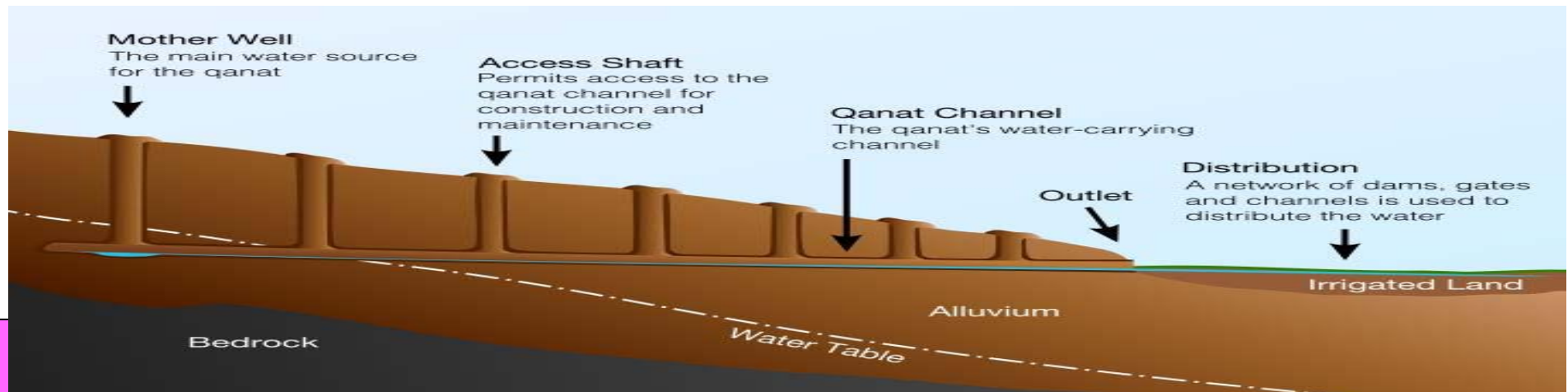
**ii) Agro-  
Biodiversity**

**GIAHS &  
Sustainable  
Agricultural,  
Rural and  
Food Tourism  
Development**

**Contemporary  
Relevance**







Relevance

Food Tourism  
Development

iii) Local and  
Traditional  
Knowledge  
systems

Relevance







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Photo by: Porya Kakhani



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Amir Naeimi  
www.tourphoto.com

**GIAHS &  
Sustainable  
Agricultural,  
Rural and  
Food Tourism  
Development**

**iv) Cultures,  
Value Systems  
and Social  
Organizations**



Alireza Balalian 2018





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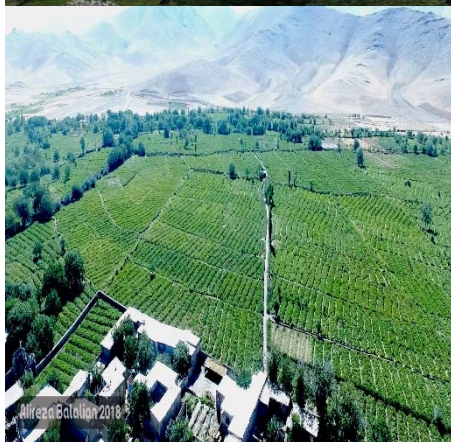
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Photo by: Mehdi Motamed



Alireza Batallion 2018

Security

v) Landscapes  
and Seascapes  
Features.

**GIAHS &  
Sustainable  
Agricultural,  
Rural and  
Food Tourism  
Development**



PHoto by: Hassan IZanloo / 2019 / Gonabad / Senu Village





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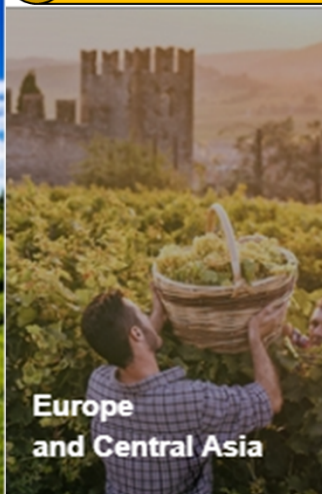
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Africa



Asia  
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the GIAHS Programme promotes intervention strategies at three distinct levels:

1. At the **Global level**, it will facilitate international recognition of the concept of GIAHS wherein globally significant agrobiodiversity is harbored, and it will consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level.

2. At the **National level** in pilot countries, project activities will ensure mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies.

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





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**GIAHS is belonging to all of  
us and Future Generations  
Thank You for Your  
Attention**

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[www.fao.org/giahs](http://www.fao.org/giahs)



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