



GIAHS

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems



Background

GIAHS around the world

Become a GIAHS

News

Resources

Partners



Selection Criteria and Action Plan

Designation Process

Scientific Advisory Group

Submit your proposal

Humanity will need new models of agriculture in the immediate future:
more sustainable, biodiverse, local, resilient, and socially just.

Become a GIAHS

Worldwide, specific agricultural systems and landscapes have been created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted management practices. Building on local knowledge and experience, these ingenious agricultural systems reflect the evolution of humankind, the diversity of its knowledge, and its profound relationship with nature.

These systems have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes, maintenance and adaptation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity

[Submit your proposal](#)

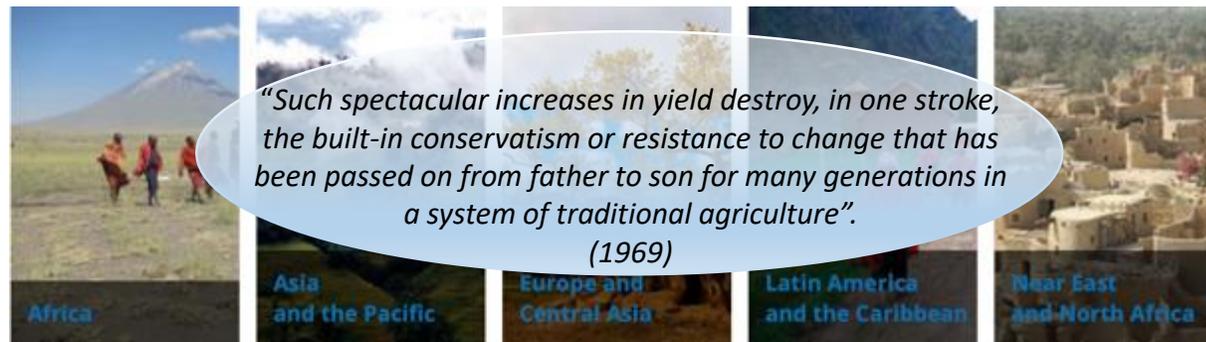
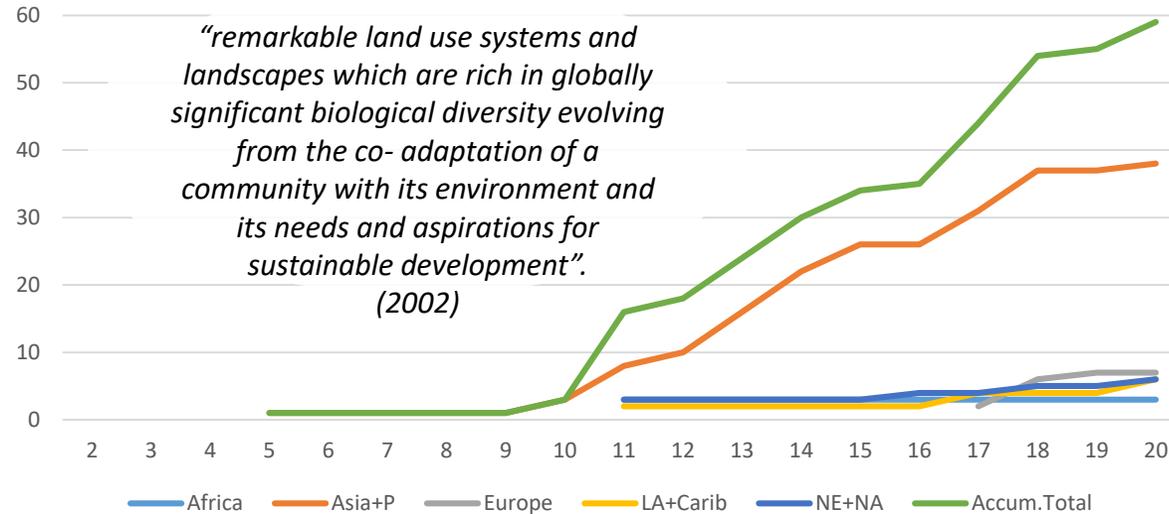
Name/Title of the Agricultural Heritage System:
Requesting agency/organization:
Responsible ministry (for the Government):
Location of the site: (please annex land use maps and geographical coordinates of the site)
Accessibility of the site to capital city or major cities:
Area of coverage:
Agro-ecological zones (for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries):
Topographic features:
Climate type:
Approximate population (beneficiary):
Ethnicity/Indigenous population:
Main source of livelihoods:

"Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems"

(GIAHS) are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage. Located in specific sites around the world, they sustainably provide multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security for millions of small-scale farmers.

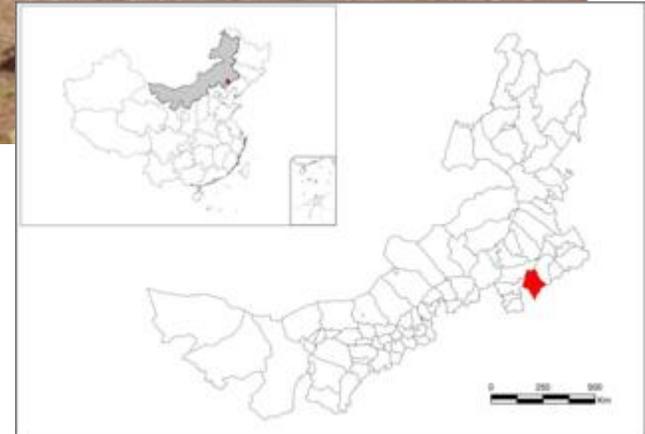
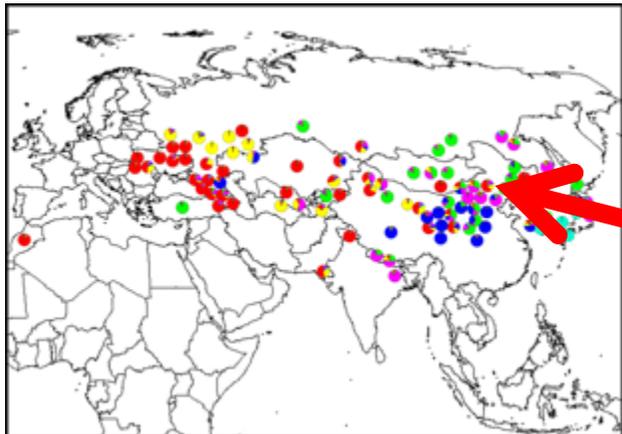
Unfortunately, these agricultural systems are threatened by many factors including climate change and increased competition for natural resources. They are also dealing with migration due to low economic viability, which has resulted in traditional farming practices being abandoned and endemic species and breeds being lost.

These ancestral agricultural systems constitute the foundation for contemporary and future agricultural innovations and technologies. Their cultural, ecological and agricultural diversity is still evident in many parts of the world, maintained as unique systems of agriculture.





Early *Panicum miliaceum* at Xinglonggou, Inner Mongolia, c.5,700 BC



Hunt H. *et al.* 2008 VHAA
Hunt H. *et al.* 2011 *Mol. Ecol.*
Hunt H. *et al.* 2018 *Holocene*



A wide-angle photograph of a lush green field of foxtail millet (Setaria italica) in the foreground. The plants are tall and dense, with their characteristic panicle heads visible. In the background, there are rolling hills and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. To the left, a line of trees borders the field. In the distance, some white structures, possibly greenhouses or farm buildings, are visible on a hillside.

Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*)

2005



2014



- May 2011: submission to FAO by local government and CAS for GIAHS status
- September 2012: submission successful
- May 2013: brand approval
- *2013-15, the price of Aohan millet grew from 1.8 to 4.4 ¥/kg, and went from 8 to 25% of available agricultural land*

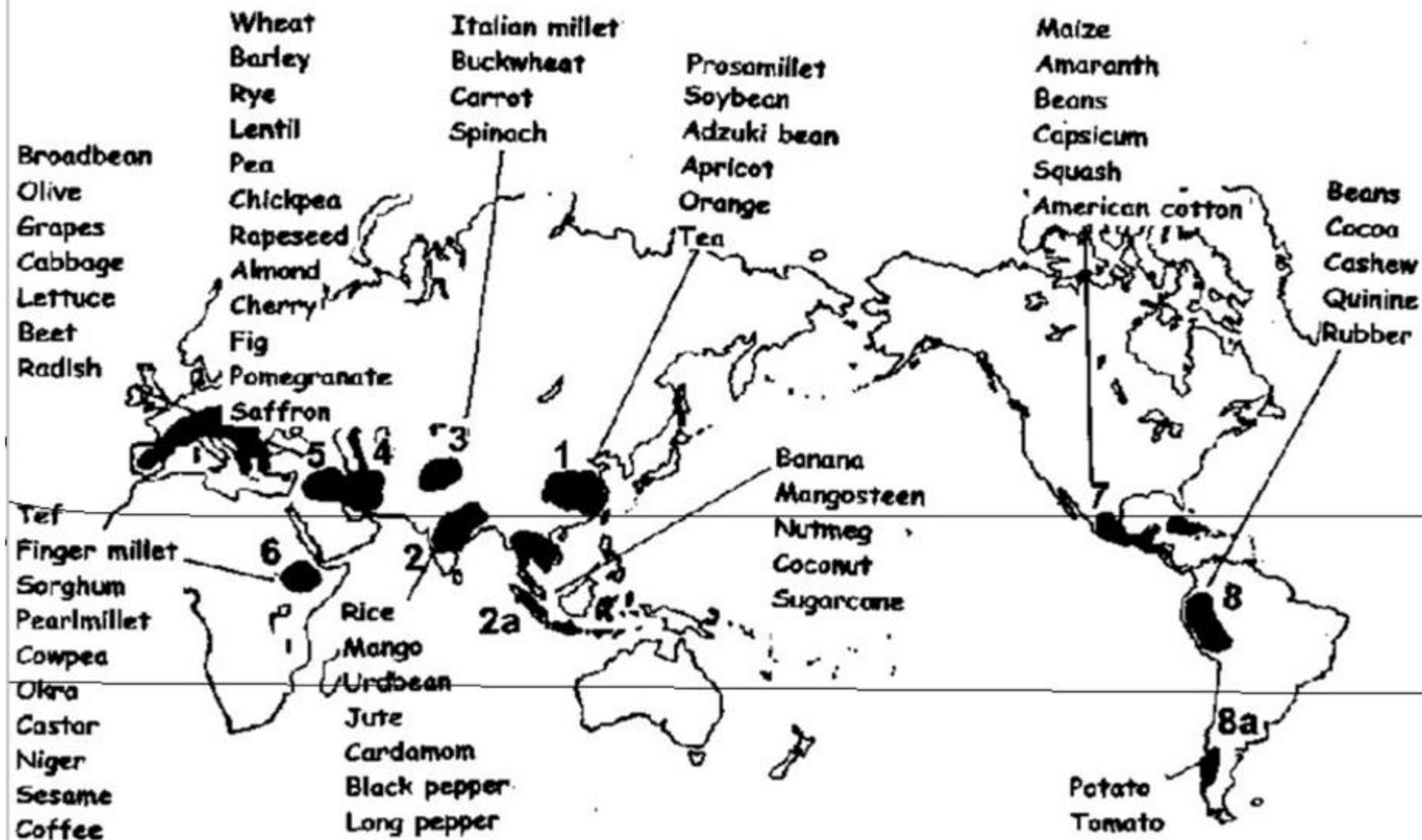
The global pictures: my personal thoughts about an ideal GIAHS network

10,000 + taxa individually named and ingested
(somewhere, some time, in some quantity)

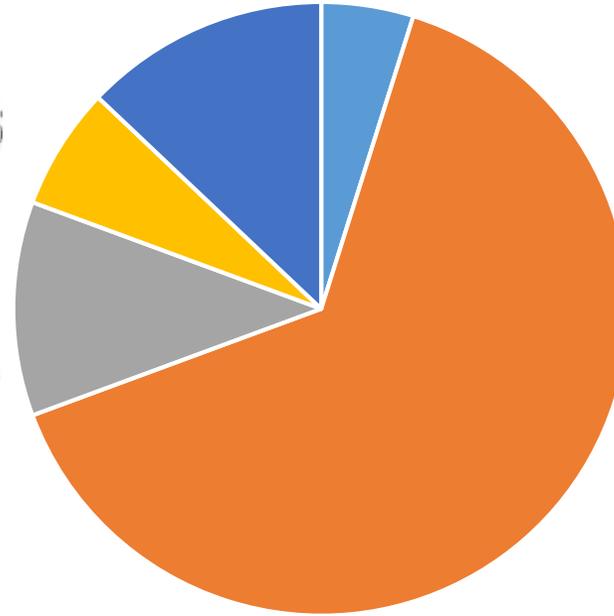
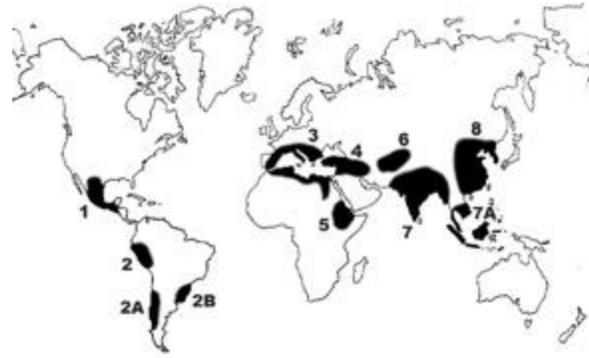
50 spp. of cereal, 25 spp. of legume,
15 spp. pseudocereal
(in production within the last century)

Over half the energy in the global human
food chain currently derived from just
three grasses
(wheat, rice, maize)

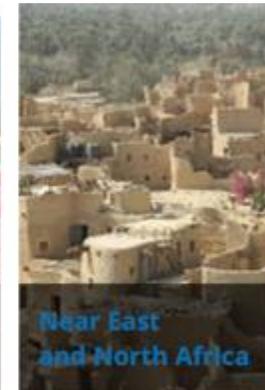
VAVILOVIAN CENTRES OF CROP DIVERSITY



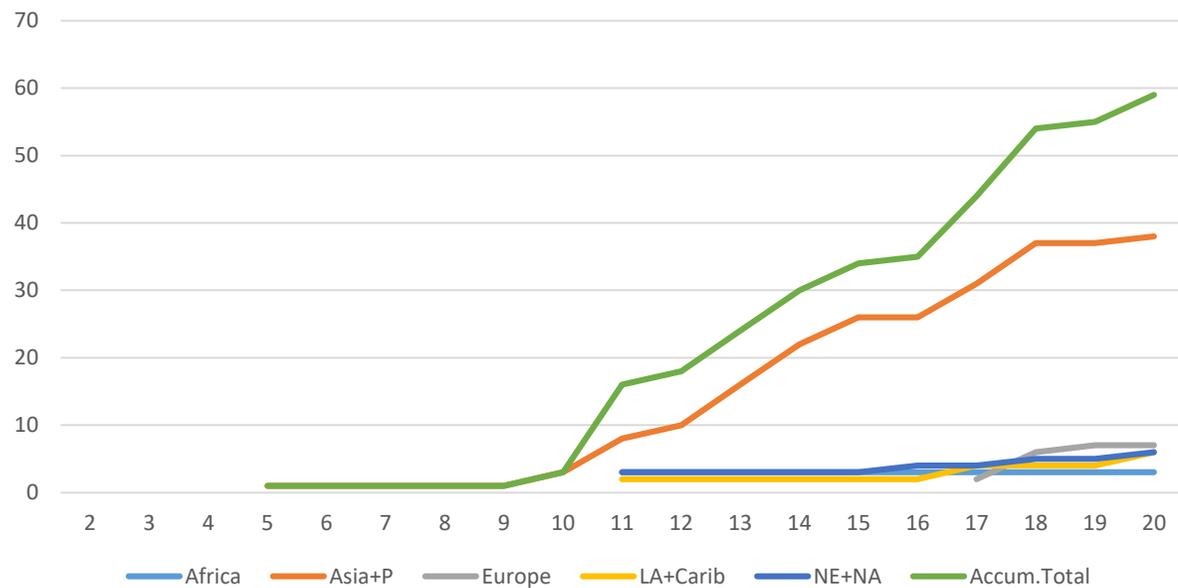
Geographical spread of GIAHS



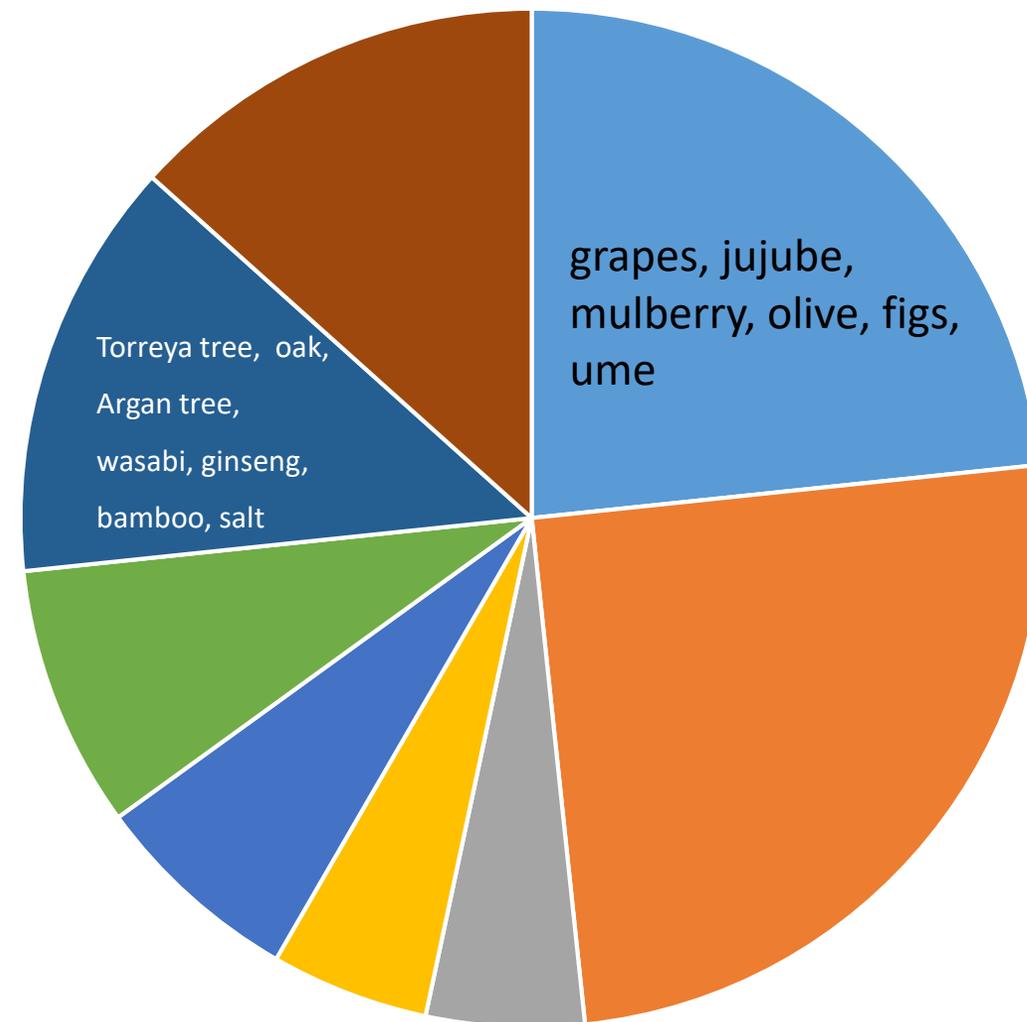
■ Africa ■ Asia + Pacific ■ Europe + Central Asia ■ Latin America + Caribbean ■ NE+N.Africa



GIAHS designated sites over last 20 years



Lead produce in current GIAHS



■ Soft fruit ■ Rice ■ Other cereals ■ Potatoes ■ Tea ■ Animals ■ Other crops ■ General systems

Ifugao Rice Terraces, Philippines, 2011



Andean Agriculture, Perú, (Cusco-Puno)

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Rare wheats in Asturias, Spain



Wild wheats and barleys in S.E.Turkey

Some questions

- Is there an alternative to the 'response mode' approach to the selection of sites?
- Should the bar be raised in certain areas, and lowered in others?
- How might we researchers interact with the FAO on such issues?

