



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

2nd Regional Dialogue on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Europe and Central Asia

27 April 2021

What: Virtual meeting (Zoom Webinar)

When: 27 April 2021, 10.00 - 12.30 (Budapest time)

Language: English and Russian (simultaneous translation to be provided)

Registration: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QtFlu0JtReRCVzie5T7Tg

Background

The first Dialogue on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in Europe and Central Asia meant a meeting place between different countries of the region that testified to the agricultural heritage that resides in it. During the meeting, the potential of these systems to be recognized as GIAHS by the FAO became evident. Currently in Europe seven agricultural systems have received GIAHS recognition, and this could be the first year in which applications from Central Asia are submitted.

This 2nd Dialogue comes at a very delicate time in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has affected food supply chains and the demand for food in Europe and Central Asia. Nevertheless, agriculture has been one of the least-affected sectors of the economy in the region, and food availability in the short term has not been compromised. In fact, with adequate financial and technical support, agriculture could become a key engine for economic recovery¹.

COVID-19 has re-emphasized the importance of addressing issues of local food production and the sustainable use of local natural resources to ensure food security for all. Therefore, GIAHS sites have a main role to play as remarkable locally adapted agricultural systems that have evolved over time in a sustainable way proving high resilient to ever changing social, environmental, and economic conditions. These systems have been managed with time tested, ingenious combinations of nature-based techniques and practices that have usually led to community food security, and the

¹ FAO. 2020. The Impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Europe and Central Asia and FAO's response. Thirty-second Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, 2–4 November 2020.



conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. During the pandemic, GIAHS social organization has revealed to be a factor of high resilience. Sense of community and local collaboration have reduced the problems caused by supply chain breaks and lack of foreign labor. Moreover, local commerce has been favored and has been a fundamental pillar in food security of local communities, whose mobility was restricted.

The Regional Dialogues on GIAHS in ECA are meeting places for all the countries of Europe and Central Asia where to value the agricultural heritage that resides in them, discuss the challenges of the local agri-food systems in the region, and build upon the opportunities that GIAHS recognition brings. For this purpose, the 2nd Regional Dialogue will bring into discussion the resilience of these systems to crisis such as the one we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also, the environmental and climatic change crisis that are predicted to worsen in the Post COVID-19 era.

Objectives of the dialogue

- Discuss the role of GIAHS in the economic diversification of local agricultural systems, agrotourism and labelling to promote market access and improve the value chain of local and traditional products in ECA countries.
- Support and catalyze the candidacy of at least 3 countries in ECA to the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in 2021.

Expected outcomes

- Developed the bases of a common road map for the dynamic conservation of these agricultural systems, based on national and regional challenges and priorities towards a sustainable future.
- Discussion and awareness raised among the countries on potential GIAHS sites in the region, through already existing advances in several countries, and experts' presentations.

Target audience

Europe and Central Asia national stakeholders including public and private sectors, such as policymakers, NGOs, CSOs and academia. FAO country offices in ECA. GIAHS communities, and other practitioners and experts.

Speakers

Opening session: GIAHS technical guidance, and Action Plan:

1. Endo Yoshihide, GIAHS Coordinator FAO

Session 1: GIAHS and agri-food sustainability

2. José Damián Ruiz-Sinoga, Professor of Physical Geography, University of Málaga (Spain)
3. José Antonio Sillero Medina, Phd candidate, University of Málaga (Spain)
4. Dimitry Zvyagintsev, Policy Officer FAO REU
5. Federico Mattei, Representative Global Project Development and International Relations, SlowFood International
6. UNWTO Representative

Session 2:

7. Esperanza Perea Acosta, Council of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Regional Government of Andalucía, Spain
8. Parviz Aliyev, National Coordinator for GIAHS and country GIAHS focal point in Azerbaijan
9. FAO Tajikistan
10. FAO Liaison Office with the Russian Federation
11. Denis Rusjan, Associate Professor at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Francesco Marangon, Professor and Rector's Delegate for the Sustainability Sector of the University of Udine, Italy
12. Aimilia Drougas, Biologist, Geologist-Oceanographer, PhD, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Greece

Moderators

Marta Arnés García, GIAHS and NbS Specialist, FAO REU

Clelia María Puzzo, GIAHS Specialist, FAO GIAHS Secretariat



AGENDA

Opening remarks	10.00-10.05
Tania Santivañez, Delivery Manager Regional Initiative 3 and GIAHS Regional focal point, FAO REU	
Opening session: GIAHS technical guidance, and Action Plan	10.05-10.20
Endo Yoshihide, GIAHS Coordinator FAO	
Session 1: GIAHS and agri-food sustainability	10:20-11.00
Scientific results on GIAHS resilience and vulnerability to climate change	University of Málaga, Spain
Value chain and Geographical Indication (GI) in Europe and Central Asia	FAO REU
SlowFood: supporting local food products, cultures, and traditions	SlowFood International
Sustainable rural tourism, innovation, and employment	UNWTO
COFFEE BREAK	11.00-11.15
Session 2: Advances in the region and building upon the opportunities of GIAHS recognition	11.15-12.00
GIAHS European network: VALSIPAM	Regional Government of Andalucía, Spain
Azerbaijan: north-west region (Gakh, Zagatala and Balakan)	FAO Azerbaijan
GIAHS potentialities in Greece	Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Greece
Tajikistan: Hissor Valley	FAO Tajikistan
Advances in Russia	FAO liaison Office with the Russian Federation
Slovenia: Goriška Brda Region	University of Ljubljana, and University of Udine
Dialogue: Building a regional road map for GIAHS dynamic conservation	12.00-12.30
Closing remarks	12.30

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