

TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AS A RESOURCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Presentation Day of the Volume:

***“AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE,
ASIA, AFRICA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA”***



OCTOBER 30th 2024, 11:30 A.M. CET

**FAO HEADQUARTERS, VIALE DELLE
TERME DI CARACALLA**

**at FAO Sheikh Zayed International Multimedia Conference
Center**



OPENING SESSION

11.30

MAURIZIO MARTINA

DEPUTY-DIRECTOR GENERAL AT FAO

AMBASSADOR BRUNO ARCHI

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

11.45 – 12:15

FIRST SESSION

11:45 – 11:55

MARCO RICCARDO RUSCONI

DIRECTOR OF THE ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (AICS)

11:55 – 12:05

CLELIA MARIA PUZZO

SENIOR SPECIALIST AT THE FAO GIAHS PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

12:05 – 12:15

MASSIMO RICCARDO

SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE MATTEI PLAN

12:15 – 13:10

SECOND SESSION

12:15 – 12:30

MAURO AGNOLETTI

DIRECTOR OF THE UNESCO CHAIR "AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

Results of the "GIAHS BUILDING CAPACITY" Project

12:30 – 12:45

DANIELA TOCCAFONDI

PRESIDENT OF THE POLO UNIVERSITARIO "CITTÀ DI PRATO" - PIN

12:45 – 12:55

FEDERICA ROMANO

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR OF THE UNESCO CHAIR "AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES" AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

The publication "Agricultural Heritage Systems in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central and South America"

12:55 – 13:10

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE GIAHS BUILDING CAPACITY MASTER'S PROGRAM

- TUNISIA: FADWA BENYAHIA (MASTER'S PROGRAMME YEAR I)
- EGYPT: MAHA EL-SHEEMY (MASTER'S PROGRAMME YEAR II)
- ETIOPIA: YOSEPH TADELE ZEWDE (TRAINING COURSE)

FINAL REMARKS

13.15

TIZIANO TEMPESTA

MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP FAO GIAHS PROGRAMME

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROGRAM AND TO ATTEND THE EVENT, ACCESS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH A [ZOOM LINK](#), WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST.

TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AS A RESOURCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION DAY OF THE VOLUME "AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA"

Event Concept Note

The event "Traditional agricultural systems as a resource for rural development" will take place at FAO headquarters, Sheikh Zaid International Multimedia Conference Center on October 30th, 2024 from 11.30 a.m. to 13.15 p.m. CET and is organized in the framework of the **"GIAHS Building Capacity"** project co-financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) involving the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Sciences and Technologies (DAGRI) of the University of Florence in quality of implementing partner with the support of the University Centre of the city of Prato (PIN Prato).

The "GIAHS Building Capacity" project is aimed at promoting the knowledge and importance of traditional agricultural systems based on the approach of the FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme through training and research activities with a focus on AICS Priority Countries. The initiative established an international University Master Course in Agricultural Heritage Systems to train professionals capable of identifying and managing sites characterized by the presence of traditional agro-silvo-pastoral systems, ensuring the maintenance of traditional knowledge, agro-biodiversity, cultural values and landscape. The 4 editions of the Master Course have seen the participation of 61 students from 25 different countries, out of which 52 from 18 AICS Priority Countries; among the latter, 29 were women coming from 13 AICS Priority Countries. Furthermore, the research activity was aimed at identifying potential GIAHS sites in the AICS Priority Countries to be inscribed in the FAO GIAHS Programme: landscapes and agricultural systems resulting from the interaction between man and the environment, which today represent a multifunctional resource for rural territories, as examples of sustainability, quality agri-food production, high biodiversity and agrobiodiversity, tourist attractiveness and resilience to global challenges related to climate change. During the project 43 potential GIAHS sites around the world were identified and the scientific results of the project were the subject of 12 scientific publications and 4 monographs. Furthermore, exhibitions, conferences and television broadcasts on topics related to the project were organised. In the last project semester an advanced training course entitled "Resilient Agriculture for Rural Development" targeted to 14 institutional representatives, professionals and students from AICS priority countries was held in Prato to train professionals capable of identifying and managing this type of agricultural sites.

In addition to presenting the results of the "GIAHS Building Capacity" project, the volume entitled "AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS IN EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA" and published by Springer Verlag will be presented with the participation and direct testimony of some students attending different editions of the Master Course and participating in the training course in the framework of which the students had the opportunity to investigate about potential GIAHS sites in their country of origin.

The themes that will be addressed during the conference are particularly interesting with reference to the current historical moment characterized by profound and rapid transformations that affect rural areas and require the identification of resilient agriculture models capable to adapt to climate, political and socio-economic crises, ensuring food security and environmental sustainability. In this perspective, agriculture systems requiring low energy inputs which are based on techniques and practices that are the result of observations, study and use over a long time period can today represent effective reference models being them also compatible with the objective of maintaining the quality of both the landscape and the environment. The ability to adapt to changing climates, to produce quality food, to maintain biodiversity, cultural values and landscape quality, distinguish these agricultural systems that characterize many different countries in the world.

