

**Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Bureau of Soils and Water Management  
National Commission on Culture and Arts**

**POLICY WORKING PAPER**

Mainstreaming  
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems  
into existing policies and programmes

March 2014

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## List of Abbreviations

AMS	Agricultural Marketing Services
BAR	Bureau of Agricultural Research
BMB	Biodiversity Management bureau (formerly Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau)
BSWM	Bureau of Soils Water Management
CAD	Certificate of Ancestral Domain
CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity
CGIP	Consultative group for indigenous people
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CSO	Civil society organization
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Dept-Ag	Department of Agriculture
Dept-Ed	Department of Education
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	Free and prior informed consent
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System
GMO	Genetic modified organism
GOP	Government of the Philippines
HLURB	Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board
ICCA	Indigenous community-conserved areas
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge System
IKSP	Indigenous knowledge systems and practices
IPRA	Indigenous People's Rights Act
IRT	Ifugao Rice Terraces
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LGU	Local Government Unit
MIMAROPA	Acronym for administrative unit 4B: Mindoro (divided into Occidental Mindoro and Oriental

	Mindoro), Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.
NBSAP	National Biodiversity and Action Plan
NCCA	National Commission for Culture and the Art
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NewCAPP	New Conservation Areas in the Philippines Project
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIAHS	Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System
NISM	National integration sharing mechanism
NOAB	National Organic Agricultural Programme
PCAMARD	Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development
PCAMRD	Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development
PCHRD	Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
PCHRD	Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
RRI	Regional Rice Initiative
SAFDZ	Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zoning
SLT	Schools of Living Tradition
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## About GIAHS

For millennia communities of farmers, herders, fishers and forest people have developed complex, diverse and locally-adapted agricultural systems. These systems have been managed with time-tested, ingenious combinations of techniques and practices that have usually led to community food security, and the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. Agricultural heritage systems can still be found throughout the world that provides vital combination of social, cultural, ecological and economical services to humankind. These 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)' have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty, maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage. Above all, these systems sustainably provide multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security for millions of poor and small-scale farmers.

The existence of numerous GIAHS around the world testifies to the inventiveness and ingenuity of people in their use and management of finite resources, biodiversity, ecosystem dynamics, and ingenious use of physical attributes of the landscape, codified in traditional but evolving knowledge, practices and technologies. Whether recognised or not by the scientific community, these ancestral agricultural systems are the foundation of contemporary and future agricultural innovations and technologies. Their cultural, ecological and agricultural diversity is still evident in many parts of the world, where they are maintained as unique systems of agriculture. Through a remarkable process of co-evolution of Humankind and Nature, GIAHS have emerged over centuries of cultural and biological interactions and synergies, representing the accumulated experiences of rural peoples.

"The GIAHS approach is to promote a balance between conservation, adaptation and socio-economic development".

Excerpts from *The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: a legacy for the future* by Parviz Koohafkan and Miguel Altieri

## Executive Summary

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) initiative was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2002 with the aim of establishing the basis for the global recognition, dynamic conservation and adaptive management of outstanding traditional agricultural systems and their associated landscapes, biodiversity, knowledge systems and cultures. These systems, defined as *“unique, remarkable traditional agricultural practices and evolving systems that demonstrate multiple goods and services to humanity and the environment”*, and providing livelihood security for millions of poor and small farmers.

GIAHS are resilient systems, traditionally-based family-scale agro-systems and their associated high-value ecosystems are sustainable. Nevertheless, these traditional agricultural systems have to compete with commercial and extensive systems as well as vanishing knowledge of the systems by the youth. The initiative is recognizing this and aiming through de-constructing the traditional knowledge and skills base so as to identify elements suitable to strengthening, thereby yielding transferable best practices which is specifically destined for promotion in related systems outside the GIAHS network. In this way, the GIAHS concept and approach is based on a principle of Sustainable livelihoods Framework and to spread equitably the economic and social gains among the guardians, custodians and communities with stake to conservation of GIAHS.

The GIAHS concept can be seen as supporting stronger ecosystems services, including biodiversity in a way that is both more sustainable and potentially richer and more resilient than parallel agricultural systems that do not meet the concepts and characteristics of GIAHS. The overall project goal is to identify and safeguard GIAHS, through mobilizing global recognition and support for such systems and enhancing global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability. Therefore, it is a great challenge to establish an enabling environment conducive to establishing a dialogue between local communities, national actors and global stakeholders finding *“a balance between conservation, adaptation and socio-economic development”*. Because one important aspect to recognize is that without a common understanding of the systems, but also clear benefits for the local communities, there will be no motivation for a successful sustainable dynamic conservation of GIAHS.

The Philippines, as one of the pioneering countries who believes and committed in the implementation of the GIAHS initiative have gone through series of consultations; first getting the concurrence of the ifugao communities on how to develop a sustainable management of Ifugao Rice Terraces through Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and while demonstration activities are on-going, looking into how the concept will be mainstreamed into the sectoral plans and programmes.

A series of national and regional consultations has been facilitated during the implementation and piloting of the GIAHS Initiative in the Philippines to identify potential GIAHS and NIAHS sites as well as to provide recommendations for policy actions, and programme support for the dynamic conservation of these agricultural heritage sites. Through series of consultations, the GIAHS concept and its approach of dynamic conservation of ecosystem goods and services, in particular, the importance of agricultural biodiversity, gradually understood through series of consultations, the BMB along with BSWM and NCCA convened stakeholders to discuss the status, trends, and actions required to promote conservation of

agricultural biodiversity. GIAHS Initiative have helped the government to create awareness on the importance of agricultural biodiversity but also in valuing traditional ecological knowledge systems and associated 'culture' which helps in preservation of habitats. GIAHS Initiative and its concept provided a basis for the then National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan's revision to adequately reflect the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

As a recommendation for the sustainability of GIAHS in the country, there are three key actions:

- Accelerate documentation, communication and public appreciation of local knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems and practices including the agriculture heritage contained therein.
- Assurance of land ownership and recognition of heritage agriculture and their ecosystem goods and services in both national and local land use plans.
- Provision of appropriate agricultural support services to areas with potential heritage agriculture value.

These recommendations have been forwarded following the principle of GIAHS dynamic conservation. Likewise, in order to support these recommendations, a national project on "dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in traditional agroecosystems was endorsed by GOP to the Global Environment Facility and FAO as GEF agency. This project is built on the lessons learned and progress made by the GIAHS initiative in the country and it expected to follow up the GIAHS approaches such as: (i) to continue the GIAHS and NIAHS processes; (ii) strengthen inter agency, multi stakeholders coordination on conservation and sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity and revitalizing the traditional crops such as rice, root crops, legumes, etc.; (iii) share and disseminate practical, traditional ecological knowledge systems on agrobiodiversity conservation; and (iv) harness economic benefits from agrobiodiversity conservation.



## 1. Introduction

Worldwide, specific agricultural systems and landscapes have been created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers, fishers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted, often ingenious management practices. Building on accumulated knowledge and experience, these ‘agri-cultural’ systems reflect the evolution of humanity and its profound harmony with nature. These systems have resulted not only in outstanding aesthetic values, maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and cultural inheritance but, above all, the sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food, nutrition and livelihood security for the most poor and remote communities. The continued survival of these ‘Agricultural Heritage Systems’ is threatened by several factors, including the loss of customary institutions and forms of social organization that underpin their management; low economic viability and competition for access to markets, abandonment of traditional farming practices; conversion of land and habitats; displacement of indigenous communities and dilution of traditional varieties and breeds by exotic and invasive species.

In order to safeguard the world’s threatened [Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems](#) (GIAHS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched the GIAHS Partnership Initiative during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, Johannesburg, 2002) as a cornerstone of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) component. The GIAHS Initiative is an integrated policy and action framework that brings pride and self-confidence to nations and rural communities through the global recognition of their Agricultural Heritage Systems. The Initiative was initiated and advocated by Parviz Koohafkan, the former director of the Land and Water Division and former Global GIAHS Coordinator, FAO.

To demonstrate the values of GIAHS, FAO through the funding support of the Global Environmental Facility initiated a global project ‘Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems’, see Box 1.

### **Box 1: Components of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Trust Fund Project ‘Conservation and adaptive management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems’.**

Funded through a GEF Trust Fund project (GCP/GLO/212/GFF: Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems or The GIAHS Project) has four components:

- an internationally accepted system for recognition of GIAHS is in place;
- the conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity harboured in GIAHS is mainstreamed in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies in pilot countries;
- globally significant agricultural biodiversity in pilot GIAHS is being managed effectively by indigenous and other traditional communities; and
- lessons learned and best practices from promoting effective management of pilot GIAHS are widely disseminated to support expansion of the GIAHS network.

The objective was to promote the dynamic conservation and adaptive management of *globally significant agricultural biodiversity* harboured in Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems. The Philippines through its Ifugao rice terraces was examined based on the five GIAHS criteria, as well as the expressed commitment of the government. The Philippines has become a pioneering country that has contributed to the conceptual development and scientific underpinning of agricultural heritage worldwide.

## **Box 2: The Five GIAHS criteria**

The five GIAHS criteria represent the totality of functionalities, goods and services provided by agricultural heritage:

- food and livelihood security;
- biodiversity and ecosystem function;
- knowledge systems and adapted technologies;
- culture, value systems and social organizations (Agri-Culture); and
- remarkable landscapes, land and water resources management.

The chosen project strategy for providing systematic support to the conservation and adaptive management of GIAHS, is to intervene at three distinct levels. First, at the global level, to facilitate international recognition of the GIAHS concept, wherein globally significant agricultural biodiversity is harboured, and to consolidate and disseminate lessons learned and best practices from project activities at the pilot country level. Second, at the national level in pilot countries, where the project will ensure the mainstreaming of the GIAHS concept in national and inter-sectoral plans and policies. Third, at the site-level in pilot countries, the project will address conservation and adaptive management of agro-ecosystems.

Within this context, the Philippines as one of the pilot countries, together with Algeria, Chile, China, Peru and Tunisia, implemented the GIAHS project. One of the outcomes of the GIAHS-Philippines project is the proposal “policy working paper” that sets out the mainstreaming of the country’s agricultural heritage in sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and policies.

## **2. Objectives of the Policy Working Paper**

This present Policy Working Paper provides information and recommendations leading to the formulation and/or amendment of policies and instruments that:

- identify, recognise and safeguard important Philippine agricultural heritage systems and sites, and those of high value to Cultural Heritage that provide ecosystem goods and services; and
- support the dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage sites and the goods and services through programme interventions such as information, education and communication, thus improving access to resources, agro-ecological or environmentally friendly agricultural support, livelihood improvement, agro-ecotourism and land-use zoning among others.

The Policy Working Paper is based on desk studies of existing policies, laws and regulations affecting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and genetic resources as well as other relevant issues. At the same time, a series of regional and national consultations with various stakeholders have been conducted. The results of the desk studies and extensive consultations are presented in this paper.

## **3. GIAHS and its relevance to contemporary development in the Philippine agri-cultural landscapes**

The Philippine Government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which is the institution focal point of the Global Environment Facility, and the lead national

implementing institution for GIAHS, participated and committed to piloting the dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage systems. This is primarily because these agricultural systems are perfect examples of a typical GIAHS site as based on the GIAHS criteria, and the Government is proud to showcase to the world the unique tangible and intangible characteristics of the Ifugao rice terraces (IRT) as a legacy of humankind. As a World Heritage Site, the Ifugao rice terraces could provide a bridge for cooperation and collaboration between international development partner institutions, such as the FAO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), GEF and others; support FAO's advocacy to promote the heritage value of agriculture and its food security objectives; and conserve and nurture the Ifugao rice terraces. (For more information about IRT, see: <http://www.fao.org/giahs/giahs-sites/south-east-asia/ifugao-rice-terraces-philippines/detailed-information/en/>).

Although the location of the Ifugao rice terraces is the only designated GIAHS site in the Philippines, there are many others that could be designated and, more importantly, GIAHS could be mainstreamed at the national level through Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS). Great effort is being directed particularly towards the adoption of NIAHS for locally-led forest conservation that will positively impact environmental stability. This is the result of the current challenges of land degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change that are adversely affecting food security and rural livelihoods. Moreover, since agricultural communities in the Philippines have retained special 'pockets' of traditional agriculture for raising crops, feeding animals, and water and soil conservation, an attempt is being made to preserve the heritage already forged throughout decades of history.

The potential for up-scaling the GIAHS Initiative to the country level in the Philippines is related to the following features.

**Genetic sanctuaries** – Many traditional agricultural landscapes present effective ways of ensuring the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, particularly of species related to agricultural biodiversity or agrobiodiversity. These varieties may possess genetic codes for higher crop yields, pest resistance, and drought tolerance, among others.

**Form part of indigenous forest protection systems** – Traditional agriculture is an integral part of the indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) employed by indigenous peoples, who are considered the silent guardians of our remnant forests. A recent survey indicated there are 185 places nationwide that are being protected by IKS (New Conservation Areas in the Philippines Project [NEWCAPP], 2013), representing up to 4 million hectares of upland areas. Without the agricultural element, IKS in natural resources management could not be sustained.

**Adaptation to climate change** – The unique land management practices supported by local belief systems demonstrate ingenious ways to manage land sustainably and to adapt to climate change. These methods include ways to conserve soils and improve the efficiency of water use. Applying elements of good agricultural practices to mainstream agriculture can lead to the improved integrity of local watersheds and mitigate the effects of floods or droughts.

**Cultural heritage and eco-livelihoods** – In several areas, traditional agricultural practices and products are part of the locally celebrated heritage, for example festivals for certain crops such as lanzones (Camiguin), ube (Bohol). As such, these crops can directly contribute to the development of local tourism and these crops could be a source of environmentally sound agricultural products for the growing niche market for environmentally friendly products.

## **Threats to the conservation of important agricultural heritage systems**

The multisectoral national and regional workshops in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); administrative unit 4B or MIMAROPA, which is the abbreviation for Mindoro, divided into Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.

Key issues were identified in MIMAROPA, Region 7 and Region 10 that bear upon the sustainability of potential GIAHS or NIAHS sites and their capacity to provide beneficial public goods to society. In addition, the updating of the Philippine Biodiversity Plan coordinated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), included consultations on agrobiodiversity. These two sets of consultations on GIAHS and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) identified the major drivers, which are summarised below.

### **Loss of habitat for agrobiodiversity resulting from land-use conversion, disaster and climate change**

- conversion to non-agricultural use;
- crop damage including rapid loss of germplasm for wild crop relatives;
- increased vulnerability to pest and disease; and
- native animal mortality.

### **Agricultural intensification linked to population growth and revenue generation goals**

- transition of traditional, multi species, multi-story farming systems to plantation agriculture;
- replacement of traditional with higher yielding varieties;
- introduction of invasive alien species or those with similar features;
- use of genetically modified organisms (GMO);
- agricultural pollution and soil erosion;
- seed system; and
- credit and crop insurance is biased against traditional farming systems, which are perceived as low yielding.

### **Declining interest and capacity among host (GIAHS /NIAHS) communities**

- loss of interest in traditional practices among community youth because of more lucrative and competing opportunities in urban areas;
- increasing number of aging traditional farming population who are unable to proactively pass on their traditional knowledge and skills; and the
- slow pace of documentation and lack of communication of indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSP) and its benefits.

### **Inadequate government and public awareness and appreciation of the practical value of AGBD**

- absence of clear programmes that support plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) and heritage agriculture; and
- inadequate investments in conservation programmes.

## **Towards Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems in the Philippines**

### **The concept**

As mentioned, it is proposed that the Philippines adopt a system that can facilitate recognition of NIAHS. The Philippine NIAHS would involve a network of national agricultural heritage sites that have been identified by stakeholders and legally recognised. The Ifugao rice terraces, declared earlier as GIAHS, can be the first component of the NIAHS. Further, over 75 other sites have been identified as potential NIAHS.

Areas declared as NIAHS will be supported so they can continue to provide a sustained flow of both private and public goods that are beneficial to host communities and neighbouring cities and towns. The public goods referred to include ecosystems services such as food from natural farming, and agriculture-based livelihoods; conservation of biodiversity; land management; watershed integrity and contributions to climate change adaptation. The NIAHS will include traditional knowledge systems that are a source of local pride, as part of the cultural heritage.

Recognition of NIAHS sites can be carried out together with other systems, which is encouraged. For instance, a community possessing indigenous agricultural heritage can be awarded an NIAHS 'seal' for being part of a Certificate of Ancestral Domain (CAD) or a Protected Area (PA). NIAHS sites can be part of heritage zones that have been declared by local government units and linked to other local cultural properties such as old churches, historical landmarks including the homes of heroes, or natural heritage such as local waterfalls. Equally important, some of the most remarkable NIAHS sites can be referred to the level of a GIAHS.

After recognition as an NIAHS, the traditional agricultural community would gain the following advantages:

- added value accorded by the community and the government;
- possibility of insertion on a list of the National Cultural Treasures (NCT) or Important Cultural Properties (ICP);
- increased opportunities for receiving technical assistance, financial grants, capacity-building programmes for the community, actual restoration/conservation actions and associated programmes; and
- attainment of economic benefits from agricultural products and associated goods, especially if related to tourism or agricultural product industry.

By the same token, an NIAHS can benefit the national heritage system by:

- increasing support at the international level;
- possible elevation to the status of GIAHS or to that of a World Heritage Site;
- potential collaboration among governmental agencies working on agricultural landscapes;
- increasing collaboration between non-governmental organizations (NGO) and local communities;
- strengthening of the national heritage system, with the inclusion of the category of Important Agricultural Heritage System (IAHS), thus rendering the status comprehensive and inclusive.

### **The process**

The proposed NIAHS involves three processes. The current GIAHS Project: GCP/GLO/212/GFF, which is global, where the Philippines is one of the six pilot countries involved in testing and demonstrating the 'GIAHS holistic approach to dynamic conservation', is facilitating the following processes:

**Identification and prioritisation of potential NIAHS sites** – Involves the identification, prioritisation and initial documentation of potential NIAHS sites based on an agreed criteria developed for the Philippine context.

**Recognition of these sites as the basis for supporting their dynamic conservation** – Various recognition systems already exist and can be tapped for NIAHS. Examples are the recognition system provided by laws on protected areas, indigenous peoples ancestral domains, agricultural protected areas and cultural heritage. The recognition process itself will involve key steps that include community consensus for becoming an NIAHS or even a GIAHS site; nomination to the recognising authority; critical review, approval and proclamation; and preparation of an action plan for heritage management, for example a plan for dynamic conservation.

**Implementation of dynamic conservation initiatives** – Involves the development of partnerships among local governments, civil society and national technical programmes to plan and implement on site initiatives that manage a heritage site. The objective is not to freeze the site as a ‘museum’. On the contrary, it is to help the site become ‘dynamic’, sustain its resource base and continue its tradition and, at the same time, be able to adapt to and benefit from the changing times.

Following the global GIAHS framework and within this context, DENR and the Department of Agriculture are conducting studies on the development of a Compendium of information on potential NIAHS sites in the Philippines and developing a policy framework to mainstream GIAHS principles. At the same time, DENR, the National Commission for Culture and the Art (NCCA) and the National Museum are identifying specific measures that would lead to cultural agencies recognizing. Civil society organizations are being consulted, such as the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), scientific organizations and individual biological and social scientists.

### 3. Results from the consultation workshops

In the Philippine setting a range of inter-related interventions are needed at national and subnational levels. The sources of the recommendations are:

- three national GIAHS consultation workshops (November 2012, May 2013 and December 2013);
- four regional GIAHS consultation workshops (Region 7 in March 2013; Region 10 in April 2013 and CAR in May 2013 and MIMAROPA in December 2013);
- national consultation workshop to update the Philippine Biodiversity Plan, November 2013.

There are three clusters of recommendations for policy and programme development. An overview of the baseline information is provided before presenting the recommendations. These clusters of recommendations address the drivers described in Item 1 and include:

1. Acceleration of documentation, communication and public appreciation of local knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems and practices including the agriculture heritage contained therein.
2. Assuring land ownership and recognition of heritage agriculture in both national and local land-use plans.
3. Providing appropriate agricultural support services in areas having agricultural heritage value.

#### **Cluster 1: Indigenous Knowledge Systems**

Recommendation – Accelerate documentation, communication and public appreciation of indigenous knowledge systems including agriculture heritage therein.

Items 1.1 to 1.3 below provide indicators of the current situation covering initiatives in documentation and communication of IKSP, incorporation in education and the role of the appreciation of cultural heritage. Table 1 provides a list of recommendations.

##### **1.1 Initiatives in IKSP documentation**

- A review of 236 ethnographies among 70 ethno-linguistic groups in seven sites, indicate reference to diversity of species and culture. Some studies deal with ethno-botany, especially medicinal plants, but there is limited discourse on genetic diversity and ethno-zoology.
- More recent rapid appraisals indicate a number of indigenous practices that can assist farmers to adapt to the effects of climate change. Examples are practices related to water and soil conservation.
- the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has completed IKS documentation on 16 groups, while more than ten groups have been documented by NGOs. Only two IKSP documents include information and knowledge of indigenous governance systems.

- Indigenous Knowledge (IK) documentation methods are in the formative stage. Possible exceptions are methods for delineating domain lands and land use methods such as 3-D mapping. Donor assisted project and NGO initiatives are contributing to methodology development.
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) AO 1 of 2012 establishes processes and guidelines for free and prior informed consent (FPIC) for IKSP documentation. NCIP and NGO network have established human and community development indicators within the context of indigenous peoples.
- An emerging observation indicates the tendency for the compartmentalisation of efforts when documenting indigenous knowledge, which indirectly reflects the priority concerns of the documentation teams. Recently 11 indigenous leaders conducted a self-documentation of indigenous knowledge at 11 sites to demonstrate that a more holistic approach to documentation is possible.
- The DENR, NCCA and National Museum are studying how traditional agricultural systems with strong heritage value can be recognised as cultural properties and, hence, be supported. The recognition is based on protocols set by a global movement to recognise Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
- A federation of indigenous groups exists, such as the National Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines that can serve as a key facilitator to advocate policy. More recently, a Philippine consortium with representative from different sectors was created to support the recognition of indigenous community conserved areas (ICCA) among others. Indigenous knowledge systems have been incorporated into the pilot work of the Department of Education to sensitise education programmes in indigenous areas.

## **1.2 Indigenous knowledge systems and practices in education**

- Several Schools of Living Tradition (SLT) are being maintained nationwide. At least ten of these systems are supported by the NCCA. SLTs provide specialised educational opportunities for indigenous communities.
- Some SLTs have been relatively successful, and are being used as a reference for further development of the indigenous education programme.
- The core curriculum for alternative learning systems developed by the Department of Education of the Philippines comprise: four culturally-specific curricula developed with indigenous peoples; 52 culturally-appropriate teaching materials have been pilot tested in six communities.

### ***Box 3: Department of Education (Dept-Ed) Order 62 of 2011 (Key excerpts from Sect C: Policy Statements)***

Adopt appropriate basic education pedagogy, content, and assessment through the integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) in all learning areas and processes. The Dept-Ed shall recognise and promote sustainable indigenous learning systems. The Dept-Ed shall prioritise the further development and implementation of the following in schools, learning centres, and other learning services with enrolled indigenous learners: mother-tongue multilingual education, culture-responsive education for sustainable development and alternative modes of instructional delivery and assessment schemes to address the particular learning needs of indigenous students.

The Philippine Government through its Department of Education has adopted the National Indigenous Education Policy Framework, developed in cooperation with NCIP and the NCCA, which establishes the policy for education based on the principles of participation, inclusion and empowerment. This policy builds on existing policies and experience on the operation of primary schools for indigenous peoples as well as alternative learning systems that are implemented by civil society organizations. The basic features include:

- universal and equitable access for all indigenous people to quality and relevant education with the objective of functional literacy;

- adoption of appropriate pedagogy and content through the integration of IKSP in learning areas and processes;
- creation of a culturally appropriate learning resources and environment for indigenous learners;
- hiring and deployment of teachers and learning facilitators;
- establishment of multi-level units with Dept-Ed responsible for the indigenous education programme;
- expansion of linkages with civil society; and
- stronger affirmative action to eradicate all forms of discrimination in the educational system

### 1.3 IKSP in appreciation of cultural heritage

The Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts is a sub-commission of the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA), which is devoted to the research, conservation and promotion of various art forms by indigenous communities. This work is facilitated by the NCCA through recognition of national living treasures represented by artists from indigenous communities who have retained songs, dances, storytelling, weaving and other art forms. There are thirteen individuals in this category.

The NCCA has inventoried Philippine forms of intangible heritage, including: oral traditions and expressions; performing arts; social practices and festive events; knowledge and practices that conserve nature; and traditional crafts. Recently, UNESCO awarded global recognition to a traditional Ifugao chant, *Hudhud*, which is sung during harvesting and rice weeding.

Table 1: Accelerate documentation communication and public appreciation of indigenous knowledge systems including the agricultural heritage therein

STRATEGIC ACTION	LEAD AND SUPPORT ACTORS
<p>1. Promote IKSP documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stocktaking of IKSP documentation completed.</li> <li>• Determine lessons learned in current efforts for documentation and on this basis, review and update current guidelines for both process and content of IKSP to be documented.</li> <li>• Incorporate the concept of GIAHS in these guidelines.</li> <li>• Develop a work programme to document IKSP, especially as there are many aging knowledge holders.</li> </ul>	<p>NCIP to lead this action in connection with the current process for updating of its long-term plan under a new set of officers</p> <p>The indigenous networks as well as sport groups such as the Consultative Group for Indigenous Peoples (CGIP) would support the identification of specific experience and lessons to guide the updating of protocols.</p>
<p>2. Protect the IKSP documentation process from unintended use and piracy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full implementation of the FPIC process for the conduct of FPIC based on the experience of implementing the updated FPIC process.</li> <li>• Reconcile AO 1 guidelines (ADSDPP) with AO 3 Section 25 on FPIC.</li> <li>• Identify and provide training support to indigenous-based documenters, building on earlier experience.</li> <li>• Identify trustworthy institutions and guide their assistance to indigenous</li> </ul>	<p>NCIP will be primarily responsible in consultation with interest groups on documentation</p> <p>The civil society organization network, together with the Academic Community and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will help identify indigenous leaders with the potential for conducting documentation. Identified individuals will be supported with back-up training.</p>



<p>people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the establishment of Community Registry of IKSP, building on the initial pilots for this effort, for example Bilar Bohol.</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Accelerate full implementation of the Dept-Ed indigenous education programme and incorporate agricultural heritage practices in the consideration of IKSP for inclusion in curriculum.</p>	<p>Dept-Ed will be responsible for this programme. NCIP, together with the institutions and civil society organizations implementing Schools of Living Traditions (SLT), will support Dept-Ed with substantive content for the curriculum.</p> <p>LGUs through their local School Boards can include this topic on their agenda.</p>
<p>4. Include IKSP documentation and communication as a key target under the updated National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP) to communicate its major role as the protection mechanism for biodiversity and to increase chances of funding from GEF.</p>	<p>DENR, in consultation with indigenous networks, NCIP and indigenous support groups will be responsible for this action in particular in reference to Target 18 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) global plan</p>
<p>5. Accelerate the adoption of the proposed Nationally Important Agriculture Heritage System (NIAHS) and support from one to three pilots.</p> <p>Consider heritage agriculture as part of both tangible and intangible culture and support research documentation and recognition as such.</p>	<p>NCCA, together with the DENR and Department of Agriculture will lead the dialogue on the adoption of this system. The DENR and the Department of Agriculture will identify potential candidate sites and support applications from interested LGUs and communities.</p>
<p>7. Support the documentation of at least three candidate GIAHS/NIAHS sites.</p>	<p>NCCA can provide start up support for research and documentation In collaboration with LGUs and local interest groups that may apply for recognition as NIAHS sites.</p>

## **Cluster 2: Land ownership and land use**

Recommendation: Assurance of land ownership and recognition of heritage agriculture in land-use plans. Items 2.1 to 2.3 below review the situation related to land ownership, land tenure security for areas with heritage value. Table 2 lists the key recommendations.

### **2.1 Recognising ancestral domains that protect areas rich in biodiversity including agrobiodiversity**

- In a recent national consultation, indigenous leaders identified at least 185 sites, having fairly large landscapes within or outside protected areas, where indigenous natural resource and biodiversity conservation practices are maintained. Some of these sites coincide with the location of protected areas while others do not. This means that key biodiversity areas in the Philippines, especially those not covered by protected areas, can benefit from the protective role of indigenous systems that include agricultural heritage.
- Each of the above-mentioned 185 sites could be declared indigenous community conserved areas (ICCA) and would require at least PHP5 million for delineation, recognition, participatory planning and start-up work to safeguard the biodiversity custodial practices.
- The Philippine Government is developing a process to recognise indigenous community conserved deserving support. Six examples of such sites have received international recognition through a United Nations sponsored International Registry. The ICCA could encourage international and local support to safeguard practices and enhance benefits to the indigenous groups concerned. Under the purview of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA), NCIP AO 3 of November 2012, the legal basis is provided for recognising ICCAs by identifying specific categories of land that need to be safeguarded from different types of land use.

### **2.2 Local government unit (LGU) land-use planning**

- The LGU planning process. Which has been completed in several cities in the Philippines, provides opportunities for protecting areas with heritage value. Under the Heritage Law (RA 10066), Cultural Agencies, in coordination with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and LGUs may establish heritage zones, and in turn are mandated to maintain these zones under the principle of adaptive re-use. LGUs are also requested to document sociocultural traditions and maintain an inventory of cultural properties. They are encouraged to incorporate heritage management into local plans and programmes.

#### **Box 4: The role of the local government unit in the National Heritage Law – key excerpts**

**Article 4 Section 13 – Maintenance of Heritage zones** – Heritage zones shall be maintained by the LGU concerned in accordance with... guidelines.... Section 13 (c) LGUs shall document and sustain all sociocultural practices such as but not limited to traditional celebrations...and other local customs that are unique to a locality.

**Article 5 Section 14** – LGUs, through their cultural offices, shall likewise maintain an inventory of cultural property under its jurisdiction and shall furnish the Commission a copy of the same.

**Article 5 Section 16 – Documentation and preservation of traditional and contemporary arts** – LGUs shall document traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, including their processes and makers, and sustain the sources of their raw materials. LGUs shall encourage and sustain traditional arts and crafts as active and viable sources of income for the community.

- Only few LGUs have had the opportunity to implement the above-mentioned mandates. There is, however, an emerging set of good practices that arise from regional cities such as Vigan, which has been recognised globally for this activity, and Iloilo city.
- Under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernisation Act, the LGUs undertake an agricultural land-use planning process the Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zoning (SAFDZ). The zoning process identifies prime agricultural areas in need of conservation. Where possible, existing agricultural heritage may be conserved in this way.
- The Province of Ifugao is updating the Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Master Plan, which is a multisectoral effort that builds on the lessons and experience of previous efforts for the IRT. One source of lessons is the pilot work in support of heritage agriculture in Kiangan and Hinungduan in Ifugao under the GIAHS Philippines Project.
- The IRT Plan could be used as a model for dynamic conservation in the Philippines, which builds on the experience of the GIAHS pilot project in the two municipalities of Ifugao. One clear need is for funding to maintain the IRT. It has been recommended that the IRT plan should demonstrate the total economic value of heritage agriculture for the overall integrity of the Cordillera watersheds that feed the water supply systems downstream.

Table 2: Strategic actions to assure ownership and recognition of and support to heritage agriculture in land-use plans

STRATEGIC ACTION	LEAD AND SUPPORT ACTORS
1. Accelerate the identification of candidate ICCA and facilitate their adoption in both the global and national registries.	DENR through the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) and with initial support from the DENR, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NewCAPP project leads the current process of identification and documentation. The ICCA consortium of indigenous networks and support groups can assist in the identification and documentation of these sites.
2. Incorporate the concept of ICCA into the new National Land Use Bill.	Will be initiated by the DENR through the PAWB through the two congressional committees reviewing and sponsoring the Land Use Bill.
3. Facilitate multisectoral dialogue at the LGU level to discuss the socio-economic value of heritage conservation and agree on a location specific strategic plan of action.	<p>The locally-based technical college or university such as the State College of Agriculture identifies candidate sites to catalyse this effort. The institution should work with the NCCA through its regional representatives in close collaboration with the LGU responsible for convening the consensus-building workshops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration will be important for communicating the value of the agricultural heritage to the different sectors, which should include the HLURB, Department of Tourism and tourism associations.</li> </ul>
4. Adopt the proposed guidelines for enhanced CLUP that incorporates measures to protect biodiversity and the development of at least 3 pilots as models over the next 5 years.	<p>The DENR will facilitate this multisectoral effort in close collaboration with the HLURB and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). In consultation with the League of LGUs that will be responsible for preparing the CLUP.</p> <p>DENR will work through the PAWB with initial support from the DENR–UNDP BPP Project, which will lead this effort.</p>
5. Incorporate heritage agriculture as part of	The Department of Agriculture, through its Bureau of Soils Water

STRATEGIC ACTION	LEAD AND SUPPORT ACTORS
<p>guidelines for planning of SAFDZ and pilot areas under the New Convergence Initiative (NCI).</p> <p>Clarify the land-use policy to be established in the zones, based on consensus agreed upon during the consultations described in previous section.</p>	<p>Management (BSWM) will lead this effort in consultation with the representative agencies of the NCCA and the League of LGUs. LGUs will be responsible for supporting the SAFDZ process and for adopting and enforcing the resultant recommendations through the CLUP and zoning plans.</p>
<p>6. Support preparation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Master Planning effort by the Provincial Government of Ifugao. This will be accomplished by helping determine and communicate the economic value of heritage agriculture to the overall socio-economic status of Cordillera and downstream regions. This could be the basis for future determination of payment for environmental services (PES).</p>	<p>The DENR–PAWB and the Department of Agriculture BSWM by virtue of their current engagement with the GIAHS project may initiate dialogue with the Provincial Government and NCCA towards this effort. IRT represents a major landscape level effort for <i>in situ</i> conservation.</p> <p>The DENR–PAWB by virtue of its GIAHS experience may make representations to the FAO–Regional Rice Initiative (RRI) Project to share the methodology for assessing the ecosystems value of the IRT.</p> <p>Eventually, the Provincial Government may lead this activity, in consultation with Benguet State University and the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), which are implementing a PGRF project supported by GEF–UNDP.</p>

### Cluster 3: Agricultural support services

Recommendation: Provide agricultural support services to areas with heritage agriculture sites. Items 3.1 to 3.3 review current access to agricultural support services. Table 3 lists the key recommendations.

#### 3.1 *In situ* conservation support

- The Philippines is noted for high agrobiodiversity in rice, rootcrops, abaca, banana and a range of vegetable species. Genetic pools are found in different parts of the country. Documentation on rice and rootcrops has been on-going and helped by the presence of national centres of excellence for priority commodities such as rice and rootcrops.
- Because they usually harbour higher diversity, heritage agriculture is a major form of *in situ* conservation strategy, however policy support for this conservation is weak. The country's network of key biodiversity areas has been selected based on forest and marine species. The network of protected areas is based on this assumption, whatever limited resources are owed to the protected areas are thus focused on forest and marine biodiversity. If widely appreciated as a major form of conservation, heritage agriculture can receive more support from government for research and development.
- Most conservation strategies for agricultural crops and wild relatives have relied on *ex situ* conservation. Laudable efforts are being made for *in situ* conservation, supported by civil society organizations and pilot government projects, although most efforts focus on rice varieties. The agricultural research programme initiative includes work on underutilised crops especially fruits and vegetables.
- The Department of Agriculture through the BAR, in collaboration with PAWB and other agencies, have begun the implementation of the GEF–UNDP assisted project for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). A draft executive order will define the direction for implementation of the Philippine commitment to the global treaty on PGRF. A clearer policy and programme for PGRFA will be a major enabling mechanism for promoting GIAHS.

### 3.2 Heritage agriculture as a form of sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change

- A recent literature review in several Asian countries, supported by the FAO Regional Rice Initiative (RRI), indicates that heritage agriculture can be highly productive and can contribute to overall ecological services.
- While this is true, overall extension, credit and market support for agriculture has discriminated against traditional heritage agriculture that is generally perceived as low yielding. These services are needed specifically under conditions of climate change, which has affected many agricultural heritage sites.
- Under the recently enacted law on organic agriculture (RA 10068), the Department of Agriculture has initiated a programme to progressively convert to organic agriculture. The implementing guidelines indicate the need for documentation and conservation of indigenous knowledge that is associated with traditional agriculture. There will be a need to clarify the role of traditional heritage agriculture within the framework of organic agriculture in order to elevate the status of heritage agriculture.
- A major concern is that the mandated organic certification campaign involves high transaction costs for small-scale organic farmers. In the meantime, alternative certification systems, such as participatory guarantee systems that are endorsed by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), are being used in selected areas and allowed under the Organic Agriculture Law 2016.

#### **Box 6: Indigenous Knowledge in the Philippines' Organic Agriculture Programme**

An important local input in organic farming is the compilation and dissemination of peoples own knowledge. Local people are experts on the plants, animals, soils and ecosystems surrounding them.

Organic agriculture draws on this wealth of knowledge and should encourage local people to use and promote what already works.

*From: Section 3.2.2. of the Organic Agriculture programme of the Philippines 2010-2016 (National Organic Agricultural Programme, NOAB).*

- Many upland farming communities are converting to hybrids, including GMO varieties of corn. Results are mixed, in areas where GMO has been cultivated. Higher yields were attained but production costs increased substantially and major erosion problems, among others, have been noted. While the debate on the merits and demerits of GMO remain unresolved, several localities have declared their areas GMO-free zones. The Organic Agriculture Law's Programme for 2010–2016 prohibits the use of GMOs for organic agriculture.
- Support groups are advocating alternative systems to address the issues presented by the use of GMO varieties. These include maintaining ecologically-sound farm ecology, crop diversification to provide micronutrients such as sources of Vitamin A and biological pest control.

#### **Box 5: Breeding requirements for the Philippine Climate Change Adaptation Programme for Agriculture.**

(Note: GIAHS and NIAHS sites harbour agrobiodiversity that provide genetic codes for developing climate resilient crop varieties and animal breeds).

Item 2. Research and Development for adaptive tools, technologies and practices.

2.3. Breeding and screening for climate resilient crops: crops suited to changing weather patterns shall be developed such as early maturing crops, drought tolerant crops, crops that can withstand limited as well as excessive moisture, etc.

2.4. Breeding and screening for heat tolerant livestock and poultry.

2.5. Agro-reforestation: Species trials involving fruit and multipurpose trees shall be conducted on representative upland watershed areas the vulnerability and risk assessment maps.

### 3.3 Markets for heritage agriculture products

- Heritage agriculture products would comprise farm products such as food and fibre and ecosystems services. Farmers practicing heritage agriculture have difficulty selling their crops because of the distance to the markets because of the distance. In parts of Cordillera, a government – civil society organization partnership has facilitated social enterprises that produce and export heirloom rice. An extended programme to cover other regions is being contemplated by the Department of Agriculture and Philrice.
- Currently efforts are being led by civil society organizations to promote added value to traditional products from farms and adjacent ecosystems (NTFP areas). Notable examples include processed wild fruits from Nueva Viscaya or customized traditional fabrics and crafts from Mindoro and Mindanao. A key gap is the marketing of organically produced vegetables including indigenous forms of vegetables. Niche markets in major urban areas are steadily growing.
- There are pockets of experience on agri-ecotourism in various parts of the country. Examples are noted in the Ifugao area (rice heritage tours); Cebu (heritage tours including native corn production); and Bukidnon (agritourism in Sumilao Bukidnon featuring corn–coffee production).

Table 3: Actions to provide agricultural support services to areas with heritage agriculture sites

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	LEAD AND SUPPORT ACTORS
Policy and programme for PGRFA – conservation	
1. Include agrobiodiversity in criteria for finalising the prioritisation of key biodiversity areas, biased towards natural resources, or include agrobiodiversity in national biodiversity priority programmes.	DENR–PAWB collaboration.
2. Update inventory and characterisation and mapping of heirloom varieties, crop wild relatives and other underutilized crops and communicate information to key decision-makers.	Department of Agriculture (Dept-Ag) in collaboration with commodity centres of excellence for rice, root crops, fibre crops and other key species groups.
3. Establish overall policy and implementing guidelines to guide <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation, management and utilisation of PGRA.	Dept-Ag in consultation with member institutions of the national integration sharing mechanisms (NISM) for PGRFA
Revitalise the NISM for PGRFA to synchronise <i>ex situ</i> and <i>in situ</i> conservation initiatives; link the NISM with the clearing house mechanism (CHM).	Dept-Ag through the Bureau of Plant Industry in collaboration with the DENR–BPP Project.
<b>SUPPORT SERVICES</b>	
• Valuation of role of traditional varieties and traditional agricultural systems and their place in modern agriculture.	Dept-Ag –PGRF office in collaboration with the DENR PAWB and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Dept-Ag may consider the methodology under the RRI Project.
1. Establish Dept-Ag policy to support farming communities who harbour NIAHS as well as agrobiodiversity. Such policies may include improving access to credit and extension as well as certification of organic farm products.	Dept-Ag through the Policy and Planning office in collaboration with the programmes on PGRF, adaptation to climate change, organic agriculture, integrated pest management among others.
2. Assess current efforts and good practices of community based breeding and seed production and launch replication programme.	Dept-Ag through the BPI and in collaboration with active support organizations such as MASIPAG and SEARICE.
3. Promote participatory guarantee system (PGS and IGS) for	Dept-Ag through its National Organic Agriculture Board

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	LEAD AND SUPPORT ACTORS
heritage agriculture organic products and consider extending its application under the organic agricultural programme beyond 2016.	and the Bureau of Standards in consultation with the Organic Agriculture Network.
4. Review and strengthen current safeguards for the importation of GMO, trials and production practices and reconcile with the Organic Agriculture Law.	The National Biosafety Committee through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) secretariat in consultation with member institutions.
5. Promulgate legislation or Executive Order on labelling of GMO products.	The National Biosafety Committee through the DOST secretariat, in consultation with member institutions.
6. Undertake research to develop alternative strategies/products to address the objectives that GMO were developed such as control of pest and disease of fruits and vegetables.	DOST through its research organizations such as the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development (PCAMARD), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and related councils.
7. Staff capacity-building support for extension of NCIP programmes so they can improve response to the agricultural support services needs of CADTS.	NCIP in collaboration with partner agencies DENR, Department of Agriculture, DOST.
MARKET SUPPORT	
1. Engage support from the private sector, cooperative networks and social enterprise movements for the promotion and marketing of products from heritage agriculture.	Dept-Ag through its Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS) programmes in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).  DENR through its BPP programme may lend support based on its experience.
2. Research and development on value addition and marketing of agro-biodiversity products.	DOST and Dept-Ag-BAR in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and centres of excellence for agricultural commodities and systems. The GEF BAR-PGRF project may be able to support agenda formulation.
3. Include agrobiodiversity products such as heirloom varieties in current promotion of alternative lifestyle/health programmes or in agri-ecotourism promotion.	Dept-Ag in collaboration with the Department of Health for health products, Department of Tourism for agri-ecotourism and DTI, such as non-food products and industry associations such as for herbal products and tour operators.

## Summary and Recommendations

In most cases agricultural heritage systems proposed as a GIAHS or NIAHS – its main attributes is the richness and/or presence of biodiversity and genetic resources of global significance to food and agriculture. They also harbour local knowledge on strategies for adapting to climate change. Heritage agriculture, particularly in upland and highland areas that are part of the mosaic of forest and agricultural landscapes which protect important ecosystems both locally and nationally, including forests, biodiversity corridors and watersheds. The protection of these systems will benefit host communities and the wider society.

A series of national and regional consultations has been facilitated during the implementation and piloting of the GIAHS Initiative in the Philippines to identify potential GIAHS and NIAHS sites as well as to provide recommendations for policy actions, and programme support for the dynamic conservation of these agricultural heritage sites. Through series of consultations, the GIAHS concept and its approach of dynamic conservation of ecosystem goods and services, in particular, the importance of agricultural biodiversity, gradually understood through series of consultations, the BMB along with BSWM and NCCA convened stakeholders to discuss the status, trends, and actions required to promote conservation of agricultural biodiversity. GIAHS Initiative have helped the government to create awareness on the importance of agricultural biodiversity but also in valuing traditional ecological knowledge systems and associated 'culture' which helps in preservation of habitats. GIAHS Initiative and its concept was a source of information to revise the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan.

As a recommendation for the sustainability of GIAHS in the country, there are three key actions:

- Accelerate documentation, communication and public appreciation of local knowledge and indigenous knowledge systems and practices including the agriculture heritage contained therein.
- Assurance of land ownership and recognition of heritage agriculture and their ecosystem goods and services in both national and local land use plans.
- Provision of appropriate agricultural support services to areas with potential heritage agriculture value.

These recommendations have been forwarded following the principle of GIAHS dynamic conservation. Likewise, in order to support these recommendations, a national project on "dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity in traditional agroecosystems was endorsed by GOP to the Global Environment Facility and FAO as GEF agency. This project is built on the lessons learned and progress made by the GIAHS initiative in the country and it expected to follow up the GIAHS approaches such as: (i) to continue the GIAHS and NIAHS processes; (ii) strengthen inter agency, multi stakeholders coordination on conservation and sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity and revitalizing the traditional crops such as rice, root crops, legumes, etc.; (iii) share and disseminate practical, traditional ecological knowledge systems on agrobiodiversity conservation; and (iv) harness economic benefits from agrobiodiversity conservation.

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