

# Three Key Mechanisms to Conserve the Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

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**GIAHS**  
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems



- **Historical Review: Decade of Grinding Sword**
- **IAHS: A New Kind of “Heritage”**
- **Dynamic Conservation: Three Key Mechanisms**



**GIAHS**  
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- In 2005, Qingtian Rice-Fish Culture System was designated as the first GIAHS pilot site in China.



- In 2012, China-NIAHS program was launched officially.

## 农业部文件

农企发〔2012〕4号

### 农业部关于开展中国重要农业文化遗产 发掘工作的通知

各省、自治区、直辖市及计划单列市休闲农业行政管理部门，新疆生产建设兵团农业局：

我国悠久灿烂的农耕文化历史，加上不同地区自然与人文的巨大差异，创造了种类繁多、特色明显、经济与生态价值高度统一的重要农业文化遗产。这些都是我国劳动人民凭借着独特而多样的自然条件和他们们的勤劳与智慧，创造出的农业文化典范，蕴含着天人合一的哲学思想，具有较高历史文化价值。但是，在经济快速发展、城镇化加快推进和现代技术应用的过程中，由于缺乏系统有效的保护，一些重要农业文化遗产正面临着被破坏、被遗忘、被抛弃的危险。为加强我国重要农业文化遗产的挖掘、保护、传承和利

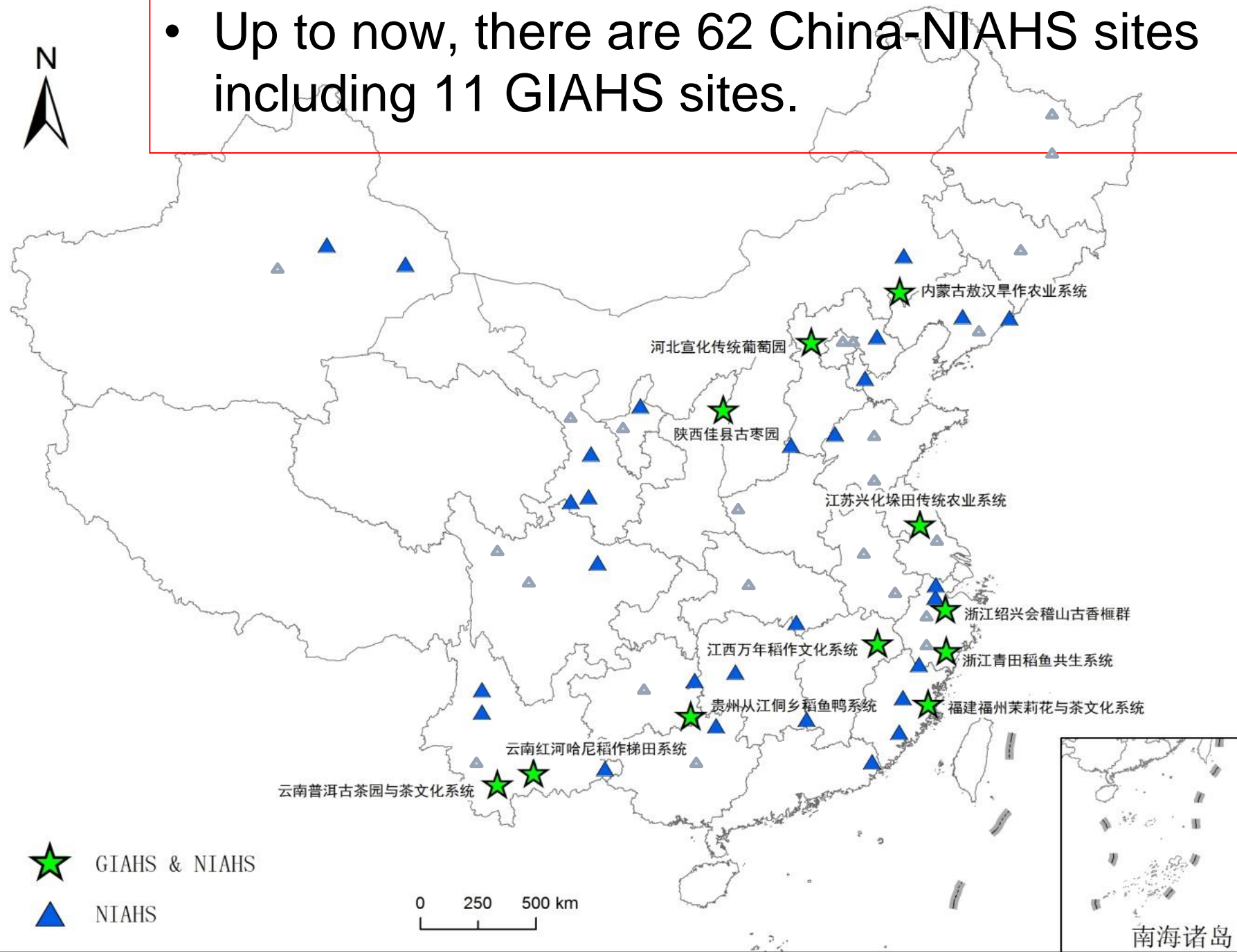




- In 2015, FAO/GEF-GIAHS Project China Pilot Summary Meeting and Ten-Year Anniversary of Qingtian RFC Designated as GIAHS Site was held in Qingtian.



- Up to now, there are 62 China-NIAHS sites including 11 GIAHS sites.



# Conserving GIAHS/NIAHS is ——



- One of the important contents to inherit and promote traditional Chinese cultures;
- One of the effective measures to fill in gaps in natural and cultural heritage conservation;
- One of the basic requirements to promote sustainable agricultural development; and
- One of the effective approaches to promote farmers' employment and income.

# G20 Agricultural Ministers Meeting Communiqué

We support efforts made by the international community to exchange experiences, share knowledge and adopt technology for sustainable agricultural development, and replicate best farming practices conducive to the protection and appropriate utilization of land, forests and water resources. We welcome efforts to extend models as appropriate for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including inheriting and developing good farming practices, such as the FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems(GIAHS) initiative.





# FAO Director-General visits GIAHS site in Zhejiang

- José Graziano da Silva, DG of UNFAO, made a study tour to Qingtian Rice-Fish Culture System, the first GIAHS site in China, on June 5, 2016.
- Graziano spoke highly of the long history and scientific value of traditional Chinese farming culture, highlighting its significant role in promoting sustainable agricultural development, rejuvenating rural area and increasing farmer's income.



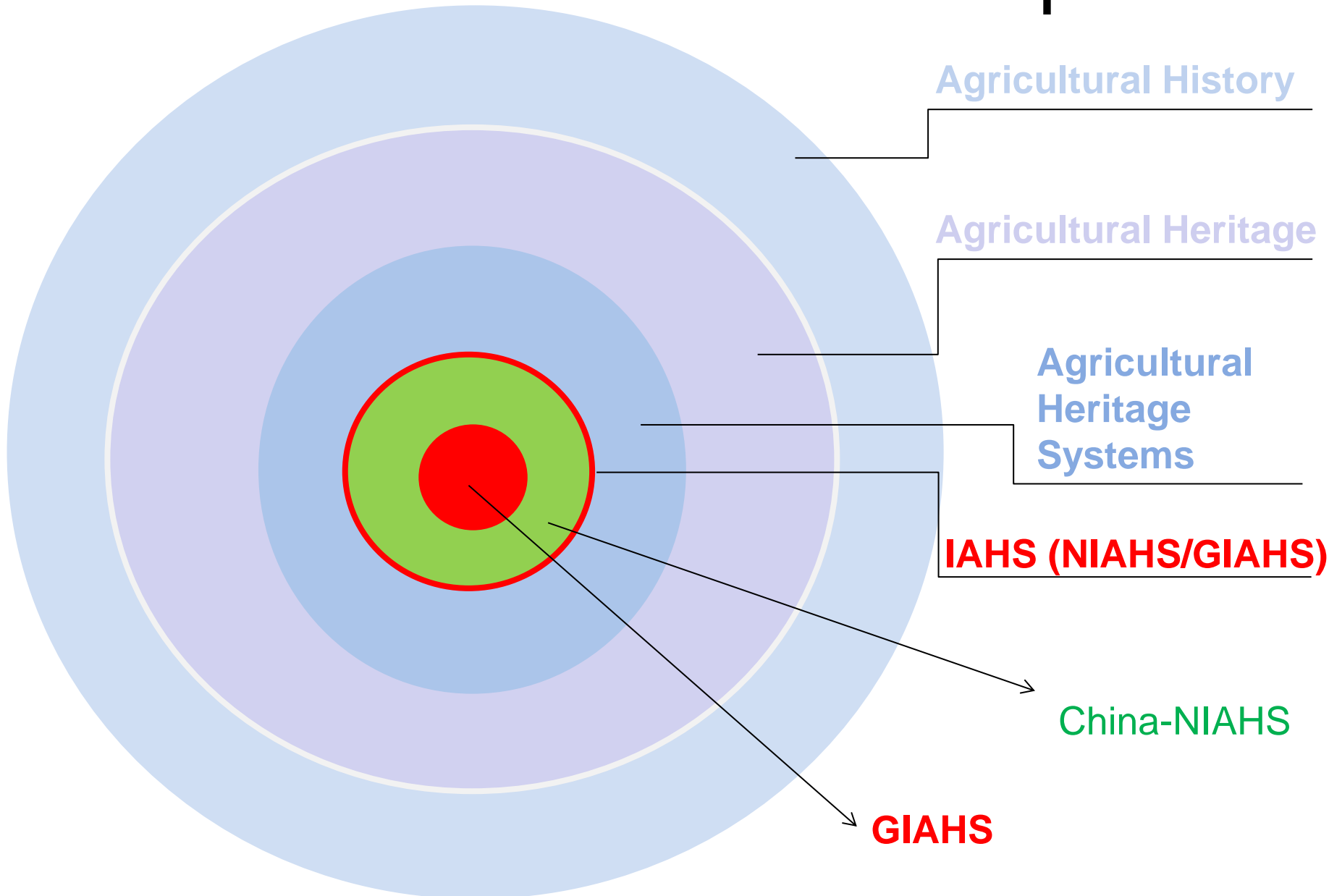
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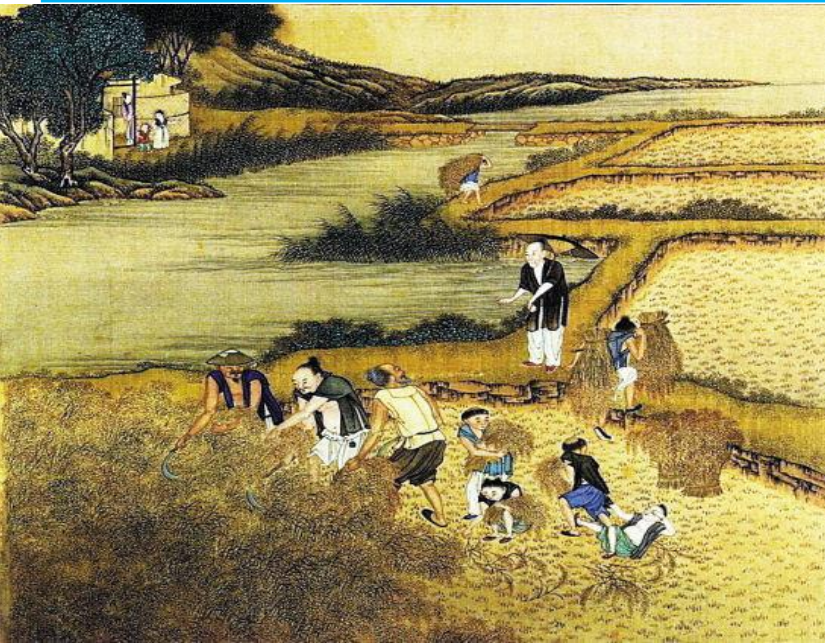
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# Difference of four Concepts



- **Agricultural History:** Agricultural production activities and creations in historic period.
- **Agricultural Heritage:** The creations rooted from historic agricultural production activities and have been reserved tangibly and/or intangibly up to now.





- **Agricultural Heritage Systems (Agricultural Heritage):** The traditional agricultural system which were created from historic agricultural production activities, have been reserved tangibly and/or intangibly up to now and have important economic, ecological and socio-cultural functions.

- **Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (IAHS):** The traditional agricultural systems designated as GIAHS by FAO and/or China-NIAHS sites by MOA.



GIAHS

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems



- GIAHS: Remarkable land use systems and landscapes, which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a rural community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development.



- GIAHS, evolving and changing over millennia, are a global heritage to preserve and nurture
- GIAHS reflect the co-evolution of humanity and culture with the ecological processes of their environment.
- GIAHS exemplify the convergence of biological diversity, socio-cultural diversity and centres of origin of domesticated plant and animal species.
- Their diversity is a major resource for food security, poverty alleviation and the global environment.





**GIAHS**  
**is not about the**  
**past**  
**GIAHS is about**  
**the future**

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# Six Main Features of IAHS

- Living (活态性)
- Adaptive (适应性)
- Complex (复合性)
- Strategic (战略性)
- Multi-functional (多功能性)
- Endangered (濒危性)



# **Aims to Conserve IAHS**

- Promoting the sustainable development of heritage sites, especially those ecologically fragile, economically undeveloped but culturally rich areas,
- Improving the livelihood security and social welfare of local residents, and
- Providing references for the development of modern agriculture in China.



# General principles——

- Conservation in priority and appropriate use
- Overall conservation and coordinated development
- Active conservation and function extension
- Dynamic conservation and adaptive management
- *In Situ* conservation and demonstration and extension
- Multi participation and benefit sharing

- **Holistic**
- **Vivid**
- **Dynamic**
- **Sharing**

# Dynamic adaptation of living and evolving agricultural systems

- Conservation without fossilisation.
- Strengthening “what is there”: the human management systems and cultures that underpin the sustainability and resilience of GIAHS.
- Creating better policy and regulatory environments and incentive structures at all levels.
- Improving peoples’ livelihoods and viability.

# Three Mechanisms——

- Policy Incentive Mechanism（政策激励机制）；
- Multi-Stakeholders Participation Mechanism（多方参与机制）；
- Industrial Promoting Mechanism（产业促进机制）。

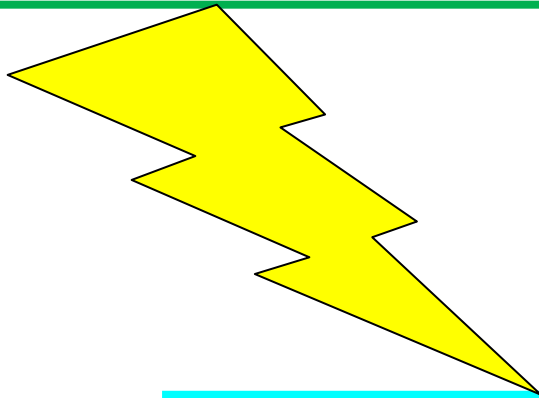
# (1) Policy Incentive Mechanism

Reexamine IAHS:

- **Practical dilemma:** Poor traffic conditions, fragile ecological environment, backward production infrastructure, high labor intensity, low comparative benefits, and heavy anti-poverty task
- **Three key tasks:** ecological conservation, cultural inheritance and economic development .



- Less developed areas (落后地区)
- Poverty groups (贫困群体)
- Disadvantaged industry (弱势产业)



- **Three key tasks:** ecological conservation, cultural inheritance and economic development.

- Abundant (agri-)biodiversity
- Important Ecological Function Areas
- Wonderful agroecological landscape

## Eco-Cultural Compensation

- Remarkable rural cultural landscape
- Ingenious traditional cultural knowledge
- Unique traditional farming technology

- Ecological conservation project
- Beautiful rural construction
- Ethnic culture & traditional villages protection

## Policy Mainstreaming

- Agri-structural adjustment & agro-tourism
- Special industry & “One Village On Product”
- Targeted poverty alleviation & peasant workers back home to run business

## (2) Multi-Stakeholders Participation Mechanism

The **Five-in-One Model**:

- Governments (Central & local, different sectors);
- Multi-disciplinary Scientists (ecologists, agronomists, economists, historians, planners, managers, ...);
- Local communities & Farmers;
- Enterprises; and
- Social aspects (Media, educators, citizens, NGOs)



# Government leading——

- Central, provincial and local
- Agricultural department as the main body
- Related sectors to cooperate
- Special policies



## 青田稻鱼共生系统 全球重要农业文化遗产 保护规划



中国科学院地理科学与资源研究所自然与文化遗产研究中心

浙江省青田县人民政府

2007年5月

# Scientist supporting——

- Multi-disciplinary Scientists (ecologists, agronomists, economists, historians, planners, managers,...)
- Synthetic research (Evaluation of ecosystem services, resilience and sustainability; Local farmers' attitude; Dynamic conservation theory and best practices; ... );
- Expert-guided conservation and development;
- Academic exchange and experiences sharing.



# Enterprise promotion——

- Agriculture products processing
- Food processing
- Tourism
- Consulting





# Community participation——

- Villagers' cooperation
- Specialized cooperation
- Family farm
- Agritainment



# Society joining——

- Media
- Citizens
- NGOs
- Young volunteers...





### (3) Industrial Promoting Mechanism

## Resources viewing from industrial development

- Favourable eco-environment and landscape
- Strong national culture
- Good quality of agri-products
- Plenty of biological resources
- Relative surplus labor forces
- Exquisite traditional skills





Biological  
resources  
industry



Agro-  
product  
processing  
industry

**Agricultural  
production**

Food processing  
industry



Leisure agriculture  
and agrotourism



Cultural industry





- To create the GIAHS-brand of different products (functional agri-products, distinctive agri-products, special tourism routes, tourist souvenirs)
- To develop the high-end market
- To absorb more labors
- To increase farmers' income



A goldfish is swimming in a pond, partially obscured by green reeds. The fish is orange with a white stripe and a blue eye. The text "Thank you for your Attention" is overlaid in red, italicized font.

***Thank you for your Attention***