

# Curriculum Vitae Dr. Parviz Koohafkan

Dr. Parviz Koohafkan was born in 11 March 1951 in Iran, obtained an engineering degree in Natural Resources Management from University of Teheran, Iran, a Master degree in General and Applied Ecology and Ph.D. in Terrestrial Ecology from the University of Sciences and Techniques of Montpellier (USTL), France.

His fields of specializations are: Integrated Natural Resources Management; Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Conservation; Sustainable Livelihood and Climate Change Management: Land Use Planning.



## PRESENT AFFILIATION

Dr. Parviz Koohafkan, is the Founder and President of the **World Agricultural Heritage Foundation** and the UN Partnership Initiative on “**Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)**”.

He is presently Honorary Senior Research Fellow as well as Visiting Professor at Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan.

Dr. Koohafkan is fluent in **Persian, English, Spanish, French and Italian**. He is the author of several books and publications on biodiversity, agro-ecology, natural resources management, climate change and development. His most recent references can be found in Google under [Parviz koohafkan](#)

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN FAO

During his term in FAO, he held various senior positions, as a Director of Land and Water Division in FAO, in addition to the creation of the GIAHS Initiative and his other managerial tasks, he established several long term programs such as: Water and Poverty in Africa with IWMI, IFAD and the Gates Foundation; the Global Agro-Ecological Zoning (GAEZ) with IIASA, IFPRI and the World Bank; the World Agricultural Watch (WAW) with the French Cooperation, IFAD and CIRAD; the FAO Nile Basin Trans boundary Water Program with the Italian Cooperation, UN-Water, UNEP and UNESCO; the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA) with UNCCD, WOCAT, IFAD-GM and GEF. In 2009 he also initiated the preparation of The State of the World Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture- Managing Systems at Risk (SOLAW) which was the first comprehensive flagship report of FAO on the status and trends of land and water resources in the world published in four languages in 2011. During this time

he also initiated and advocated for the recognition of the central role of soils in ensuring food security and the increased awareness of the fundamental role of soil in climate change adaptation and mitigation leading to the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership. He was the Executive Secretary and the organizer of the Ministerial Conference on Water for Food, Agriculture and Energy in Africa in 2008 that resulted in the Sirte Ministerial Declaration and the preparation of the Africa Regional reviews and national investment programmes in water for food security for 53 African countries.

As a Director of Climate Change and Bioenergy Division of FAO in 2007, he contributed to the integration of climate change issues in FAO programmes and projects and participated to the IPCC fourth Assessment Report.

As a Director of Rural development Division, in 2006, he held also the position of Secretary General and the Organizer of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD Conference, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2006) that resulted in a range of best policies and practices on Access to Land, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development agreed by member governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote priority actions, partnerships and international cooperation in support of more equitable and transparent access to land, water and other natural resources. The Ministerial Conference Declaration was followed by FAO governing bodies and through the Committee on Food Security (CFS) it resulted to the adoption of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land, Forests and Fisheries resources in the Context of National Food Security*.

## OTHER KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**2008-2012: Strategic visioning, programming and team management** of Land and Water Division of FAO supervising over 150 professionals, consultants, general service staff both in Headquarter and field offices of FAO, establishment and coordination of several Global Partnerships and initiatives such as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System(**GIAHS**) with IFAD, UNESCO, CBD, Bioversity International and GEF, **Water and Poverty Initiative** with IWMI, IFAD, Gates Foundation; Global Agro-Ecological Zoning(**GAEZ**) with IIASA, IFPRI and World Bank; World Agricultural Watch (**WAW**) with French Cooperation, IFAD, CIRAD; Global Soil Partnership (**GSP**) with EU, CBD, EMBRAPA, IASS and GIZ **FAO- Nile Basin** Trans-boundary Water Programme With Italian Cooperation, UN-Water, UNEP, UNESCO;

**2011:** Leading the preparation and publication of **The State of Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture; Managing Systems at Risk (SOLAW)**, FAO's first comprehensive flagship report on the status and trends of land and water resources. SOLAW is aimed at sensitizing the policy makers and resource managers on the status and trends of land and water resources at global, regional and national levels and FAO's viewpoint on appropriate recommendations for policy formulation.

**2003 - 2012:** Conceptualization and leading the implementation of a global programme on **Land Degradation Assessments in Drylands (LADA)**, negotiated with the countries from their GEF

Resources Allocation Framework. The second phase of LADA was approved by the last GEF Council for an amount of US\$40 million. The programme is expected to benefit more than 25 countries by providing assistance in designing and implementing good policies and practices in sustainable land management.

**2009-2012:** Initiated and advocated for the recognition of the central role of soil resources for assuring food security and the increased awareness that soils play a fundamental role in climate change adaptation and mitigation leading to establishment of a permanent secretariat and creation of a **Global Soil Partnership**.

**2008:** Executive Secretary and the organizer of the Ministerial Conference on **Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa; The challenge of climate change ( Sirte, Libya 2008)** . The conference resulted in a Ministerial Declaration and prepared regional reviews and national investment programmes in water for food security for all of the 53 African countries and reaffirmed the commitment of the Ministers and Heads of the African Delegations to the principles and objectives of African Union and its NEPAD programme.

**2006:** Secretary General and Organizer of the **International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2006)**. The Conference resulted in a range of best policies and practices and lessons learned on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development agreed by member governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to promote priority actions, partnerships and international cooperation in support of more equitable and transparent access to land, water and other natural resources. The Conference Declaration was followed by FAO governing bodies and through the **Committee on Food Security (CFS)** and resulted in the adoption of **“Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security”**.

## POSITIONS HELD

January 2013 to Present:	<b>President and Founder of the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation</b> , Rome Italy;
January 2013 to Present	<b>Senior Honorary Research Fellow and Policy Advisor</b> in Bioversity International, Macarosse, Italy;
May 2013 to December 2013	<b>Professor and Senior research Fellow</b> in Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan
December 2008 to November 2012:	<b>Director, Land and Water Division (D2)</b> , Natural Resources and Environment Management Department FAO, Rome
January 2006- Nov. 2008:	<b>Director, Climate Change and Bio-energy, Division (D2)</b> , Natural Resources and Environment Department FAO, Rome

- April 2004- December 2006 **Director, Rural Development Division,**  
Environment and Sustainable Development Department,  
FAO, Rome
- March 1996- April 2004: **Chief Land and Soil Fertility Management Service,** Land  
and Water Division, Agriculture Department, FAO, Rome
- Sept. 91-March 1996: **Senior Officer Sustainable Development,** in charge of Rio  
Summit preparation, Environment and Sustainable  
Development Coordinating Unit
- Jan. 90-Sept. 91: **Team Leader and Chief Technical Adviser** FAO's Watershed  
Management Programmes in **Ecuador**
- May 85-Dec. 89 **Team Leader and Chief Technical Adviser** of FAO's Forestry  
and watershed management Programmes in **Haiti**
- June 82-May 85 **Assistant Professor in Ecological Sciences** at Ecole  
Nationale du Génie Rural des Eaux et Forêts (**ENGREF**),  
**Montpellier, France**, Conducting research projects and  
teaching land classification, ecological zoning, natural  
resources assessment and forest inventories, photo-  
interpretation and mapping.
- Sept. 77-June 82: **Research Assistant** in Centre National de Recherches  
Scientifiques (CNRS), Centre d'Etude Phyto-ecologique  
d'Emberger (CEPE), **Montpellier, France**, conducting  
research on Ecological Sequences and pastoral  
management systems of Qashqai Nomads of Southern  
Zagross, Iran.
- June 82- May 85: **International Consultant** in land use planning, soil  
reclamation, integrated rural development, range and  
forest management, soil conservation and watershed  
management with several missions to: **Latin America** and  
**Caribbean, Africa** and **Asia** for private companies, FAO and  
other UN Agencies.
- June 74-June 77: **Professor** of natural resources conservation and  
management Faculty of Agronomy and Animal Husbandry  
of **Rezayeh, Iran,**
- June 73-June 74: **Consultant in Land Use Planning** in SETAGRI CO. for the

preparation of a regional watershed and range management programme in Baluchistan, **Pakistan** and **Iran**

June 72-June 73:

**Technical Officer** in Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Iran, Rangeland Programme Director, **Baluchistan, Iran**

June 78 - May 82:

**International Consultant**

While researcher in CNRS Montpellier International consultant in Agriculture, land use planning, soil reclamation, integrated rural development, range and forest management, soil conservation and watershed management with several missions to Latin America and Asia for FAO and other UN Agencies.

#### OTHER QUALIFICATIONS/AFFILIATIONS

- Capacity to develop a vision, mission and strategies and to focus on the needs of member constituencies and to adjust to strategies to take changing circumstances into account
- Fosters team spirit through building trust and commitment to common objectives and recognizing team success
- Results-based Management oriented and demonstrated ability to manage programmes and initiatives efficiently under shifting priorities, in order to achieve targets
- Advanced negotiating skills and experience in dealing with high-ranking government officials, ministries and other international organizations.
- Combined knowledge and long-term managerial experience supervising personnel in policies in natural resources management, agriculture and rural development.

#### MEMBERSHIP AND HONORARY POSITIONS

- Member of CBD-UNESCO Biodiversity Liaison Group
- Member of Editorial Board of the International Journal of Agricultural sustainability, London, UK
- Member of World Rural Forum to campaign the International Year of family Farming
- Member of the Board of SOCLA “ Sociedad Cientifica Latinoamericana de Agroecologia”
- Lecturer/Visiting Professor, United Nations University, Asia Pacific University (APU), Oita, Japan, Kanazawa University Japan and Sapienza University, Rome, Italy
- Represented FAO in numerous international Meetings and Conferences including all Sustainable Development Conferences and the Rio Conferences follow up.
- Adviser, China’s Agro-Cultural Heritage Systems Series.

- Reviewer and Book editor, Natural Resources Forum and Agricultural Sustainability.
- Selected expert member of the Roster of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF, 1998-2002).
- Visiting Scholar at University of California Berkeley, Department of Ecology and Wildlife, U.S.A in 1983.
- Former President of "l'Association pour la Planification Ecologique (ERPE)" established in Sète, France

## LIST OF SOME PUBLICATIONS

Koohafkan, P. Food and Wisdom, Diversity for Development and Development for Diversity, Bioversity International and FAO, 2013

Koohafkan, P. Dynamic conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems: for a sustainable agriculture and rural development. Sustainable diets and biodiversity: directions and solutions for policy, research and action. FAO, 2012

Koohafkan, P. Lead author, State of the World Land and Water for Food and Agriculture; Managing Systems at Risk, November 2011 Earth-Scan and FAO, 2011

Koohafkan, P. Dynamic conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems: for a sustainable agriculture and rural development, FAO, 2011

Koohafkan, P. Altieri, M. Holt-Zimenez, W. Green Agriculture: foundations for biodiverse, resilient and productive agricultural systems, International journal of agricultural sustainability, Earth-Scan London 2011

Koohafkan, P. Altieri, M. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS): A legacy for the future (in 3 languages: English, Spanish and French), FAO, 2011

Koohafkan, P. The glass is half full: An interview with [FARMING MATTERS](#), 2010

Koohafkan, P. Conservation and adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, FAO, 2009

Koohafkan, P. GIAHS: A shared vision of agricultural, ecological and traditional societal sustainability, FAO, 2009

P. Koohafkan, B.A. Stewart, Water and Cereals in Drylands, FAO, Earth Scan, Rome 2008, Earth-Scan and FAO

Koohafkan, P. Agriculture, Land and the Global Environment, in Soils, Society & Global Change,

Iceland 2008

Miguel Altieri & Parviz Koohafkan *Enduring Farms: Climate Change, Smallholders and Traditional Farming Communities*,: TWN Third World Network, 2008,

[Koohafkan, P.](#) A vision for the Future, International conference on Agrarian Reform and rural Development, FAO, Rome 2006

[Koohafkan, P.](#) The Challenges of Soil Science and Sustainable Development, 2004

Koohafkan, P. Furtado, J. 2004. Traditional rice fish systems and globally indigenous agricultural heritage systems. FAO Rice Conference 04/CRS.17. FAO, Rome.

Koohafkan, P., D. Lantieri, and F. Nachtergaele, 2003. *Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA): Guidelines for a Methodological Approach*. Land and Water Development Division, FAO, Rome.

Koohafkan, P. and Nachtergaele, F. 2003. *The FAO Guidelines for Land Evaluation*. Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS). Our land, Our Future. Rome, 48p.

Koohafkan, P, 2001. *Integrated Watershed Management and Sustainable Food Production. Sustainability of Agricultural Systems in Transition*. ASA Special Publication No. 64. ASA-CSSA-SSSA, Madison, WI, USA.

[Koohafkan, P.](#) [Land resources potential and sustainable land management: An Overview](#) Natural Resources Forum, Journal, UN, NY , 2000 , 11 p.

Pretty, J. Koohafkan, P. *Land and agriculture; From UNCED, Rio de Janeiro 1992 to WSSD, Johannesburg, 2002, Challenges and perspectives for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002* FAO, Rome (Italy).

Koohafkan, P. *Desertification, drought and their consequences*. SD Dimensions. Rome, 1996 FAO, Rome Italy.

Koohafkan, P. *Soil Fertility Management in Support of food Security*, FAO, Rome 1996. [Waicent/faoinfo/sustdev/EPdirect/EPan0005.htm](http://Waicent/faoinfo/sustdev/EPdirect/EPan0005.htm),

Koohafkan, P. *Désertification et Sécheresse: Conséquences, Evaluation, et Lutte*: IFAD, Rome, 1995.

Koohafkan, P. *Conservation and Sustainable use of Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture*: FAO, Rome, 1994.

Koohafkan, P. *Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the Agriculture, Forestry and*

Fisheries Sectors: FAO, Rome, 1993.

Koohafkan, P. Using Forestry to Protect the Land, in Trees and Forests in Rural Land Use: FAO, Rome, 1991.

Koohafkan, P. Lilin, Ch. Arbres et Arbustes d'Haïti, Utilisation des Espèces Ligneuses en Conservation des Eaux et des Sols: FAO, Rome, 1989.

Koohafkan, P. Ponce Hernandez, R. A methodological framework for the assessment of Carbon Stocks and development of Carbon sequestration scenarios: FAO experiences based on the integration models to GIS.

[Koohafkan, P., Lilin, Ch. Using forestry to protect the land: soil conservation in Haiti](#) (English), In: Trees and forests in rural land use, 1991 in "Trees and Forests in the Management of Rural Areas" Tenth World Forestry Congress, Paris 1991 FAO, Forestry Dept. 1991, p. 175-184

[Koohafkan, P., Regis, G., Enilorac, M.-P., Jacinthe, P.A.](#) Impact assessment and development proposals for rural roads construction, Tikele, Randelle et Grand Plaine (French), Limbe (Haiti) , 1988 , 74 p.

[Koohafkan, P. Pasket, C. Herlant, P.](#) Summary of current situation and management proposals for Haitian agriculture. (French), Port-au-Prince (Haiti) , 1987 , 53 p.

[Koohafkan, P.](#) Intensive reforestation in Haiti and choice of forest sites and species (French) Port-au-Prince (Haiti), 1987, 28 p.

[Koohafkan, P.](#) Biological methods of soil conservation in Haiti. (French) Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural, Port-au-Prince (Haïti), 1987 , 39 p.

[Koohafkan, P.](#) Forestry Development Assistance and Knowledge Management, Haiti. Final report of the project prepared for the Government of Haiti. (French, Rome (Italy) , 1987 , 37 p.

[Koohafkan, P., Dominicus, B.](#) Theoretical basis and practice of the Calumette research-development project. (French) / Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural, Port-au-Prince (Haiti), 1987, 59 p.

[Koohafkan, P.](#) Course in ecology and phyto-sociology. Faculté d'Agronomie et Médecine Vétérinaires (FAMV) (French) Porte au prince (Haïti), 1986, 71 p.

## REFERENCES

1. Mrs Analiza R. Teh, UnderSecretary, Chief of Staff, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines
2. Mrs Chritine Josephine Regunay, Chief, Multi-lateral Investments, Department of



Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

3. Prof Abe Kenichi, Research Institute for Humanities and Nature, Kyoto, Japan
4. Ms Anne McDonald, Professor, Sophia University, Japan
5. Prof. Li Wenhua, Chinese Academy of Science and Director General of IGSNRR, Beijing China
6. Mr Qu Sixi, Director General, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture, China
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15. Mr Mamadou Sissoko, Honorary President of African Farmers Organization, ROPPA, Senegal
16. Mr Maharaj Muthoo, Founder, Roman Forum and Senior Advisor, DFID, India
17. Professor Stefano Grego, Vice Dean of the University of Tuscia, Italy