The Globally Important Agricultural Cultural Heritage (GIAHS) is a large-scale international project officially proposed and implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in 2002. Mr. Parviz, then Director of the FAO’s Water and Soil Division, was the initiator of the project and has been a coordinator until retirement.

After retirement, in order to continue to promote the conservation of agricultural cultural heritage, Parviz led the establishment of World Agricultural Heritage Foundation (WAHF), an international non-governmental organization, in 2015.

"My passion has its roots in my origin and professional belief as well my knowledge of issues and challenges of sustainable development." Parviz said in an interview with China Investment, "My expectation is a world without hunger and a better future for our young generation particularly rural communities."

**GIAHS: bench marks of sustainable agricultural**

**China Investment:** As the founder of GIAHS, how do you understand the GIAHS? What inspired you to launch the initiative on GIAHS?

**Parviz Koohafkan:** When I was a child, I lived in the country. Later, my father moved to the Iranian capital Tehran to let us receive a better education, but every summer I would return to the village where I lived. Much to my regret, due to urbanization, fewer and fewer people remain in the village, and agricultural production is declining. I find some interesting things and local crop varieties that have been cultivated slowly disappearing.

As the son of a farmer from Iran, my first aspiration was my choice...
of education and professional life in agriculture sector. Therefore, when I was in college, I switched my major from electromechanical to agricultural, and I always read the doctor. After graduation, serving as a professor, researcher and practitioner, I spent many years of my life working with farmer communities in Iran, France, Haiti and Ecuador before joining FAO headquarter in Rome in 1991 to coordinate the work of this organization on agenda 21 and Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD). I contributed to the preparation, negotiation and approval of various technical and policy documents and platforms in support of sustainable agriculture from 1991 up-until 2012.

My entire professional life was shaped and influenced by the low profile, yet extra-ordinary farmers and communities who I worked with. They were the ones who gave me ideas and source of inspiration. In working with them, I found that many ancient agricultural cultivation methods and experiences that are in harmony with human and nature are of great significance for today’s sustainable development. Ultimately, create Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) as a lasting legacy of my nearly thirty years of work in FAO. And I conceptualized the GIAHS framework as a Partnership Initiative launched in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, 2002).

My mission for GIAHS has been to identify, support and safeguard outstanding Agricultural Heritage Systems and their livelihoods, agricultural biodiversity of global significance, knowledge systems, cultures and landscapes around the World. I consider that GIAHS are the best and most prominent examples of smallholders, family farming and traditional agricultural systems that have passed the test of time and could be seen as bench marks of sustainability for sustainable agricultural policies and investment in food and nutrition security, employment, health and environment.

Building on generations of accumulated knowledge and experience, the GIAHS reflect the evolution of humanity and its profound harmony with nature. They have resulted not only in outstanding aesthetic beauty, maintenance of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and valuable cultural inheritance but, above all, in the sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security and quality of life.

**Q** China Investment: The number of GIAHS has reached from 0 to 52, and is still increasing every year. How do you evaluate the development of GIAHS?

**Parviz Koohafkan:** A good example is the overall development of GIAHS in China, emanating from the local actions and national policies, becoming a “viral” and popular brand for many leaders wanting to become part of the GIAHS family.

At global level, the elevation of GIAHS into a regular program of FAO due to our efforts and on the ground success in GIAHS pilot countries as well as numerous strategic awareness raising activities, such as registration of GIAHS Initiative as a UN- Sustainable Development Partnership Initiative, publication of scientific and journal articles and books. And particularly on the ground activities in many countries highlighting the importance of family farming and traditional agriculture for food and nutrition security, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, indigenous knowledge for resilience building as well as cultural dimensions of agricultural heritage systems advocated by many institutions and members of our sustainable development network members and the efforts done by the GIAHS pilot countries particularly China, and other countries who believe that investing on GIAHS is supporting their family farming, small holders and indigenous communities and is a win-win-win investment option socially, economically and ecologically for the present and future generation.

**The lack of interest by decision makers is the greatest challenge of agricultural heritage conservation**

**Q** China Investment: It is pretty common that there is a lack of funds and participation of young people in the current protection of heritage sites. What do you think of this? What are the problems in the protection of heritage sites at this moment?

**Parviz Koohafkan:** The protection of heritage particularly Agricultural Heritage Systems is indeed very challenging and depends on the strong will and appropriate policies and regulations as well as the rightful investment. It needs to be understood why it should be protected and sustained, for whom and why it is socially, economically and ecologically beneficial?

Not only the lack of funds and participation of young people, but also the general trends in globalization, urbanization, migration and the lack of interest in agriculture sector by decision makers and particularly investment in family farming is the greatest challenge of agricultural heritage conservation. Turning these challenges into great opportunities of sustainable livelihood options for the poor farmers combined with conservation of natural resources and ecosystem services are precisely the
objectives of the designation of GIAHS and their Dynamic Conservation. Experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of GIAHS Partnership Initiative and designation of Globally and Nationally important agricultural heritage systems in pilot countries teaches us that when there is a source of incomes generation and a decent livelihood, rural people would stay or would come back to their village.

China Investment: Many heritage sites are located in poor villages far from the city. How to keep rural people? In which way could these villages develop their economy and at the same time protect their heritages?

Parviz Koohafkan: The majority of Agricultural Heritage Systems are obviously located in remote areas and majority of their custodians are poor due to lack of infrastructure, market access, technical assistance, and modern facilities. And that is why the recognition of GIAHS would be an important support to these remote villages and provide economic development and context-specific support. For example, in China, it has an even greater global and national importance as for its diversity of its agriculture and food systems, the diversity of its ethnic groups and cultural inheritance as well ecosystems and biodiversity of global significance, its large population and ambitious development agenda in terms of primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

Support to agriculture sector, particularly small holders, family farmers and indigenous communities in remote areas, are at the same time a challenge and opportunity. Not only they are often the poorest of the poor but also the best custodians of natural resources, environmental services and cultural inheritance. Supporting them to sustain their livelihood and their way of life offers many economic, social and environmental dimensions that represents the pillars of national security and sustainability in the rural areas. This means that rural development cannot be conceived any without agriculture holding a key role. This is the case for investing in GIAHS Dynamic Conservation referred to in my recent book entitled Forgotten Agricultural Heritage Systems, connecting Food systems and Sustainable Development.

The industrial agriculture system cannot solve the world’s immense challenges

China Investment: What do you think of the future of agriculture and rural areas? How to coordinate urban development and rural revitalization?

Parviz Koohafkan: Agriculture-has been and remains to be of great importance at the global, national and local levels. At the heart of agricultural modernization, industrialization and globalization is the paradox of food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition. At global level, sufficient food is produced for all, at a satisfactory nutritional level, and yet about one in seven people in the world face hunger daily. In many countries, food security depends on the performance of local agricultural, on family farming and small-scale producers.

With the emergence of Green Revolution and industrial agriculture, agricultural productivity has boosted almost three-fold leaving an impressive record of success in the recent achievements of humanity. However, while the success in boosting production are often impressive, the aggregate results is not as ‘green’ as experts suggest and there are important collateral damage and increasing environmental, social and cultural costs.

Even if we put aside the issue of whether the modern agriculture has done more harm than good, the fact remains that as we approach 2050, the industrial agriculture system that dominates the modern world, cannot solve the world’s immense challenges. These include, rapidly increasing population and urbanization, particularly in least developed countries, changing dietary habits with increasing meat consumption that requires 10 times more water per kilogram of produce, as compared to cereals, vegetables and fruits. According to FAO, humankind needs to increase food production by 60 percent globally, and 100 percent in developing countries, to provide for the dietary needs of the planet (FAO, 2015). Overcoming world hunger requires investments that are focused on rural areas and urban agriculture, local economy development, especially on small holders, family farmers, indigenous peoples and the integration of rural urban economy. There is need to include integration across sectors, promoting diversification and the enhancement of positive externalities coupled with a reduction in negative externalities. Solutions must be knowledge based and nature-based, building on renewable assets using mixture of economic, social and environmental advisory and regulatory instruments. Additionally, they must be participatory and bottom-up, promote intensification without simplification and assemble all assets that rural systems provide for livelihoods, communities and economies.

World Agricultural Heritage Foundation for small farmers

China Investment: We know that after your retirement from FAO, you took the lead in founding the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation in 2014. Could you please tell us the original intention and effect of founding this foundation?
**Parviz Koohafkan:** The World Agricultural Heritage Foundation was created under my intuitive together with a number of renowned scientific collaborators, advocates and supporters of GIAHS and Sustainable Agriculture, as an International NGO, to support countries and farmer communities in the promotion of their Globally and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS and NIAHS) through: Technical Assistance and capacity building, Education &Training of young generation, Advocacy and Fund Raising for Agricultural Heritage communities and support to and empowerment family farmers, small holders and indigenous communities. Thanks to our knowledge, considerable efforts and the supports of many partners we have been successful to deliver our modest contribution to GIAHS and NIAHS communities and support them in the implementation of Dynamic Conservation action plans in selected countries.

World Agricultural Heritage Foundation mobilized financial resources from IFAD and implemented the respective Giahs Dynamic Conservation action plans in collaboration with local communities, national research and development institutions as well as Bioversity International and other partners.

Such as, we conducted a Resiliency assessment comparison between GIAHS and modern agricultural systems by farmers themselves in the Philippines and Tunisia after appropriate trainings and field visits based on a proven methodology that we have developed together with Professor Miguel Altieri specialist in agroecology in UC-Berkely and a prominent member of our Foundation.

We also trained farmers in various aspects of sustainable resources management and distributed a good number of smartphones for the use of AgLegacy application that WAHF developed that allows farmers to assess their assets and valuable tangible and intangible heritage, registering their land limits, biodiversity and genetic resources by taking photos and video snapshots, recording their knowledge in their own language and recording the important issues and management options and extending to other important audiovisual and written information such as pest and decease outbreaks and remedies, dealing with drought and heatwaves etc.

These information was then shared through AgLegacy Platform similar to Facebook and exchanged among GIAHS community members but also scientific support group of WAHF.

The AgLegacy knowledge platform not only allows the dynamic registration of all the important aspects of GIAHS and NIAHS by farmers themselves, but also allows them for marketing their harvested products and their service delivery mechanisms.

We noted particularly the interest of young generation in AgLegacy application and other uses of smartphones for their daily needs but also pride and self confidence of farmers and young generation in adopting appropriate technologies and registration of their valuable components of their agricultural heritage systems.

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**China Investment:** China is a large agricultural country with a long history of agricultural civilization. How do you view China's role and status in the initiative of GIAHS?

**Parviz Koohafkan:** I am indeed pleased and impressed with various policy and investment initiatives of China in agriculture and rural sector development both at national level such as constructing the “new socialist country side” and the international level such as south-south cooperation, Silk Road Initiative and others. The China's support to GIAHS both at national and international level is highly commendable and a bright light house for many developed and developing countries.
乡村振兴 | RURAL REVITALIZATION |

全球重要农业文化遗产 | GIAHS

一个更美好的农业未来
——专访世界农业文化遗产基金会主席帕尔维兹 • 库哈弗坎（Parviz Koohafkan）

要克服全球饥饿问题，相关投资应集中在农村地区、城市农业和地方经济发展上，
对小农户、家庭农民、土著居民与城乡经济一体化的投资尤其需要重视

文 | 本刊记者 侯洁如  翻译 | 张永勋 齐晓彤  图片提供 | 帕尔维兹 • 库哈弗坎

“我的热情植根于我的出身以及专业信念，还有我对可持续发展问题与挑战的认知。”帕尔维兹在接受《中国投资》记者采访时说，“我的期望是一个没有饥饿的世界，一个对青年一代尤其是农村群体而言更美好的未来。”

GIAHS：可持续农业的典范

Q A

《中国投资》：作为全球重要农业文化遗产的创始人，您如何理解全球重要农业文化遗产？是什么促使您发起这一倡议？

帕尔维兹 • 库哈弗坎：我小时候生活在乡村，后来父亲为了让我们接受更好的教育，搬迁到伊朗首都德黑兰，但是每年夏天我都会再回到以前生活的那个村子。让我感到遗憾的是，受城市化的影响，村子里的人越来越少，农业生产逐渐衰退，一些有意思的事物和原来种植的一些地方性作物品种也在慢慢消失。

作为伊朗的一个农民的儿子，我最渴望的事情便是在农业领域求学择业。
帕尔维兹•库哈弗坎在与农民讨论弹性评估方法

展的一系列提高国际对GIAHS战略意义认识的活动（如将GIAHS倡议载入为联合国可持续发展伙伴计划，期刊论文发表与相关书籍出版），GIAHS项目已被FAO纳入常规预算项目。特别是，我们的可持续发展网络成员国、GIAHS试点国以及其他支持GIAHS保护的国家（认为开展GIAHS保护是对家庭农业、小农户和当地社区支持和对于当前与未来一代属社会、经济与生态“三赢”选择）所开展的一系列GIAHS活动，都强调了家庭农业和传统农业在粮食与营养安全、自然资源保护与可持续管理、增强系统恢复力方面的本土知识的重要性，以及在农业遗产的文化维度方面的重要性。

决策者缺乏兴趣是农业遗产保护的最大挑战

帕尔维兹•库哈弗坎：全球重要农业文化遗产在中国的整个发展历程是一个很好的例子。从最初的地方行为已经上升为国家政策，全球重要农业文化遗产已成为许多地方领导热衷的牌。争相成为全球重要农业文化遗产这个大家庭的一员。

《中国投资》：大家普遍反映，因此，我在大学的时候将专业由电子机械转为农业，并一直读到了博士。毕业后，成为一名教授、研究员和从业者，我在伊朗、法国、海地、厄瓜多尔的农民社群工作多年，之后于1991年加入了粮农组织罗马总部，协调《21世纪议程》和可持续农业与农村发展相关的工作。自1991年起直至2012年，我参与筹划、协调并通过了诸多技术文件、政策文件与平台，支持可持续农业发展。

我的整个职业生涯，都与我曾一起工作过的低调而不平凡的农民和那些我曾工作过的农村社区塑造着和影响着，这些农民和社区是我的思想与灵感之源。在和农民们一起工作过程中，我发现许多古老的农业种植方式和经验，长期以来一直使人与自然保持着和谐共生的关系。其对于当今的可持续发展具有重要意义。基于这些发现，最后我提出了全球重要农业文化遗产的概念，并作为我在粮农组织近三十年工作生涯为之奋斗的不朽遗产。2002年，我在全球可持续发展高峰会期间，正式发起了这一伙伴关系倡议。

全球重要农业文化遗产项目的目标和任务是，识别、支持与保护全世界范围内的优秀农业遗产系统及其农户生计功能、具有全球重要性的农业生物多样性、知识体系、文化系统和景观。

我认为全球重要农业文化遗产是一个个最杰出的、经得起时间检验的小农家庭农业、传统农业系统的实例，他们足以被视作为食物营养安全、就业、健康与环境等领域的可持续农业政策与投资工作方面的典范。

在全球层面，由于我们的努力；GIAHS试点国所取得的成功以及共同开展的一系列提高国际对GIAHS战略意义认识的活动（如将GIAHS倡议载入为联合国可持续发展伙伴计划，期刊论文发表与相关书籍出版），GIAHS项目已被FAO纳入常规预算项目。特别是，我们的可持续发展网络成员国、GIAHS试点国以及其他支持GIAHS保护的国家（认为开展GIAHS保护是对家庭农业、小农户和当地社区支持和对于当前与未来一代属社会、经济与生态“三赢”选择）所开展的一系列GIAHS活动，都强调了家庭农业和传统农业在粮食与营养安全、自然资源保护与可持续管理、增强系统恢复力方面的本土知识的重要性，以及在农业遗产的文化维度方面的重要性。

决策者缺乏兴趣是农业遗产保护的最大挑战

《中国投资》：从0到52，全球重要农业文化遗产地数量逐年增长，您如何看待全球重要农业文化遗产的发展？
乡村振兴

在目前遗产地保护中资金缺乏、年轻人参与度低，对此，您怎么看？目前遗产地保护工作还有哪些问题？

帕尔维兹·库哈弗坎：遗产保护，特别是农业遗产系统保护的确富有挑战性，其依靠坚定的意志、适当的政策法规以及必要的资金投入。需要大家理解：为什么要保护和传承农业文化遗产？保护农业文化遗产是为了谁？为什么保护农业文化遗产具有社会、经济与生态效益？

全球重要农业文化遗产保护目前面临的问题不仅是资金短缺和缺乏年轻人参与的问题，还有全球化、城市化、移民大趋势的影响，决策者对农业领域缺乏兴趣等问题。全球重要农业文化遗产的认定实际上恰恰是对这些偏远乡村提供经济发展以及其他相关方面的重要支持。例如，在中国，由于农业文化遗产具有农业与食物多样性、民族和文化遗产的多样性、全球重要性的生态系统与生物多样性，加之人口数量庞大，有一二三产业融合发展战略的政策支持，其国家和全球重要性更加突出。

对农业领域的支持，特别是对偏远地区小农户、家庭农场主和当地社区的支持，既是机遇，也是挑战。这些人既是贫困人口中的最贫困者，也是自然资源、环境服务与文化遗产最好的保护者。帮助他们维持生计和原有的生活方式，实际上是从经济、社会、环境的维度支撑国家安全和农村地区可持续发展。这意味着，如果农业没有发挥关键作用，农村发展就不可能得以实现。这是全球重要农业文化遗产动态保护投资中的实际情况，我在我的近期著述《被遗忘的农业遗产：连接粮食系统与可持续发展》中也有所涉及。

农业工业化体系无法解决现实难题

《中国投资》：您对农业和乡村的未来前景如何看？城市发展和乡村振兴如何协调？

帕尔维兹·库哈弗坎：无论是过去、现在，还是将来，无论是在全球层面、国家层面还是地区层面，农业一直都发挥着重要的作用。

农业的现代化、工业化和全球化与粮食危机、饥饿、营养不良是一个悖论。就全球层面而言，目前的粮食生产量足以满足全球所有人口的营养需求，然而现实中，世界上每七人中便有一人每天在面临饥饿威胁。在一些国家，粮食安全取决于当地农业生产状况，主要依赖
于家庭农业和小规模生产者。随后绿色革命与农业工业化的出现，农业生产力几乎翻了三番，在人类现代成就中留下了浓墨重彩的一笔。虽然农业增产成绩是瞩目的，但总的结果并不像专家所展示那么“绿色”，现代农业在提高产量的同时，也导致了严重的附带损害，环境、社会和文化成本也日益增加。我们姑且先不谈现代农业是否弊大于利这个问题，事实上到 2050 年，主导当今世界的农业工业化体系仍无法解决当世的巨重大挑战。随着人口数量的迅猛增长与快速城市化进程，特别是在不发达国家，人民饮食习惯的改变，肉类消费的增加（生产每公斤肉类的用水量要比谷物、蔬菜和水果高出 10 倍），按粮农组织的估算，要满足全球人口的粮食需求，全球粮食产量需提高 60%，发展中国家粮食产量需提高 1 倍（粮农组织，2015 年）。要克服全球饥饿问题，相关投资应集中于农村地区、城市农业和地方经济发展上，特别是对小农户、家庭农场、土著居民与城乡经济一体化的发展，尤其需要重视。还需要跨部门整合、推动多样化，增强正外部效应与减少负外部性相结合。解决方案须基于知识与自然规律，综合利用经济、社会、环境咨询和监管手段，并建立在可再生资源开发利用基础之上。另外，解决方案必须是参与式的、自下而上的、集约化而不是简化的，须集中农村系统所提供的所有生计、社区和经济资源。

面向小农的世界农业遗产基金会

我们姑且先不谈现代农业是否弊大于利这个问题，事实上到 2050 年，主导当今世界的农业工业化体系仍无法解决当前世界的巨大挑战。随着人口数量的迅猛增长与快速城市化进程，特别是在不发达国家，人民饮食习惯的改变，肉类消费的增加（生产每公斤肉类的用水量要比谷物、蔬菜和水果高出 10 倍），按粮农组织的估算，要满足全球人口的粮食需求，全球粮食产量需提高 60%，发展中国家粮食产量需提高 1 倍（粮农组织，2015 年）。要克服全球饥饿问题，相关投资应集中于农村地区、城市农业和地方经济发展上，特别是对小农户、家庭农场、土著居民与城乡经济一体化的发展，尤其需要重视。还需要跨部门整合、推动多样化，增强正外部效应与减少负外部性相结合。解决方案须基于知识与自然规律，综合利用经济、社会、环境咨询和监管手段，并建立在可再生资源开发利用基础之上。另外，解决方案必须是参与式的、自下而上的、集约化而不是简化的，须集中农村系统所提供的所有生计、社区和经济资源。

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