

Traditional Agriculture: Adaptation to Climate Change --Tanking Hani Rice Terraces System as an Example

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Worldwide specific agricultural systems and landscapes have been created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources using locally adapted management practices. Building on local knowledge and experience these ingenious agricultural systems reflect the evolution of humankind, the diversity of its knowledge and its profound relationship with nature. These systems have resulted not only in outstanding landscapes maintenance and adaptation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity indigenous knowledge systems and resilient ecosystems, but above all, in the sustained provision of multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security and quality of life.

As one of the FAO Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) project pilot site, Hani Rice Terraces System in Yunnan province have many advantages in its rational ecosystem structure, ingenious agricultural knowledge system, excellent water and land management, and abundant bio- and cultural diversity which are very important to adapt to climate change. In this paper, viewing from the ability of the system in the serious Southwest China drought in last year, the authors analyzed the agro-biodiversity characteristics, ecosystem services and multi-values of the system and provided some effective approaches to realize the dynamic conservation and sustainable management of the system.

KeyWords: Traditional agriculture; Sustainable agriculture; Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS); Hani Rice Terraces System;