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The multifunctional value of historical viticulture as LIVING HERITAGE

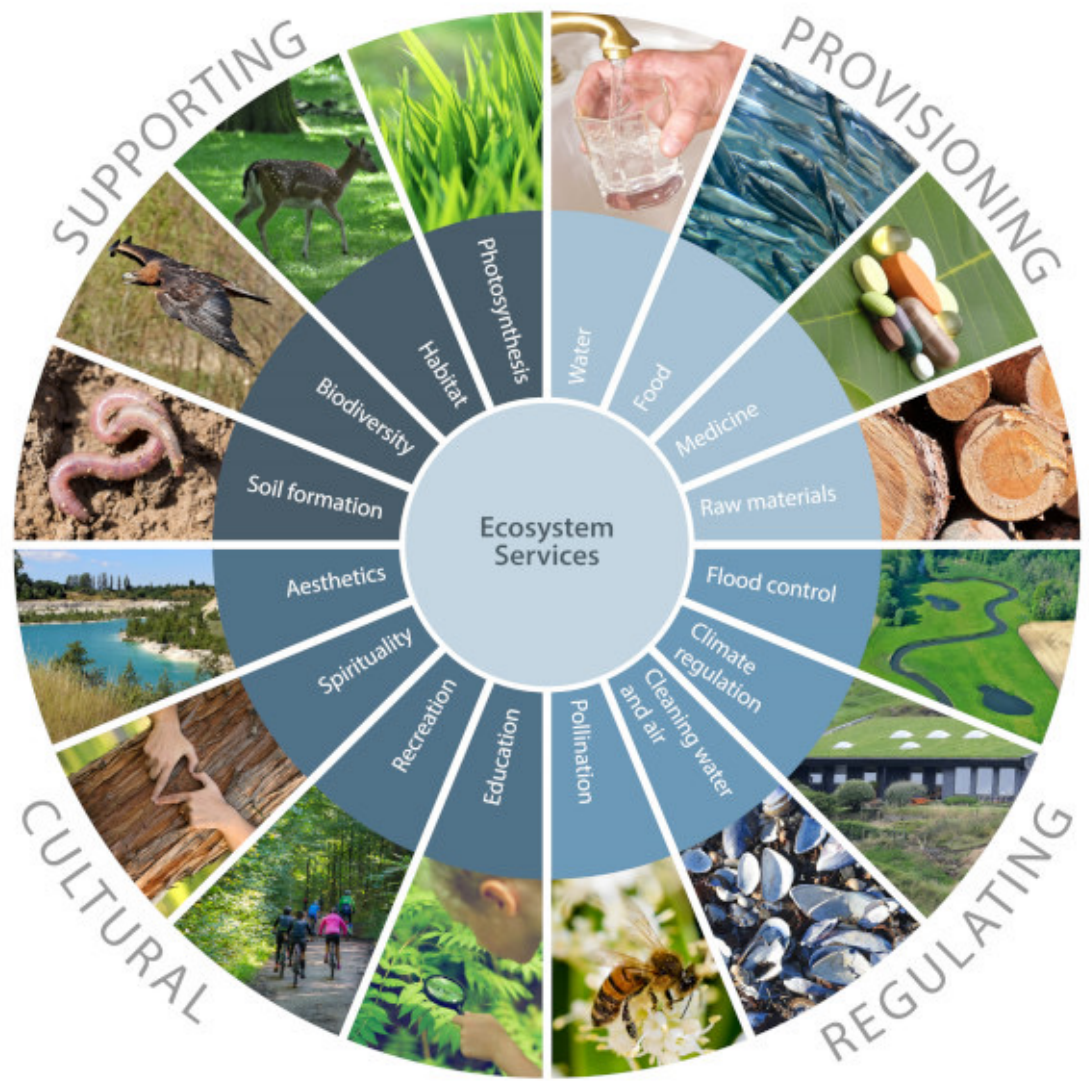
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CONTEXT

- ❑ Agricultural heritage systems are considered **multifunctional systems**, an approach that emerged in the scientific debate with the **Rio Conference of 1992** to **link agriculture to the different needs of society**.
- ❑ In **2005**, with the publication of the **Millennium Ecosystem Assessment**, it became clear that **traditional rural landscapes can offer various benefits to rural communities and the collectivity in general**.

➔ **Certain types of agricultural activities can have key environmental, social, and economic roles.**



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



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□ This multifunctional role has also been recognized at the **institutional level**:

- In 1992 the **UNESCO** introduced the “**cultural landscapes**” category in the World Heritage List, representing sites of universal value reflecting the “**combined works of nature and man**”.
- In the same year the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** was also signed, an international treaty aimed at conserving biodiversity, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing, **highlighting the role of biocultural diversity** and recognizing that Indigenous peoples and Local communities are essential stewards of nature.



- ❖ In 2002 the **FAO** established the **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme**, whose aim is to identify and preserve agricultural heritage systems for future generations, recognizing their multifunctional role in supporting rural communities' livelihoods and wellbeing.

- ✓ Inspired by these international initiatives, **COUNTRIES** like Italy (Register of Rural Landscapes of Historical Interest), China, Korea, and Japan also established **national lists to identify and preserve agricultural heritage systems** for sustainable rural development, rural economy diversification, landscape and (agro)biodiversity conservation.



- More recently, this multifunctional role has been addressed within **RESEARCH PROJECTS funded by EU Programmes** such as the Horizon Europe, to counteract biodiversity loss and to enhance the ecological connectivity.





Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



Rural landscape are included among cultural landscapes:

Cultural landscapes are cultural properties and represent the “combined works of nature and of man”. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.

Remarkable Land Use Systems and landscapes

which are rich in biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a rural community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Convention



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Globally Important
**AGRICULTURAL
HERITAGE**
Systems

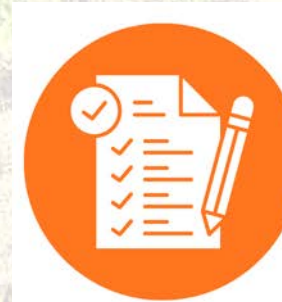


Authenticity (*attributes – integrity*)

- form and design
- materials and substance
- use and function
- traditions, techniques and management-systems
- location and setting
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage
- spirit and feeling, and internal and external factors

Criteria

- ✓ Food and livelihood security
- ✓ Agrobiodiversity (biocultural diversity)
- ✓ Local and traditional knowledge systems
- ✓ Cultures, value systems and social organization
- ✓ Landscape and seascape



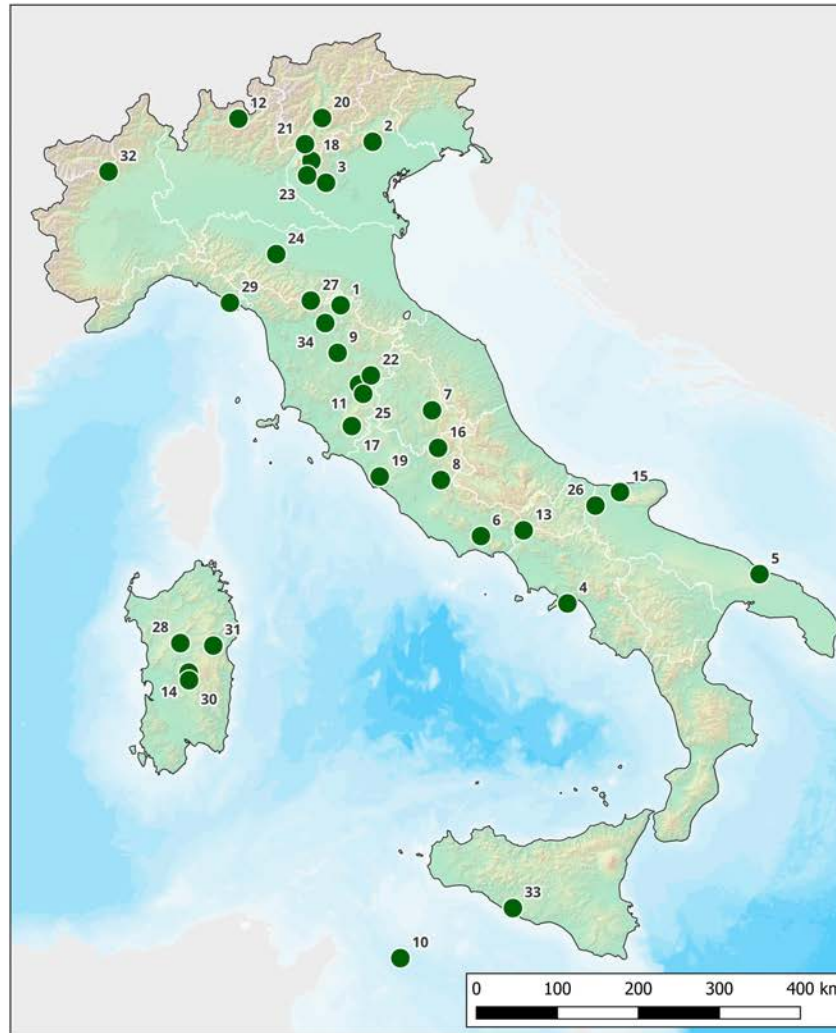
THE ITALIAN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RURAL LANDSCAPES: Localization of the inscribed sites



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- settlement and infrastructural structure
- hydraulic-agrarian systems and shape and size of the plots
- vegetation structure, crops grown, forms of breeding.

Demonstrated based on tracing back to a specific historical period (1954) the persistence and invariance of traditional land use as well as the significance features



I Paesaggi Rurali Storici

- 1 - I paesaggi silvo-pastorali di Moscheta
- 2 - le colline di Conegliano Valdobbiadene: paesaggio del Prosecco Superiore
- 3 - Colline vitate del Soave
- 4 - Limoneti, vigneti e boschi nel territorio del Comune di Amalfi
- 5 - Il paesaggio agrario della Piana degli uliveti monumentali di Puglia
- 6 - Oliveti terrazzati di Vallecorsa
- 7 - Fascia pedemontana olivata Assisi Spoleto
- 8 - Gli uliveti a terrazze e lunette dei Monti Lucretili
- 9 - Il paesaggio rurale storico di Lamole
- 10 - Il paesaggio della pietra a secco dell'Isola di Pantelleria
- 11 - Il paesaggio policulturale di Trequanda
- 12 - Vigneti Terrazzati del Versante Retico della Valtellina
- 13 - Parco regionale Storico agricolo dell'olivo di Venafro
- 14 - Paesaggio policulturale del Mandrolisai: i vigneti di Atzara e Sorgono
- 15 - Paesaggio agrario di olivastri storici del Feudo di Belvedere
- 16 - Paesaggio della bonifica romana e dei campi allagati della piana di Rieti
- 17 - Paesaggio Policulturale di Fibbianello - Comune di Semproniano
- 18 - Alti pascoli della Lessinia
- 19 - Il paesaggio agro-silvo-pastorale del territorio di Tolfa
- 20 - Il paesaggio rurale dei Vigneti terrazzati della Valle di Cembra
- 21 - Il sistema agricolo terrazzato della Val di Gresta
- 22 - Paesaggio storico della Bonifica Leopoldina in Valdichiana
- 23 - Le colline terrazzate della Valpolicella
- 24 - I prati stabili polifiti irrigui della Val d'Enza
- 25 - Paesaggio policulturale collinare di Pienza e Montepulciano
- 26 - Il paesaggio del grano - l'area cerealicola di Melanico
- 27 - La corona di Matilde - alto Reno terra di castagni
- 28 - Sistemi agro-silvo-pastorali del Marghine-Goceano
Oliveti terrazzati e pascoli arborati nei territori di Bolotana, Illorai e Lei
- 29 - Paesaggio dei terrazzamenti e della viticoltura delle Cinque Terre
- 30 - I vigneti eroici di Meana Sardo
- 31 - Uliveti pascolati del Comune di Oliena
- 32 - Paesaggi Terrazzati Viticoli e Agricoli del Mombarone
- 33 - Il «bosco di mandorli e d'olivi» e i giardini d'agrumi della Valle dei Templi d'Agrigento
- 34 - Terre di Calenzano: ville-fattoria, olivete tradizionali e boschi

Map of the 34 sites inscribed in the National Register of Historical Rural Landscapes

Farmer-focused Biodiversity and Agricultural Knowledge Network

Aims: Reversing Biodiversity Loss, Together.

To enhance Biodiversity-Friendly Farming practices in Europe by stimulating knowledge exchange between farmers, foresters, researchers, advisors, and other key stakeholders.



Agricultural land use covers the largest proportion of terrestrial land modified by human activities and is crucial for feeding humanity.



Farmers' land management decisions are a significant driver of biodiversity change.



Preserving biodiversity is crucial for ensuring agricultural production, food security, and maintaining essential ecosystem services.

THE SOAVE GIAHS SITE

CASE STUDY

- The **Soave hills** extend for 2,144 hectares in **Veneto Region** (north-east Italy) at altitudes ranging from 30 to 362 m, with an average slope of 27%
- Since the 18th century, the region has seen a significant expansion of viticulture, demonstrating extraordinary **continuity in both quality production and landscape structure**. Nowadays there are about **3,000 farms** cultivating vines, meaning that the farm structure mainly correspond to small and family-farms
- The Soave area was registered in the **National Register of Historic Rural Landscapes in 2016** and in the **FAO GIAHS Programme in 2018**.



SOAVE TRADITIONAL VINEYARDS AS GIAHS SITE

I. SUMMARY INFORMATION

A. Name/title of the Agricultural Heritage System

Original name in Italian: Le colline vitate del Soave
Translation into English: Soave Traditional vineyards

B. Requesting agency / organization

Consorzio Tutela Vini Soave e Recioto di Soave

C. Responsible Ministry

Original name in Italian: Ministero delle politiche Agricole, Agroalimentari e Forestali
English: Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy

D. Location of the site

Italy/Veneto Region/Verona Province.
The area proposed as GIAHS, coincides with the area that has similar characteristics such as garganega grapes, pergola veronese, steepy hills. It could be very well identified in the Soave wine district.
Coordinates: 45°25'10.38" N 11°14'45.38" E

(annex 1 – boundaries of the proposed GIAHS site)

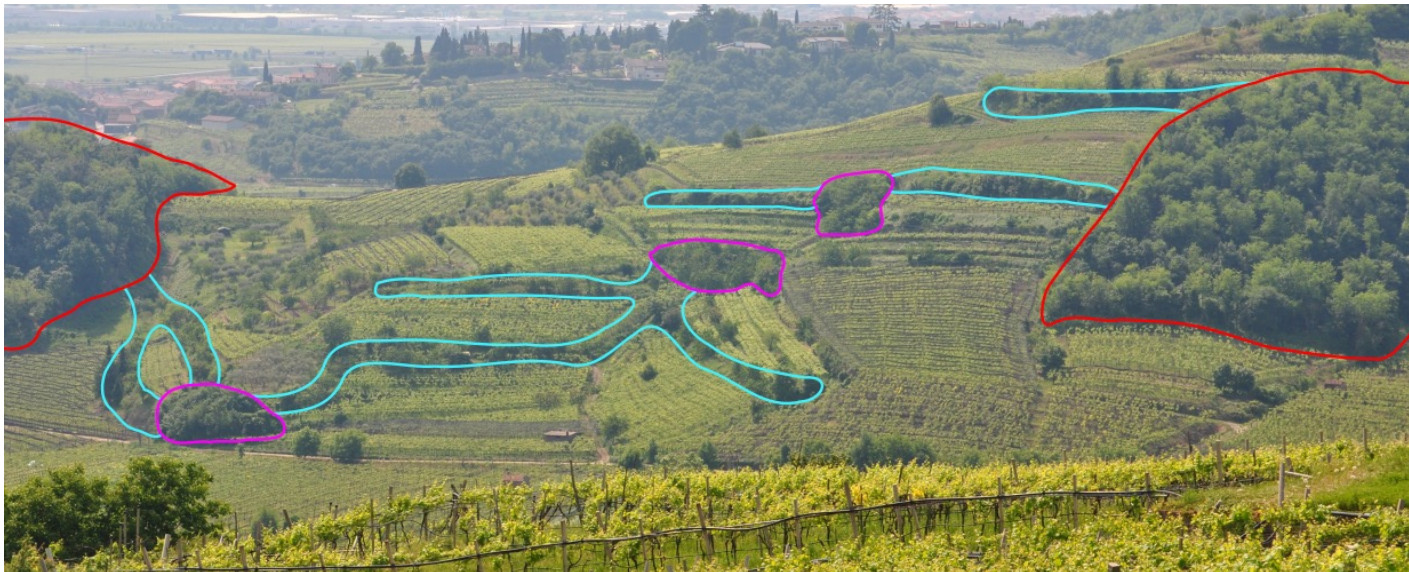


E. Accessibility of the site to capital city or major cities

Soave town is 20-minute drive from Verona, one of the main Italian cities for transports, connected to the other parts of Europe in multiple ways, with roads, railways and an international airport. It's 1-hour drive from Venice.

ECOLOGICAL VALUE: **BIODIVERSITY & AGROBIODIVERSITY**

- ❑ **Garganega and Trebbiano di Soave** grape varieties
- ❑ Biodiversity preservation thanks to the widespread presence of **Trees Outside Forests (TOF)**, groups of trees that do not reach the minimum surface area required for classification as forest and that can be divided into Small woods and Linear Tree Formations
- ❑ **Hydrogeological regulation and risk prevention** thanks to traditional knowledge techniques



Two native varieties that risk to disappear: Garganega and Trebbiano di Soave.

The Garganega and the Trebbiano di Soave are a local evolution of what were called the "retiche varieties", very ancient varieties brought both by the first Venetians and by the Roman Empire and that adapted in this environment, surviving and thriving thanks to their resistance to diseases and the quality of the final product.

At the beginning of the 20th century the spread of the two varieties was on balance but during this century, the major ability of Garganega grape to resist to mildew thanks to its long and separated bunch and a constant productive, make this variety prevail.



CULTURAL VALUE: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Intangible heritage linked to traditional **vine training techniques (Veronese Pergola)** and **hydraulic-agricultural systems (edges and terraces)** as expression of **HUMAN INTELLIGENCE** and **INGENUITY** with reference to humidity and water regulation, exposure to heat and light etc. as well as linked to the wine production process (grapes drying technique etc.)



Traditional Veronese Pergola vine training method



Schema dei cigioni con viti a pergola

Schema dei terrazzamenti in pietra a secco



Hydraulic-agricultural systems (edges and terraces)

CULTURAL VALUE: LANDSCAPE

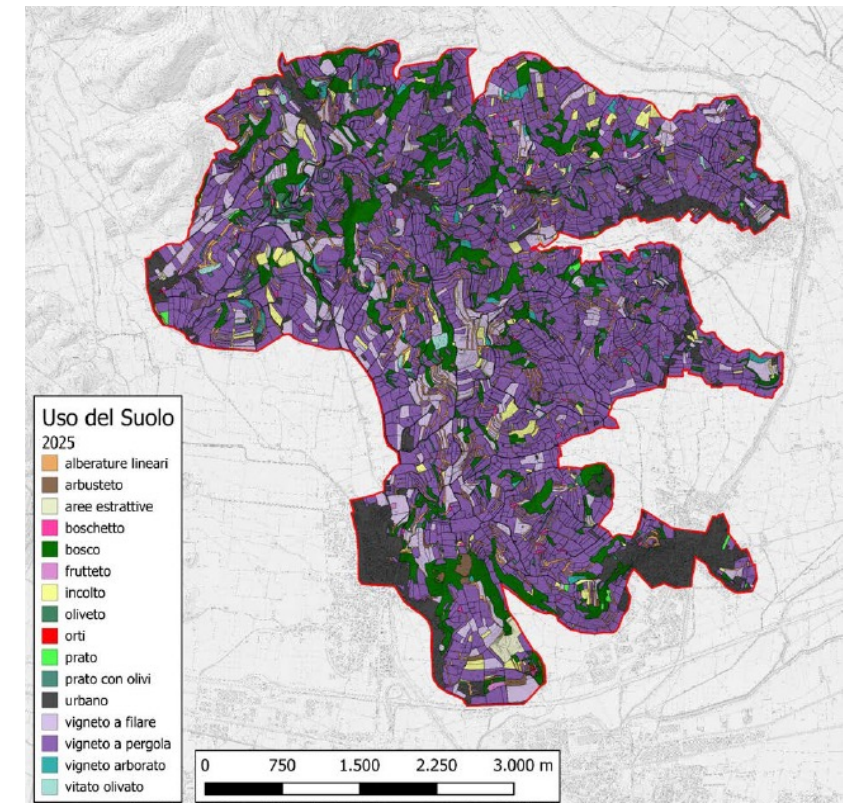
- ❑ Despite the limited number of land uses the Soave landscape is characterized by a **high structural complexity** (mosaic) and, therefore, by a **high ecological value**
- ❑ **Traditional agricultural practices** shape the landscape, high historical **integrity**
- ❑ **Rural buildings/artefacts**, water and road **networks**
- ❑ **Traditional landscape** as a **touristic and economic asset** of **competitive IDENTITY** valorizing **DIVERSITY** and **UNIQUENESS**



Soave rural landscape



Rural Courts in the area



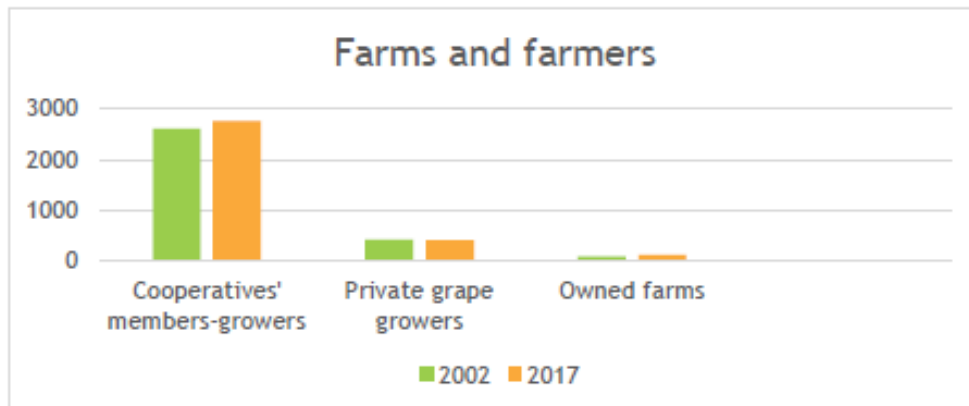
Soave land use map, year 2025

ECONOMIC VALUE:

FOOD & LIVELIHOODS SECURITY, TOURISM, COMPETITIVENESS

- ❑ **Number of winemakers stable** over time, local economy strongly based on vine growing and wine production
- ❑ 10% of the local population **employed** full-time **in agriculture**, 50% during the harvest
- ❑ **Landscape quality** as an element / resource not replicable by “competitor” touristic destinations

FARMS	2002	%	2017	%
Cooperatives' members-growers	2.612	84%	2.756	984%
Private grape growers	417	13%	408	12%
Owned farms	80	3%	117	4%
TOTAL	3.109	100%	3.281	100%



Number and type of farms in the Soave area, year 2002 vs 2017



Soave's unique landscape



Globally Important
**AGRICULTURAL
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GIAHS are a testament to the way **communities cultivate and keep alive traditional and evolving knowledge**, generation after generation, to **sustain natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems**.



KEY APPROACH: **DINAMIC CONSERVATION**

GIAHS offer **time-tested knowledge** and **innovative practices** that help tackle today's global challenges, from food insecurity to the climate crisis.



Biodiversity and ecosystem protection

Safeguarding agricultural heritage means **championing biodiversity, ecosystems and conserving** the natural resources we all depend on.



3 **Cultural and historical**

Agricultural heritage safeguards diverse traditions, identities, and traditional knowledge of **local communities**, passed down through generations.



KEY TAKE-HOME MESSAGE: **LIVING HERITAGE & BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY as a DRIVER for GLOCAL TRANSITION**



Safeguarding agricultural heritage means supporting food security, biodiversity, climate resilience, traditional knowledge and rural livelihoods. **For today and for tomorrow.**



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THINK, PLAN, ACT FOR LIVING HERITAGE

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