

# Malaga raisins production system in La Axarquia

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) –  
Potential for Europe

LANDCARE EUROPE - UNESCO

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Rafael Fernández Gómez



# Main geographical and geophysical characteristics

## Axarquía, Málaga, Spain





## Main geographical and geophysical characteristics (II)

- Rough terrain, shallow soils, poor in organic matter, low productivity
- Small holdings – scattered farms; Steep slopes, no machinery
- Torrential seasonal rainfalls - high risk of erosion





# Main features of the system and singularities (I)

- Ancient grapes growing techniques
- Raisins production by natural sundrying process
- All tasks developed by hand
- Monoculture that has defined the geography and landscape, being a reflection of its history, culture and traditions





## Main features of the system and singularities (II)

- Familiar agriculture
- Maintaining the system means maintaining the rural and cultural landscape
- Techniques and traditions need to be transferred
- The agro-ecosystem would disappear in a different context





# Why was it necessary to protect the Málaga raisins production system?

Andalusia  
Regional  
Government

Málaga raisins production  
sector demands

Maintain  
an  
ancestral  
production  
system

Safeguard  
knowledge

Landscape  
conservation

Preserve  
culture  
and  
traditions

Fix  
population  
into the  
territory

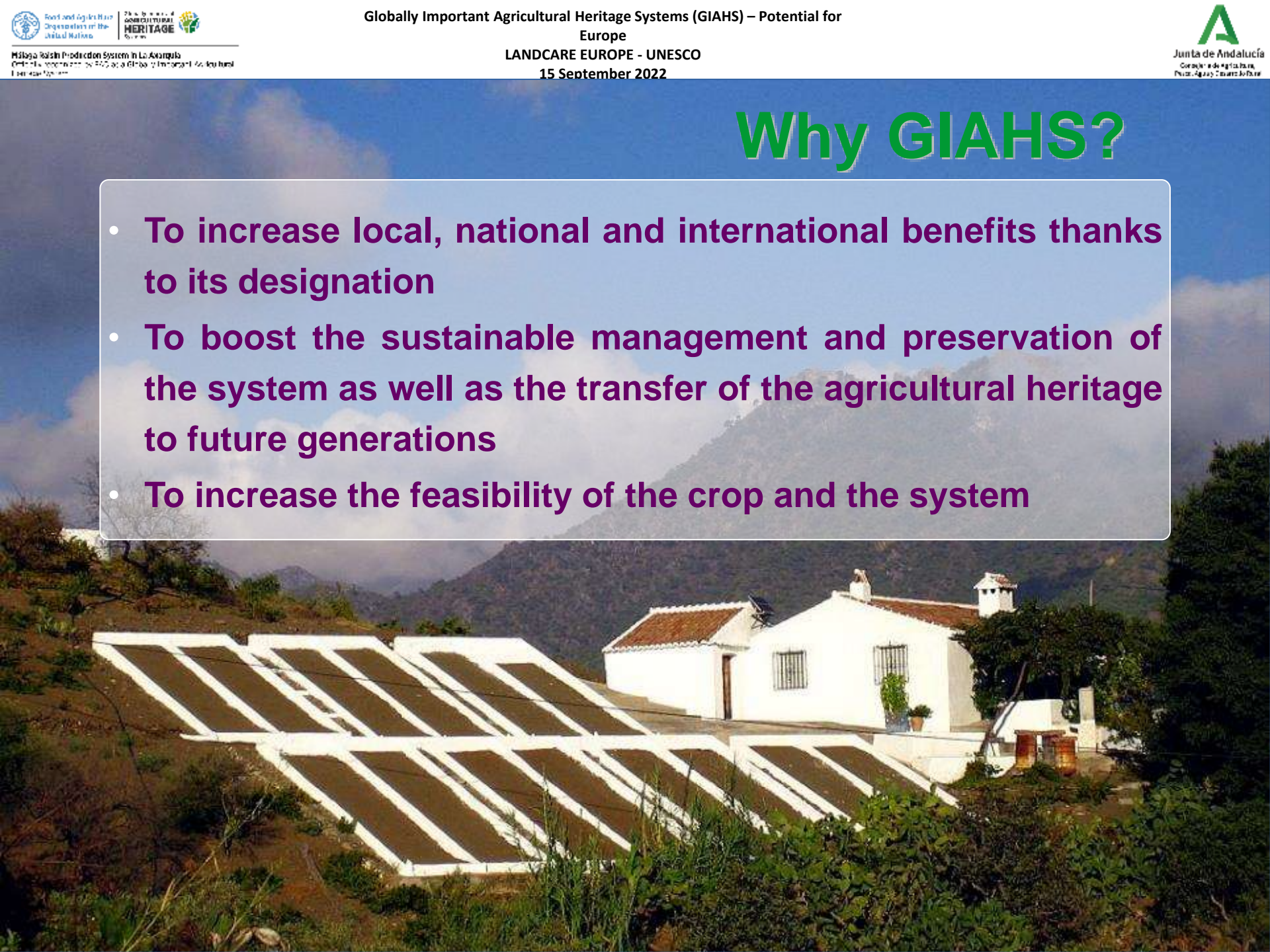
Maintain  
economic  
activity

Grant  
international  
recognition

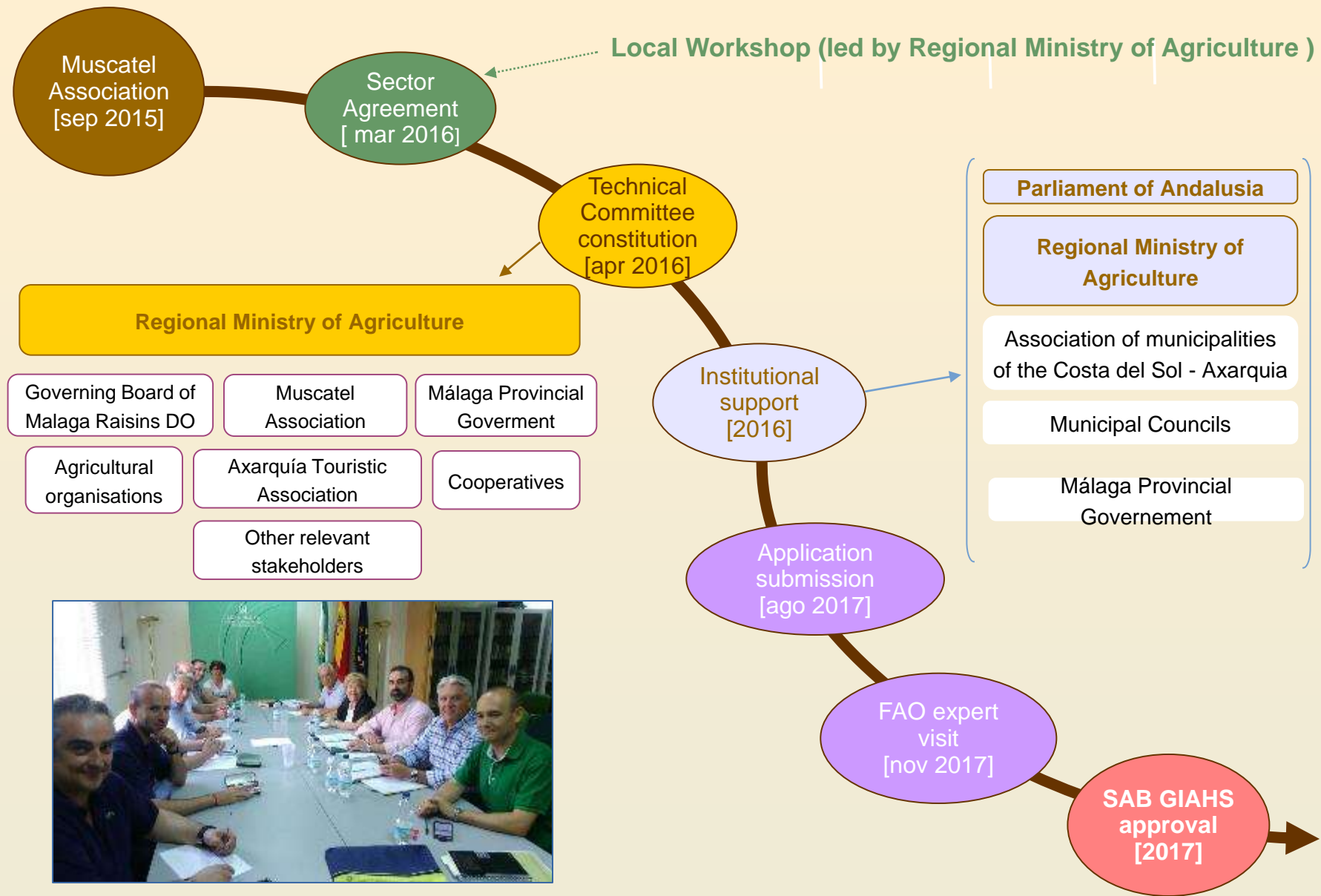


# Why GIAHS?

- To increase local, national and international benefits thanks to its designation
- To boost the sustainable management and preservation of the system as well as the transfer of the agricultural heritage to future generations
- To increase the feasibility of the crop and the system

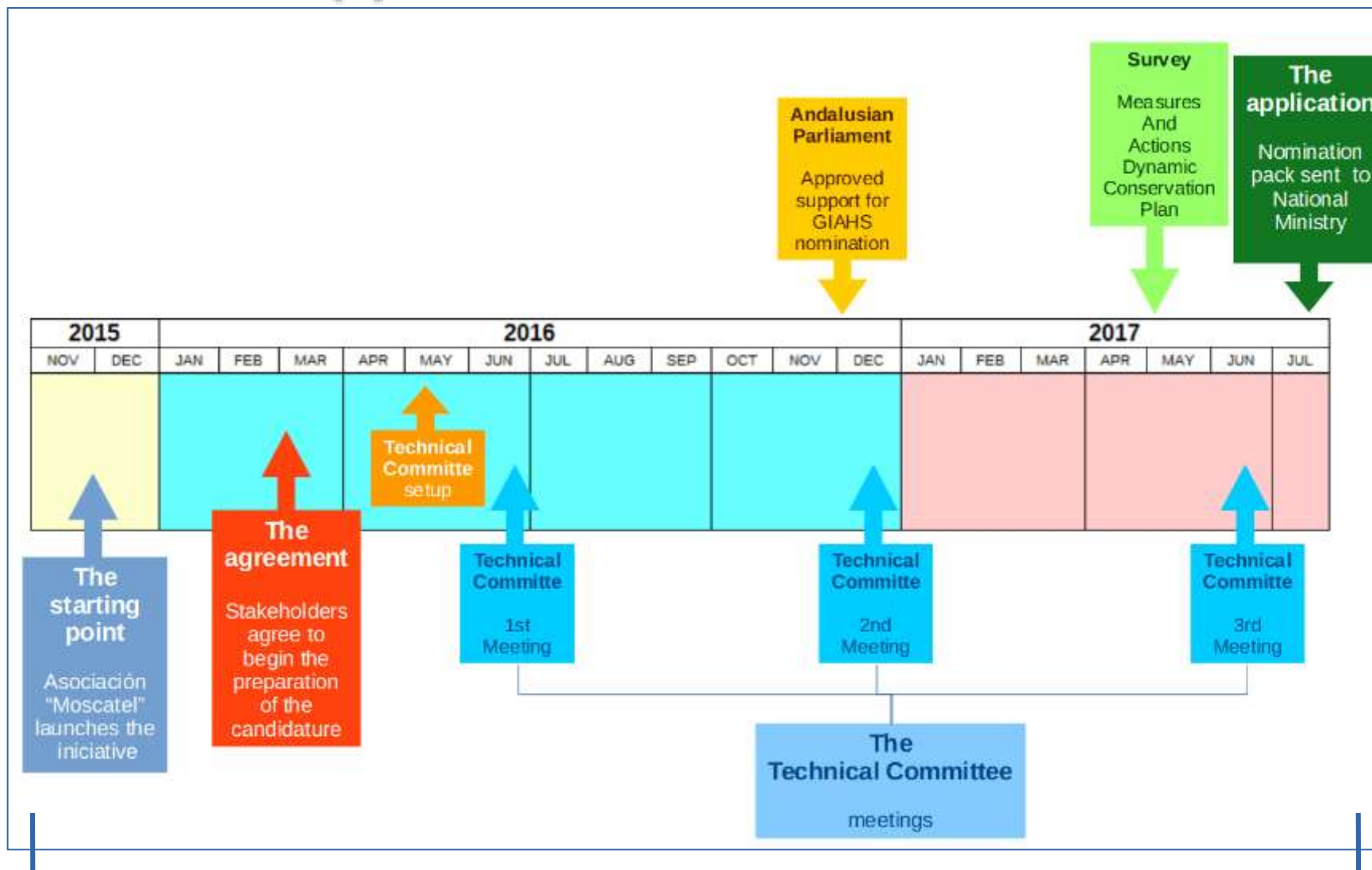


# A participative process





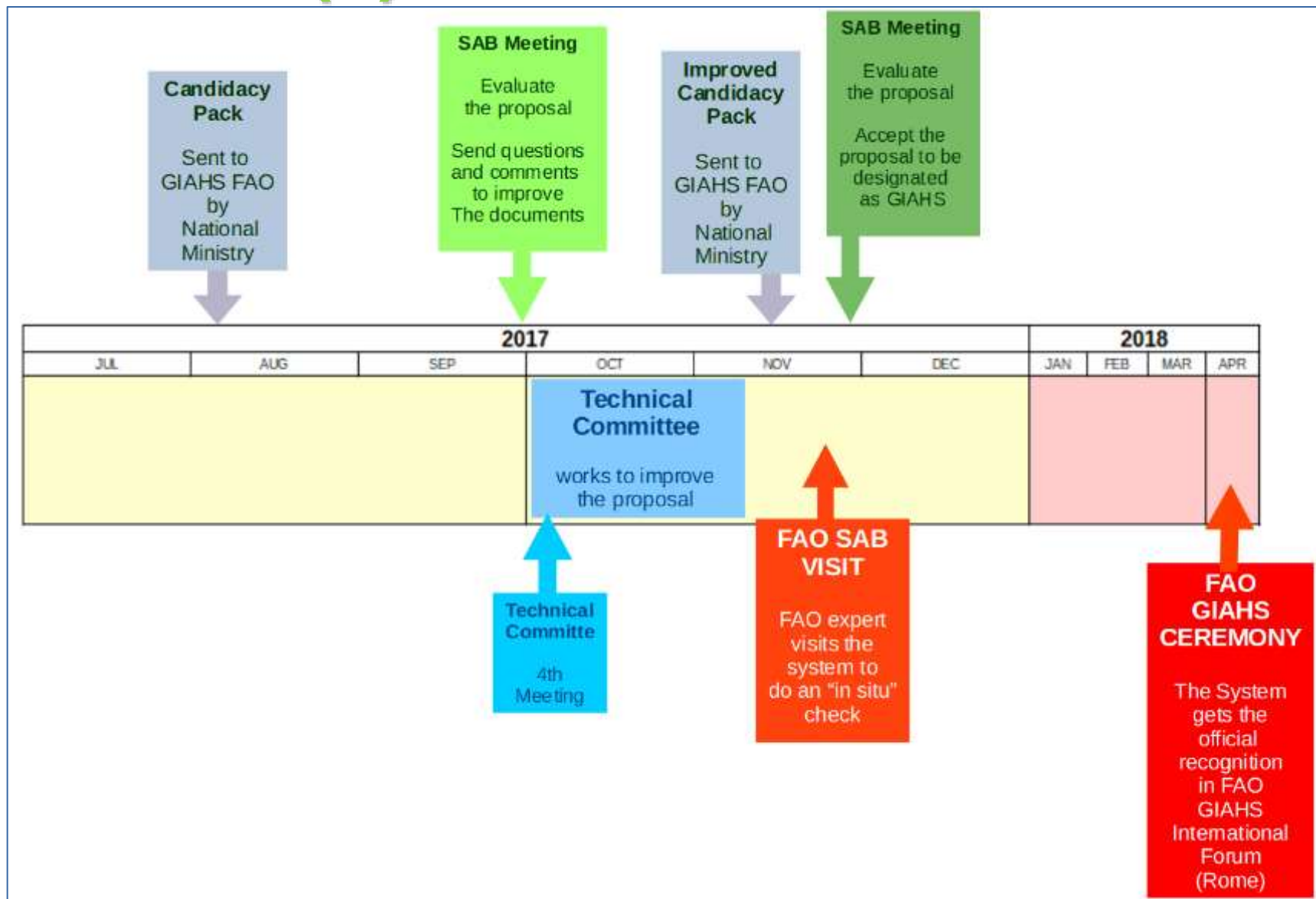
# Timeline (I)



FAO GIAHS Technical Secretariat support



# Timeline (II)





# Lessons learned (I)

## 1st KEY

Fully understand what GIAHS means

- GIAHS are systems not only agricultural products

## 2nd KEY

Bottom-up strategy. Get the consensus of all the entities involved

- Institutions and local communities involved and committed from the very beginning through a participative process

- Focusing joint efforts and consensus on a single goal: achieving the recognition as a GIAHS



# Lessons learned (II)

## 3rd KEY

**Strict compliance with GIAHS criteria and requirements**



**Rigorous preliminary requirements compliance analysis**



**Scientific support is essential**



**Good knowledge of other approved candidates, assess them and compare them**



**Simplify, justify and prove**

## 4th KEY

**Strong commitment to develop Action Plan for the system conservation**



# Lessons learned (III)

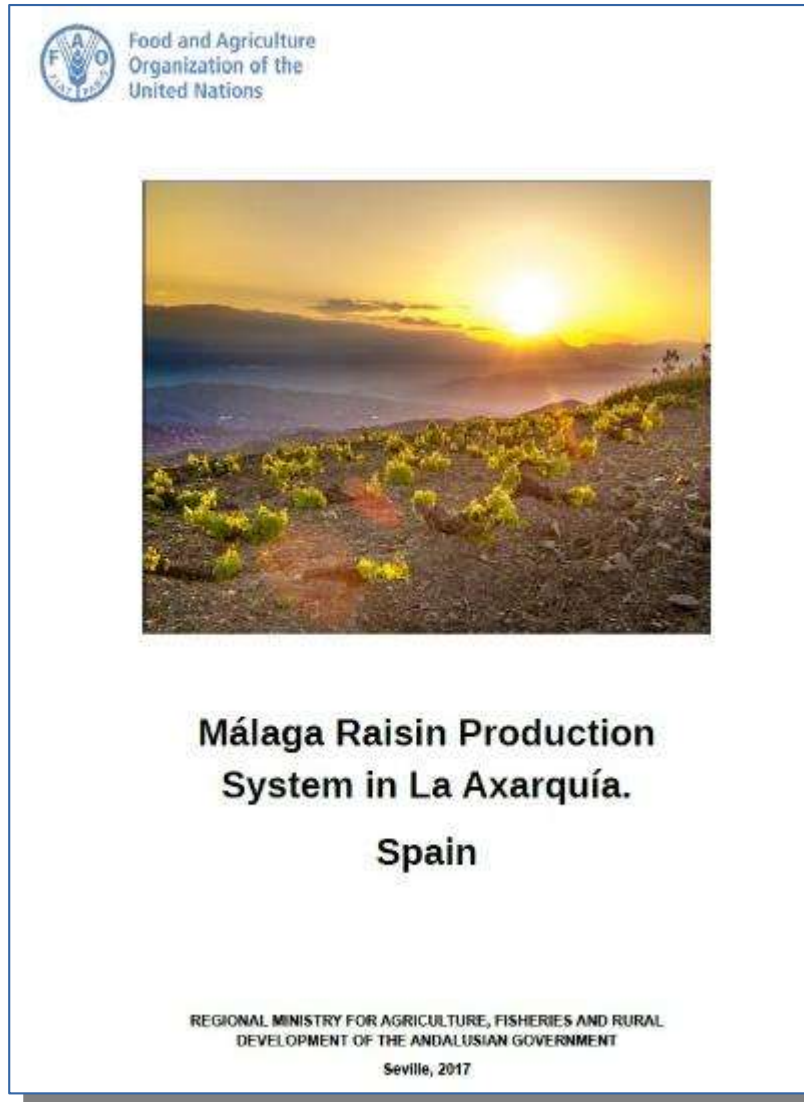
## 5th KEY

### Visit of the FAO SAB expert

- ☐ The visit should cover all the system aspects
- ☐ Involve local key stakeholders, which will provide the necessary information to the expert.
- ☐ The expert should perceive at the visit the system real nature, avoid artificiality
- ☐ Provide and simplify all the information that the expert may advise or ask
- ☐ The expert has to advocate for the system at the next evaluation meeting



# Opportunities to boost economy (I)



**DYNAMIC  
CONSERVATION  
PLAN**

**5 STRATEGIC LINES**

**19 MEASURES**

**54 OPERATIONS**



## Opportunities to boost economy (II)

- **Use of National, Regional and European funds**
- **The sector is now in better position to demand aids from institutions**  
  
(Eg.: new agro-environmental aids coming from National and Regional measures)
- **Better position also to get aids from European Funds**
  - **ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)**
  - **EADRF (European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund) + Regional Rural Development Plans**



## Opportunities to boost economy (III)

- **Creation of a GIAHS site management structure**
  - Sector very dispersed, poorly coordinated, difficult to implement Action Plan
  - Created in October 2021: Association Málaga Raisins GIAHS site
  - Currently 38 associated entities from the sector and other stakeholders
  - Only aim: manage, coordinate and revise the action plan



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

## !!

