首届世界梯田大会(中国•红河)论文摘要表

First World Conference on Terraced Landscapes (Honghe, China)

Paper abstract form

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论文摘要(500—700 words)	

Paper abstract: The history, culture, and current state of terraced landscapes in the Gorizia Hills, Slovenia

The Gorizia Hills (Sln. *Goriška brda*), located in western Slovenia, can be described as a "three-way" border region separating different countries, separating hills from plains, and separating different climates. The region is characterized by an apparently uniform landscape. Locals distinguish between Western and Eastern Brda, even more often they refer to Lower and Upper Brda. This last division is based on differences in elevation above sea level and relative elevation, and in the quality of the soil and various farming cultures.

According to the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (2004), the Gorizia Hills are a less urbanized rural area, or a poorly accessible, rural, hilly region with small built-up areas on the ridges that crisscross this entire region. Agricultural land is primarily cultivated on the slopes, which have an average gradient of 16.1° (28.9%), which is not significantly greater than Slovenia's average surface gradient of 14.1° (25.1%). The steepest slopes are in the northern Gorizia Hills, where the lower parts of the northern slopes of the ravines and valleys are especially steep.

Agricultural terraces are the predominant landscape element in the Gorizia Hills because they cover about 29% of the overall area of the Municipality of Brda. Farming, especially cultivation of vineyards and orchards, is still the most important industry in this region. Because various indicators rank the Gorizia Hills among Slovenia's top agricultural regions, the role of its cultivated terraces is even more important. The extent of terracing is also due to the fact that in places cultivation of the flysch slopes is only made possible by the creation of terraced surfaces. Among the terraced land in the Gorizia Hills, the majority (nearly 70%, or 1,446.4 ha) is vineyards, nearly one-tenth (186.4 ha) is extensive orchards, as is the share of permanent meadows (182.2 ha), 5% (113 ha) is intensive orchards, and 3% (70 ha) is forest. All other categories of land use represent less than one percent of the land. Studies within the ALPTER project indicated that in 2005 vineyards covered 27% of the Gorizia Hills, or 1,951 ha. According to data from the Register of Grape

and Wine Producers (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food 2007), the majority of terraced vineyards in Slovenia (81%) are in the Gorizia Hills.

The terraces were once arranged differently from today, primarily on sunny slopes. The embankments of the terraces were reinforced with walls made of stone taken from the slopes when the land was being cleared and dug out to prepare the terraces. In the northern Gorizia Hills, it is still possible to see piles of rocks in place of the former terraces; these are the remains of the stone embankments. A mixture of cultivars was typical on the terraces. Among the grape varieties various field crops were grown, usually vegetables; pears, cherries, and figs were grown at the bottom of the vineyard; and plums and apricots were typical on the grassy margins on the edge of the vineyard. Because vegetables were grown between the trellises, many houses in the Gorizia Hills did not have a vegetable garden. After the First World War, the vineyards started being cultivated more as monocrops and people stopped planting fruit trees among the vines, although the mixing of cultivars was preserved to some extent even after the Second World War. This is when the terraced slopes, which had primarily been cultivated by hand, started being laid out differently. The introduction of tractors and various drawn implements for farm work changed the way the land was worked and led to the abandonment of trellises.

Much of the formerly terraced land in Upper Brda is now completely overgrown or deteriorated. The former extent of these agricultural terraces cannot even be precisely determined using the land cadastre carried out under Emperor Francis I. In contrast, the agricultural terraces in Lower Brda are being constantly renovated. Three different methods can be used to define the building method for the terraces. The most common method for terrace construction is the traditional agricultural method, which applies agronomic and agricultural experience and practice. However, when the shape of hillsides is changed, large quantities of soil are moved and steep slopes are altered. This can cause land slippage and large areas can become unstable. Detailed study indicates that the Gorizia Hills are exposed to a high risk of landslide.

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