

Alternative View

More than irrigation – The Balinese Subak system as a unique form of cooperative water resource management in Indonesia



Watch the full documentary here: <https://vimeo.com/98035926>

For over 1,000 years, the Balinese have developed a unique system of democratic and sustainable water irrigation. It has shaped the cultural landscapes of Bali and enables local communities to manage the ecology of terraced rice fields at the scale of whole watersheds.

The Subak system has made the Balinese the most productive rice growers in Indonesia and ensures a high level of food sovereignty for a dense population on the volcanic island. The Subak system provides a vibrant example of a diverse, ecologically sustainable, economically productive and democratic water management system that is also characterized by its non-reliance on fossil fuel derivatives or heavy machinery.

In 2012, UNESCO has recognized five rice terraces and their water temples as World Heritage site and supports its conservation and protection. However, the fragile Subak system is threatened for its complexity and interconnectedness by new agricultural practices and increasing tourism on the island.

Length: 15:20 Min.

Produced by FLORIAN DOERR *in Bali, Indonesia (2014)*

Narrated by USMAN GHANI VIRK

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