

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
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Keyword 1	: Farmers' perspectives
Keyword 2	: Engaging youth
Keyword 3	: Multistakeholder platforms
Title of Entry	: The Future Guardians of Rice: Bali, World Heritage, and the Next Generation of Farmers
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**Abstract** : Bali is one of the most iconic rice landscapes in the world. Not only do the terraces provide a symbol for destination tourism, the agrarian rice irrigation systems – the subak- also underpin the religious, social, and cultural relations of the Balinese. However, as the island shifts towards more commercial tourism development, agricultural spaces are receiving less priority. Rice farmers are faced with land pressures, increasing tax burdens, competing water availability and low prices. Although rice fields may still be valued for their aesthetic purposes for tourism, rice farmers are facing greater incentives to sell their land and move away from farming. As a result, the next generation that would normally farm these landscapes and fulfill foundational Balinese cultural practices, are less likely to take up farming. There is also the perception that younger generations view farming as dirty, hard work that do not yield a good income. The designation of the UNESCO World Heritage Site has sought to protect Bali’s rice subak system by acknowledging the local communities as guardians of the landscapes, further requesting local governments to support livelihood development of iconic farming landscapes. However, designation has had contradictory results by drawing more intensive tourism pressures and thus creating new pressures for development. These changes raise a compelling question about the future, namely: who will be the guardians of rice agriculture in Bali and what continuing role will rice play in people’s lives? In this paper, we examine efforts to engage youth in the management of the UNESCO Cultural Landscapes. Furthermore, we examine issues beyond the current land managers to consider the role of future guardians. This theme is not only relevant to Bali with its iconic rice landscapes that symbolize a particular tourism destination, but more broadly engages with the role of future generations and their place in rural landscapes.

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