SUBAK RICE TERRACES

Tri Hita Karana and Balinese Philosophy

Ein Garcia
Professor Harris
LA 4782-02
History and Background

- The water temple networks manage the ecology of rice terraces since the 11th century.
- Farmers still grow rice without fertilizers or pesticides.
- Landscapes are seen to be sacred.
- Temples of varying sizes mark either the source of the water or its passage downhill.
- Volcanoes throughout Bali’s landscape provides it with fertile soil.
- Wet Tropical Climate and rivers makes it an ideal cultivation area.
- Communal farming

Technical Info

- Subak is a cooperative social system that controls the water.
- Individual plot called sawah.
- Each sawah is contained by dikes of black earth
Belief system

-Rice, subak, and water are a part of religious life.

-Rice is seen as a gift of the gods.

-Subak system is a part of temple culture.

-Water from springs and canals flow through the temples.

-Subak system exemplifies Balinese philosophical principle of Tri Hita Karana meaning Three Causes to Prosperity.

-Which draws together the realms of spirit, human world, and nature.

-Temple rituals promote harmony between people and nature.

- Irrigation system temples are dedicated to the goddess of water Ida Bethari Danu.

Sources

https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/

https://www.bali.com/subak-water-irrigation-system.html