

Korea Important Agricultural Heritage Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem

Security of Food and Livelihood

Bamboo colony or 'Bamboo Forest' has been called a 'Bamboo Field' by people of Damyang because bamboo has been an important element to their livelihood. Raw bamboo-wood, bamboo-shoot, bamboo tea (Juknotea) and various mushrooms from Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem have offered additional incomes. Bamboo has contributed higher income to its residents by producing bamboo farming tools, plant-support-pillar, bent-frame wheels, and handicrafts. The new-industry development for the bamboo leaf tea, bamboo vinegar, and bamboo soap are on its way to expand variations of bamboo related livelihood of people.

Agro-biodiversity

Abundant floral structures of 358 species are found in Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem, depending on its nearby soil environment, type, and age of the bamboos. Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem borders on forests, residential area, puddle, cultivation area, and streams. 172 species including 5 Endangered Natural Heritage, various mammal, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates are found in Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem.

Knowledge System & Technology

Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem over hundreds of years farming practice has developed its unique knowledge system over the site selection, formation method, planting period, fertilization, lumbering, and harvesting. People had the wisdom to make the necessary farming tools from the abundant bamboo trees and also have passed down their unique bamboo farming technique, utilizing bamboo by-product to increase the soil fertility.

Culture, Value System, and Social Organizations

People of Damyang have taken care of Bamboo Agrosystem thru village farmers' cooperatives called 'Dure' or 'Hangyak'. Bamboo crafting work and labor for agricultural tools and handicrafts were divided, utilizing the farmers' off-season period among bamboo farmers and Damyang bamboo community was established in the advancement. The 13th day of the Fifth month of the lunar calendar and May 13th is celebrated as Jukchwil (Bamboo Planting Day) since the Goryeo Dynasty. The custom of celebrating the day with 'Bamboo Leaf Drink' to bond people's solidarity has brought the establishment of annual 'Damyang Bamboo Festival'.

Landscape, Land, and Water Resources Management

Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem in a gradual elevation from village-reservoir-farmland-stream offers distinctive landscape at each season. Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem is in a hilly area that prevents disasters against flooding, blocks off the strong wind, and protects the village in the winter. The natural puddle at the lower part of the Bamboo Agrosystem has provided sufficient water supply for farming thru droughts in Damyang.

Designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark **2018**

World Bamboo Fair Damyang KOREA 2015 **2015**

Damyang bamboo field was designated as Korean Important agriculture heritage **2014**

Designated as a International SLOW CITY for the first time in Asia **2007**

Selected as a GREEN CITY and designated as a wetland protected area **2004**

Damyang Bamboo Field

Damyang is a small town located in the northern Jeollanamdo Province which contents 3.7% of the national land area. Damyang is the home of Korean bamboo that supplies 32% of national distribution and in the advanced bamboo crafts. Damyang bamboo has been around for over 1,000 years, and each of the villages has been formed by bamboo located on the landscape with deep fertile forest. Bamboo is the symbol of Damyang. Damyang bamboo has been a part of people's lively emotional ties and multi-befits of Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem.

The government of Korea has designated Damyang Bamboo Agrosystem for Korea's Important Agricultural Heritage Systems number 4, to be passed down for the wisdom of formation • management • utilization process of Damyang bamboo agrosystem

