Osaki Kōdo

PARTICIPATION OF VARIOUS ENTITIES FOR OSAKI KŌDO’S SUSTAINABLE PADDY AGRICULTURE

Osaki Region Committee for the Promotion of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
Position of Osaki Kōdo

Japan
Miyagi
Prefecture

Osaki Kōdo
1,524km²

Eai River

Ou-sammyaku
(Water source)

Naruse River

High

Low
The traditional and ingenious, multi-layered water management system of Osaki Kōdo
~A basin-wide system based on local characteristics~
Food culture fostered in Osaki Kōdo

Rice

Wheat • Soybeans

Traditional vegetables
Preserving agricultural culture

Mochi

Fermented food

Miso

Freeze drying
(Frozen tofu)

Sake brewing
Three points of Osaki’s agricultural heritage

○ Ingenious **network of water management infrastructure** that has been inherited from medieval times.

○ **Network of people** based on traditional social organizations, *keiyakukō*, which have supported local agriculture and daily life.

○ **Network of wisdom** to overcome challenging natural circumstances; rich agricultural biodiversity created by interconnecting *igune* homestead forests, rice paddies and irrigation channels.
Osaki Kōdo’s Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture

Water level is raised to keep of protection against cold temperatures

Maintenance of waterways

Reservoir management
Keiyakukō: mutual assistance organizations supporting local agriculture

760 organizations

Bylaws of a keiyakuko
Agricultural culture supported by “Keiyakuko”

Kirigome no hadaka kasedori

Koizumi Water Celebration

Yanagisawa Yake-Hachiman
Human connections that support traditional water management
(A multilayered water management system)

Communicated as a pioneering example of establishing a water management system in developing countries
“Igune” homestead forest
40% (24,300 residences) left
24,300 residences have kept an *igune*

**The wisdom of using the *igune* to support daily life**

- Wisdom of disaster prevention: protection from strong winds and driftwood during floods
- Wisdom of self-sufficiency: supporting everyday life with medicinal herbs and daily vegetables
- Wisdom of agricultural practice: a combination of meticulous water management and land suitable for agriculture fosters dragonflies, frogs and other natural enemies of pest insects that harm rice crops.
Network of water management infrastructure
- Including a wider area of organizations involved in conserving the multidimensional functions supporting water management infrastructure
- Participation of diverse actors (conservation and restoration of water management infrastructure and igune)

Network of people
- Enhancing mutually supportive connections through consumer supported agriculture (CSA)
  - Connecting the treasures of Osaki Kōdo through GIAHS tourism
  - Developing food culture (mochi rice cakes, fermented foods) into a ”sixth sector”

Network of wisdom
- Enhancing rice production to support wetland ecosystems and livelihoods
  - Introducing a GIAHS-oriented certification program (environmental friendliness + biodiversity)
  - Biological field surveys and monitoring to support the certification program
  - Supporting farmers (efforts in organic farming and environment-friendly rice production)
  - Human resource development under a GIAHS-oriented learning program (publishing readers, local educational field activities for children (“Ikimono Club”))
CSA (mutually supportive urban-rural relationships)

“Naruko-no-kome” rice production project
CSA (mutually supportive urban-rural relationships)

Exchange programs with consumer cooperatives”

～Evolving and deepening relations～
local traditional cooking classes, biological field surveys
Participatory monitoring surveys
Incorporating GIAHS resources in tourism

Minamihara-anazeki irrigation tunnel

Igune

Kabukurinuma

Uchikawa
Responses to GIAHS designation 🍃

- **Consumer organizations**
  Discussions on a deposit system that will forward a part of sales to local environment conservation activities for closer exchange with producers

- **Chamber of Commerce Youth Group**
  Efforts to develop new products using agricultural products from Osaki Kōdo and to communicate local information

- **Local manufacturers**
  Research and development of water channels that compose the landscape of Osaki Kōdo and function as a part of the GIAHS site.
Responses to GIAHS designation ②

GIAHS as a local resource and teaching material in high school education

GIAHS designation stimulates re-acknowledgement of the importance of local resources. Enhancing education on Osaki Kōdo through local studies at school.

Kahoku Shimpo, June 27, 2018
High school students study Osaki Kōdo
The Action Plan Promotion Committee for the Promotion of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

**Purpose:** Acquiring GIAHS certification and promoting the conservation and utilization of the GIAHS site after certification

**Full members:**

**Organization:** Mayors of Osaki City, Shikama Town, Kami Town, Wakuya Town, and Misato Town

**Supporting members:** 4 Agricultural Cooperative Association, Osaki Region Water Management Council, 5 NPO

**Advisors:** Miyagi Prefecture, experts

The Action Plan Promotion Committee will comprise members representing various fields to: 1) involve more people in human-interaction through local tourism leveraging diverse resources; 2) share and enhance value through branding; and 3) promote human resource development.

### ① Field Museum Concept Subcommittee

Dynamically conserving and leveraging local resources rediscovered through the process of establishing a field museum

- Conserve and develop agricultural culture
- Consider conservation methods for enhanced landscape value (water management infrastructure, *igune*, etc.)
- Leverage in tourism and education

### ② Certification Systems Subcommittee

Promoting sustainable agriculture by communicating the value of local resources

- Establish and promote an certification program for agricultural products
- Establish and promote a biodiversity-based certification program
- Promote biodiversity-oriented agriculture

### ③ Human Resource Development Subcommittee

Passing down agricultural wisdom and sharing values

- Develop a human resource bank
- Foster story-tellers
- Publish readers and textbooks