世界農業遺産

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

MAFF
JAPAN GOV
What is GIAHS?

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) is defined by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as "Remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in globally significant biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of a community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development".

39 regions in 18 countries have been designated on a global scale, and 8 regions have been designated in Japan thus far (as of October 2017).
GIAHS designated sites in Japan

In Japan, there are 8 sites designated as GIAHS (as of October 2017). The value of Japan's agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and their variety and regional characteristics, have been recognized internationally.

**Designated in June 2011**
Sado City in Niigata Prefecture / Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture

**Designated in May 2013**
Kakegawa and surrounding region in Shizuoka Prefecture

**Aso region in Kumamoto Prefecture**

**Kunisaki Peninsula Usa area in Oita Prefecture**

**Designated in December 2015**
The upper and middle basin of the Nagara River in Gifu Prefecture

Minabe-Tanabe region in Wakayama Prefecture / Takachihogo-Shibayama in Miyazaki

---

**Sado City in Niigata Prefecture**

**Sado's Satoyama in Harmony with Japanese Crested Ibis**
Revival of the Island for human and other species’ well-being in interdependence

On Sado Island, efforts have been made to take in the whole island in the “Agricultural practices that nurture lives” in paddy fields which provide a habitat for loaches, the principal food for wild Japanese cresteds ibis, in order to create an environment that can harbor a variety of species, particularly ibis. Creating so called “e”, deep ditches, in paddy fields, during dry periods in which the water is drained, provides the species shelters, ensuring an environment that species can live in and raise their young throughout the year. Sustainable agrarian practices have been expanded in harmony with the species which provides food and supports wildlife.

**Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture**

**Noto's Satoyama and Satoumi**
Life of coexistence between humans and nature taking advantage of the gifts from Satoyama and Satoumi

Noto peninsula is characterized by terraced rice-fields including “Shiroyone Senmaida” in the steep slopes facing the Sea of Japan, and Magaki, fence made of bamboo, to protect houses against harsh salt wind. They represent the farming, fishing and mountain villages indigenous to Japan. “Ageojima”: the traditional salt making method remained in practice only on Noto peninsula in Japan. “Ama fishing”, free diving fishing by women for turban shells and abalone, and “Charcoal making”: closely related to the conservation and maintenance of Satoyama, are still being practiced as traditional technology. The festivals related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries have been held all over Noto peninsula.

---

**Kakegawa and surrounding region in Shizuoka Prefecture**

**Traditional Tea-Grass Integrated System in Shizuoka**
Production of high-quality tea coexistent with biodiversity

In the Kakegawa and surrounding region, Shizuoka's specialty tea has been produced using a unique traditional tea cultivating method called the “Chagusaba method”. Grass, such as pampas grass in the semi-natural grasslands (Chagusaba) dotted around the tea gardens, is reaped, and laid out in the tea gardens during autumn and winter. The active use of the grass is indispensable to local tea production, as it enriches the soil of tea gardens, and prevents soil erosion. At the same time, grass has been used in offerings for prosperity and for a good harvest in rituals in the traditional culture of the region. The active use of the grass has enabled Chagusaba to be maintained and, as a result, its many types of rare species still exist today.

**Aso region in Kumamoto Prefecture**

**Managing Aso Grasslands for Sustainable Agriculture**
Agriculture using grasslands continuously

Typical grasslands will transform naturally into forests as time passes in Japan, but the grasslands in the Aso region have been maintained by human activities that result in the largest grasslands in Japan. Throughout the four seasons, people have been maintaining the grasslands mainly by burning grasslands, a method called “Noyaki” (burning dead grass off a field), and by grazing horses and cattle, as well as “Cutting grasses”. Noyaki in the Aso region has been practiced as the burning of the surface of the land, resulting in no impact on the plant seeds and insects under the ground, while protecting a number of rare plants and species.

---

**Kunisaki Peninsula Usa area in Oita Prefecture**

**Kunisaki Peninsula Usa Integrated Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries System**
Circular agriculture, forestry and fishery utilizing the forest resources in a land with little rain

With a small amount of precipitation, the Kunisaki Peninsula Usa area has been interlinking the small scale irrigation ponds to ensure a stable water supply for farming to utilize the land and water efficiently. Maintenance and management of the water supply systems have been carried out cooperatively by the people of the region.

In this region, shiitake mushroom cultivation using the Sawtooth Oak has been actively carried out. It stimulates the metabolism of the forest, as well as recharging the water resources and preserving the good environment and landscape of satoyama.

---

[Imagery and descriptions related to different sites such as Sado City, Noto Peninsula, and Kunisaki Peninsula are provided in the text, including images of agricultural practices, landscapes, and specific species or habitats.]
**GIAHS sites in the world**

**Chilolé Agriculture**
Chile

The Archipelago of Chilolé is considered one of the original homes of potatoes and 200 or more varieties of native potatoes have been produced, following ancestral practices transmitted orally by generations of farmers, mostly women.

**Q1** What is the difference from UNESCO World Heritage?

The UNESCO World Heritage System focuses on protection and preservation of the tangible cultural heritages and natural heritages of the world. FAO’s GIAHS intends not only for the conservation of the site but also balancing between conservation and agricultural/social economic development of the site.

**Q2** What responsibilities are indicated by the designation?

The site designated as a GIAHS must be given a specific action plan for the conservation of the site. On the basis of this, traditional agriculture and farming methods, and rich biodiversity, etc., are needed to inherit to the future.

**Q3** What are the benefits from the designation?

If the value of the agricultural practice indigenous to the designated site is approved globally, people will pride themselves and gain self-confidence. It is also expected that the economy of the region would be stimulated through branding of the local agricultural products and through the attraction of tourists.

---

**Ayu of the Nagara River System**
Cyclical system links the aquatic environment, fishing resources, and daily lives of the people

The Nagara River flowing through Gifu Prefecture is the “Sakamata” which has conserved the resources of its basin and has protected the good environment through proper management and activities to nurture forests and the regular cleaning by fishermen and citizen groups. Such efforts lead to the development of fisheries, agriculture, and forestry along the basin. Particularly, inland fisheries which revolve around Japanese sweetfish called Ayu thrive, and many traditional fishing methods such as coromant fishing have been succeeded and a culinary culture incorporating ayu prevails. Also, traditional crafts such as Mino washi paper and Gujo hozombe dyeing have been carried on through sustainable use of the cyclical system.

---

**Minabe-Tanabe Ume System**
Ume production making use of slopes with rudaceous soil which is poor in nutrients

Most of the Minabe-Tanabe region is occupied by steeply inclined mountains with rudaceous soils, which are poor in nutrients. Trees of Ume (Prunus mume) were planted while preserving the forests for fish of Quercus phyllocladea, and high-quality ume has been produced. Maintaining the forests provides watersheds conservation, nutrient replenishment, and slope collapse prevention. The Quercus phyllocladea is used to produce hard and high-quality charcoal called “Kishinohachan”. Besides the ume aid honeybee playing an important role of pollinator to propagate in the early spring in February when few flowers are blooming, by providing them with valuable nectar in perfect mutalism.

---

**Takashihogo-Shibayama Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry System**
Sustainable composite system of agriculture and forestry on mountainous sites

Under the environment which provides few flat lands enclosed by the peaks, people have been making a living through the establishment of a composite management system of agriculture and forestry which combines timber production in planted forests, shiitake mushroom cultivation utilizing broad-leaved trees, high-quality beef cattle raising, tea cultivation, and terraced rice growing, etc. Hillside irrigation which extend to 500m on the high altitude slopes have supplied water to ensure agricultural practices, and have protected villages from disaster by draining the rainwater flowing down the slopes of the mountains.

"Kagura" is the local traditional culture of the ritual Shinto dance to thank the gods for their blessings and to pray for a bountiful harvest.
Information about GIAHS is found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan. 
【URL】http://www.maff.go.jp/j/nousin/kantai/giahs_1.html

Published by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 
Rural Policy Department, Rural Development Bureau 
(October 2017)