Sawtooth Oak Forests and Irrigation Ponds Connecting the Kunisaki Peninsula Usa Integrated Forestry Agriculture and Fisheries System

Blessings from the forest: The Shiitake Homeland

The work of the traditional agriculture, forestry and fishery industry which has been maintained through dedication in the face of this unique climate has been recognized by the world. It is up to those of us living today to pass on the blessings of the forest and the Shiitake homeland to the next generation.
An agriculture, forestry and fisheries system, including Japan’s number one log wood cultivated Shiitake production, sustainably maintained with the Sawtooth Oak forests and irrigation ponds

In a region with low rainfall and a shortage of water necessary for farming, over 1200 irrigation ponds have been built and an interlinked irrigation water supply system was established. The water is systematically distributed between the wetland rice cultivation and the country’s only Shiitake crop cultivation. The rice paddy agriculture complements the cultivation of Japan’s number one log wood cultivated Shiitake crop, which uses the abundant supply of Sawtooth Oak forests. This maintains the forest’s water retention capabilities and together with the irrigation ponds, becomes an important water supply source that nurtures the diverse ecosystem. The “circulatory agriculture, forestry and fishery industry” of the Sawtooth Oak forests and irrigation ponds that was created through the hard work of our ancestors has been recognized globally as a valuable system.

**An abundance of nature and trade nurtured by the Sawtooth Oak forests**

- Supply of log wood for Shiitake production
- Water retention in soft, swolen soil
- Maintenance of reliable water springs
- Formation of regional landscape

- Bright Toda-ba sites where Shiitake are cultivated are utilized to produce superior quality dried Shiitake

**Middle Age Manor (Tashibunouho) still exists to this day**

- The last remaining Shiitchoui crop production area in Japan

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**What are (GIAHS)?**

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) is an international organization which strives for food security. FAO awards “Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)” designation to regions that are aiming to preserve and sustainably utilize traditional agriculture, culture and landscapes which are in decline as a result of globalization, environmental degradation and population growth. The project was begun in 2002 in order to pass on globally important agricultural regions to future generations.

- For details on Oita Prefecture’s GIAHS site
  - Kunisaki Peninsula Usa GIAHS Search
- For more details

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**An inheritance for the future**

- Action plan implementation
  - [Promoting preservation]
    - Promoting joint activities for the purpose of environmental preservation
    - Implementing biodiversity evaluation and environmental education
    - Preserving and passing down traditional festivals and food culture to future generations
  - [Creating Vitality]
    - Working toward establishing stable agriculture, forestry and fisheries industry production systems and expanding consumption
    - Cultivating characteristic agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries with the creation of new added value
    - Promoting sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries through the development of human resources
  - [Disseminating Information]
    - Promoting natural, historical and traditional cultural experiences
    - Coordinating with educational institutions to ensure succession to future generations
    - Promoting the discovery of tourist attractions and regional improvement

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**The Kunisaki Peninsula Usa GIAHS Promotion Association**

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