#### A Challenge of Realizing Nature Positive and Branding Agricultural Products in Osaki Kôdo, Japan

Osaki Region Committee for the Promotion of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems 大崎耕土 世界農業遺産

# Yasushi ITO

Mayor of Osaki City





#### The traditional and ingenious, multilayered water management system of Osaki Kōdo Minamihara-anazeki Futatsuishi-Tunnel→ zeki weir→ **Uchikawa Ou Mountains** Iwadeyama (water source) Eai River Ozeki weir→ Shinmizugawa laintenance of ←Kabukurinuma seki weir -> flood control Hara-seki weir→ Color ←Semi-zeki waterways basin 大崎耕土 Arakawa-zeki weir→ ←Nabirenuma flood control **OSAKI** basin Naruse Shinainuma flood KOUDO GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS control basin -> **River**

### Food culture fostered in Osaki Kodo

Rice

#### Wheat · Soybeans

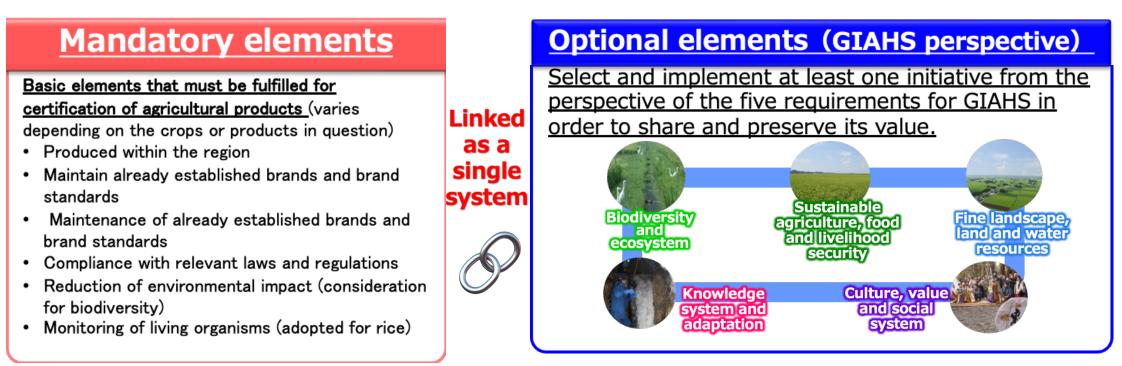
Heirloom vegetables



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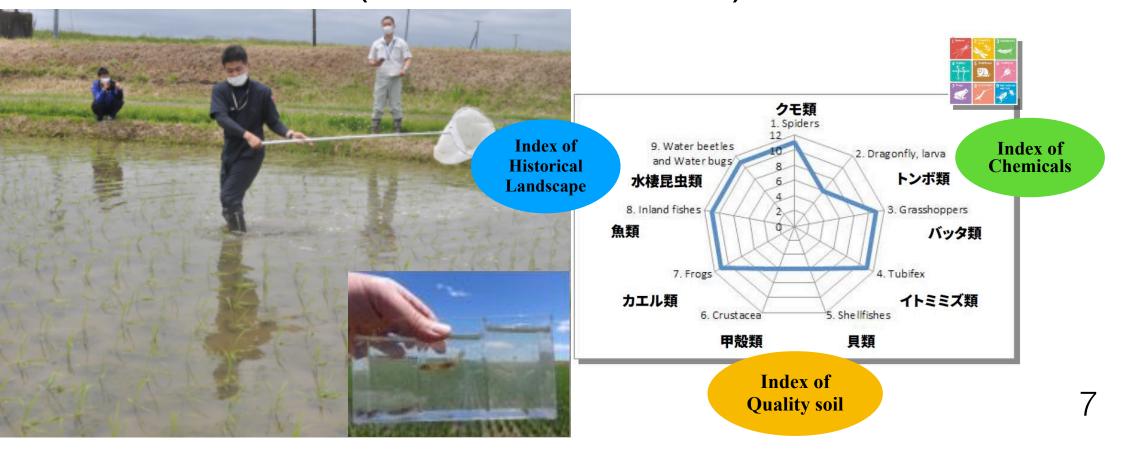
### **Osaki Kodo Brand Certification System**

~ communicating the value of GIAHS Osaki Kodo through the distribution and purchase of agricultural products and contributing to the sustainability of its activities ~



#### **Osaki Kodo Brand Certification System**

# Workshop on paddy monitoring for living creatures (for rice certification)



### **Osaki Kodo Brand Certification System**

大崎耕土 世界農業遺産 シンシン OSAKI KOUDO 認証品

Certification logo

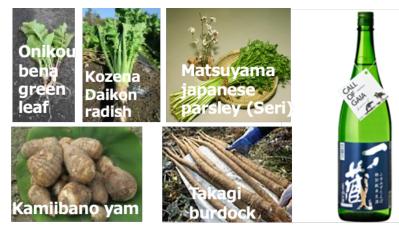
The logo can be used by applying after fulfilling the requirements set for each certified product category.



Rice varieties created in Osaki Koudo (Sasanishiki, Sasamusubi, Hitomebore)



Iwadeyama Frozen Tofu (GI registered)



Heirloom vegetables

Sake

8

### Rare and precious rice"Sasamusubi"

~A direct descendant of Japanese traditional rice"Sasanishiki"~



### **Naruko Rice Project**

#### CSA



Rice harvesting social event



Staffs making Yukimusubi rice balls at the restaurant "Musubiya".



"Yukimusubi" is sold by pre-order system at a re-producible price.



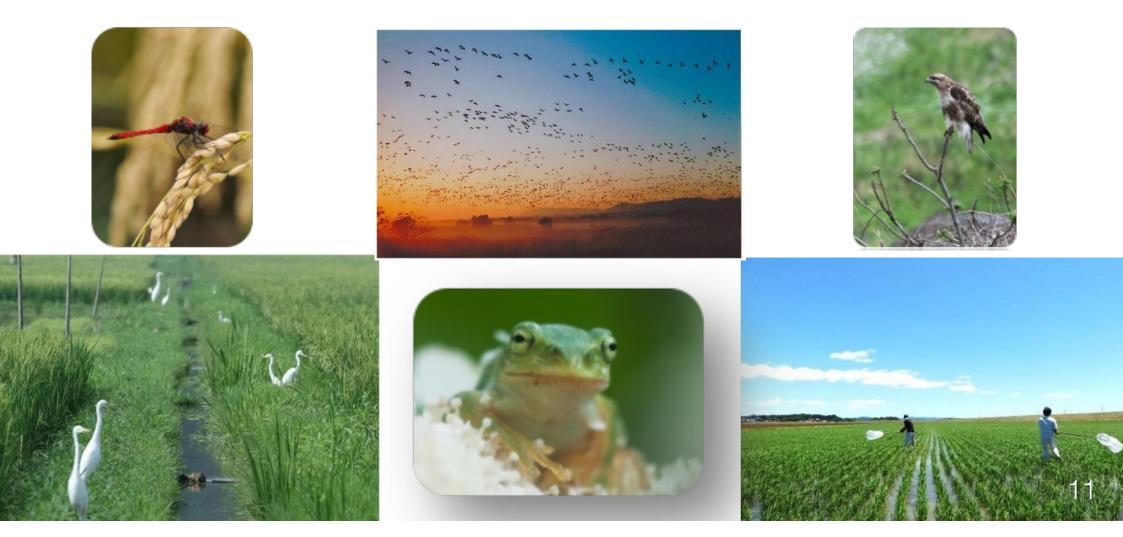
The rice ball set served at Musubiya, revived through crowdfunding after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

#### (Community Supported Agriculuture)



Feature article in the New Year's Day issue of the Japan Agricultural Newspaper "Protecting Agriculture in Mountainous Areas by Buying and Supporting Rice" "The large price difference compared to regular rice is the price for peace of mind." 1()

#### Sustainable actions to protect Biodiversity and achieve Nature Positive



#### [Human Resource Development]

#### "Osaki Living Creature Club"



# [For Biodiversity] The swamp"Kabukurinuma"and surrounding rice paddies of Ramsar Site



Based on the regional agreement, not only the swamp"Kabukurinuma" but also the surrounding rice paddies were registered as a Ramsar wetland for the first time.

The registration was based on the new idea that the Ramsar Convention can be a useful tool for agriculture that takes advantage of the environment.

What kind of efforts are being made here?

### Winter-flooded Rice Paddy Project "Fuyumizutambo"



Migratory birds take off from the swamp at sunrise. More than 100,000 birds visit the swamp every year. In winter, the rice paddies around the swamp are flooded to disperse nests of migratory birds.

#### Winter-flooded Rice Paddy Project"Fuyumizutambo" ~Agriculture living in harmony with migratory birds~



- By flooding the paddies in winter and not using pesticides or chemical fertilizers, a variety of creatures such as frogs and tubificidae worms inhabit the paddies in spring and summer, and the melty layer created by the earthworms makes it difficult for grass to grow. And the farm is also certified organic.
- Local residents conduct surveys of living creatures in rice paddies to deepen their understanding of biodiversity, and also conduct ecotourism to observe migratory birds.

This is truly an agricultural practice that lives in harmony with migratory birds. 15

#### Winter-flooded Rice Paddy Project "Fuyumizutambo" ~Agriculture living in harmony with migratory birds~





Sustainable rice and sake was born from the symbiotic agriculture with migratory birds.

#### [For Biodiversity] Reservoir around Shinainuma area



The discovery of the rare fresh water fish "Shinaimotsugo," which had been thought to be extinct, started activities to protect the environment of the reservoir.

## Home of the fish"Shinaimotsugo"



The "Sinaimotsugo," a rare and endangered freshwater fish

Extermination of black bass and American crayfish in a reservoir to protect the "Sinaimotsugo".

## **Shinaimotsugo Certified Rice**



NPO certifies rice produced in rice paddies that use water from clean reservoirs inhabited by the Shinaimotsugo.



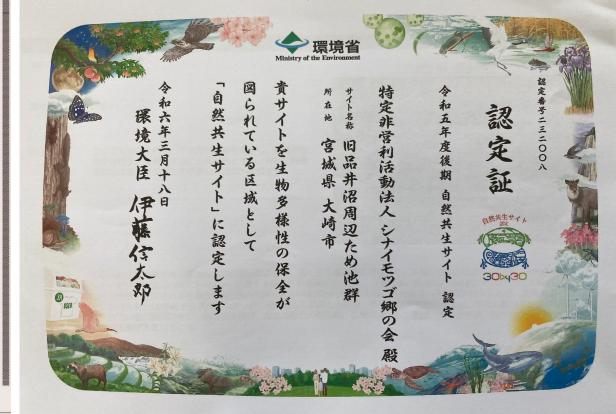
The certified rice is sold with the Sinaimotsugo mark.

#### **Ministry of the Environment certified as**

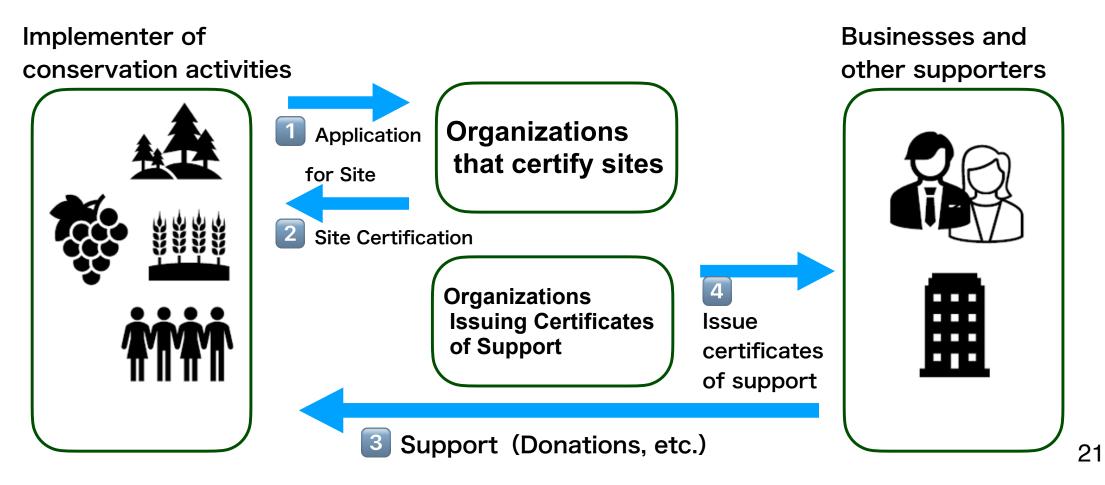
"Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites"



"Resorvoirs around Shinainuma" To international data base "OECM"



#### Ministry of the Environment Issue certificates of support for corporate support



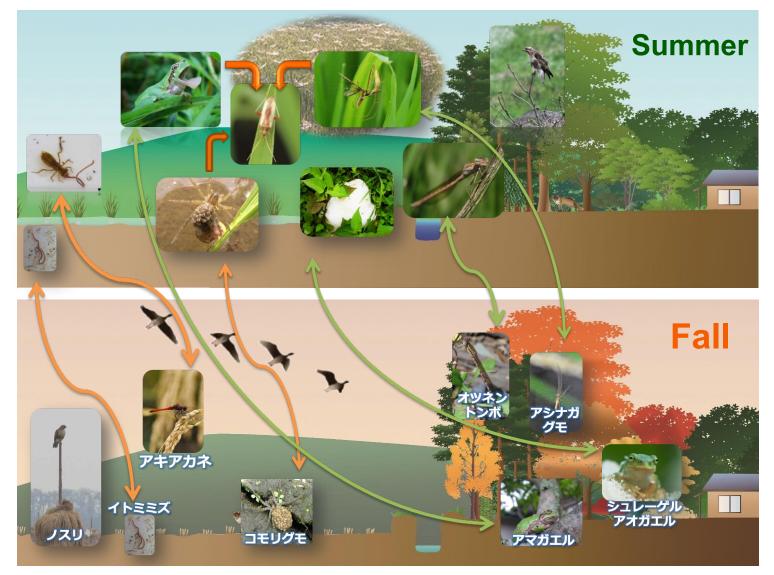
#### New Challenge to quantify biodiversity Around Igune in Osaki Kodo







#### Diversity of living creature around Igune Diversity of living creature a



#### "Minamihara-Anazeki Irrigation Canal"

#### ~A living heritage of transforming a desolate land in the upstream

#### regions into a farming village that has lasted for about 380 years through skillful water management ~



# **World Heritage Irrigation Structures**



**穴堰(大崎市提供)** 世界かんがい施設遺産の候補となった南

南原穴堰

h が い 遺産 候補 9月発表

世界か

**Passed domestic screening!** "Minamihara-Anazeki Irrigation Canal "



~The earthen channel which is maintained and managed through a cooperative effort, is also home to chars.~

#### "Osaki Kōdo" Globally Important Agricultural Heritage

 Aiming to realize nature positive and sustainable agriculture with many citizens and companies ~

