Osaki Kōdo's Traditional Water Management System for Sustainable Paddy Agriculture

Traditional water management system -*keiyakukō*-based management

Implementation, coordination

Flood control

Adjusted distribution of water resources

Farmer-led adjustments enabling rotational irrigation scheduling and reuse of water

Flexible water management using flood control basins

Flood control basin incorporating rice paddies to reduce inundation damage

Traditional water management

Cultivation techniques to overcome *yamase* winds

Stable supply

Damage reduction

Environment rich with living creatures

Pest control

Igune woodlands surrounding houses

Multilayered tree species "Forest floating in the rice paddy " provides habitats for frogs and birds

Agriculture in coexistence with rice paddy wetland biodiversity

Symbiotic relationship between biodiversity and agriculture

Natural enemy-oriented pest control

Wintering of greater white-fronted geese supported by paddy agriculture

Food and livelihood supported by agricultural production

Wisdom to live in rice paddy area

Creating value through coexistence with nature

Landscape and traditional culture fostered in Osaki Kōdo, efforts for preservation

Traditional agricultural culture fostered by paddy agriculture

Landscape created through paddy agriculture

Efforts to preserve agricultural system

about Osaki Kōdo（大崎耕土）

A region rich in biodiversity, recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems site

Located in the Tohoku region of Japan, the Osaki area of Miyagi Prefecture (consisting of one city and four towns: Osaki City, Shikama Town, Wakuya Town, Kami Town, and Misato Town) has a high-quality water source and fertile soil that has been protected since ancient times and was recognized as "Osaki Koudo", a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in 2017. With its rich, natural rural landscape, unique lifestyle and culture, and vast biodiversity, this place offers a relaxed and peaceful time not found in the city.

In this tranquil environment, visitors can experience the satisfaction of actually growing crops and enjoying produce grown in this area with its unique local flavors. This relaxed form of travel is called "GIAHS Tourism". It allows visitors to enjoy the "Osaki Koudo", a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, by experiencing the natural environment and history, and is linked to the preservation of "Osaki Koudo" by utilizing local resources. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and experience an extended vacuation to enjoy interacting with the nature, culture, people, and creatures of Osaki Koudo.

大崎耕土
世界農業遺産
OSAKI KOUDO
GLOBALLY IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS

About Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

It is a system under which the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, recognizes globally important agriculture, forestry, and fisheries regions (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries systems). These efforts are aimed at passing on to the next generation the traditional agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that have been practiced for generations, and the culture and landscape that have developed along with them, as a "living heritage".

more about osakikoudo.jp/english/