

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems and Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

This May, Japan will host the G7 summit in Hiroshima. As part of this, the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting will be held in Miyazaki. In Miyazaki there are three areas registered as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (JNIAHS). This month, we will introduce these three areas.



○ Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System: Takachihogo · Shiibayama Site

The Takachihogo · Shiibayama Site are surrounded by forests and have very little flat land. The cultivation of timber, shiitake mushrooms, wagyu beef, tea, and rice make up the agriculture and forestry industries of this region. The preservation of rare animals and plants inhabiting the forests and farmlands, and of the beautiful scenery of rice terraces that cover the slopes of the mountains, and traditional culture such as Kagura, which pray for a bountiful harvest, are valued through these combined cultivation activities. The way of life of people from this area is highly regarded worldwide, and in 2015 it was designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System as an agricultural system that should be passed on to the next generation.



○Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System: Tano · Kiyotake Area
The agriculture in the Tano · Kiyotake Area takes advantage of the warm and humid climate, and the soil is cultivated through collaboration between the agriculture and the livestock industries. The farming style known as dry-field farming combines year-round planting with the traditional technique of "dried vegetables". In February 2021, this unique agricultural system was the first dry-field farming area in Japan to be certified as a Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System as a traditional and important agriculture, forestry, and fishery industry.

○Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System: 'Nichinan's single-hook skipjack fishing industry' connected to the Obi forestry industry that produced shipbuilding materials

The Kuroshio current flows in the coastal waters of Nichinan city. Seventy percent of the city's forests are made up of the Obi man-made Japanese cedar forests. The Obi cedars were once used as shipbuilding materials in Nichinan. Nichinan's single-hook skipjack fishing is a traditional fishing method that dates back to the



Edo period. This fishing method does not permit the hunting of an entire school of fish, so it is friendly to the skipjack resources and is also in line with the SDGs set as a global initiative. The Obi cedar forests and the Nichinan single-hook skipjack fishing, which connects the plentiful mountains, rivers, and sea, were certified as a Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System in February 2021 and are a valued treasure of this region.



In every region, the agriculture, forestry, livestock, and fisheries are deeply connected to create new values and cultures, and it seems that this connection is related to their agricultural heritage system certification.

If you have any questions, opinions, or requests about this piece, please contact the Miyazaki International Exchange Association. TEL : 0985-32-8457 FAX : 0985-32-8512
Email : miyainfo@mif.or.jp If you have any questions or queries regarding everyday life, please consult the Miyazaki Foreign Residents Support Centre. TEL : 0985-41-5901
FAX : 0985-41-5902 Email : support@mif.or.jp