Practices and achievements of agriculture that nurtures and coexists with living things

ISAP2020  Thematic Session 6
Redesigning Local for Transformative Change:
Demonstration of Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)～
Toward the Establishment of a Sustainable Society in Harmony with Nature - A Key for Redesign of Our Society in the Post-COVID Era

WATANABE Ryugo
Mayor of Sado City

Photo: Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Restoring Toki to the wild again

Toki reintroduction experiment since 2008

Challenges for restoration

Feeding ground of toki
Paddy fields rich in creatures, and shallow swamps

Extensive restoration of the habitat throughout Sado Island is the key.
Transform society where humans and Toki coexist.
RESTORATION OF ECOSYSTEMS

"Toki-to-kurasu-sato" (villages coexisting with toki)
Rice certification initiative

Since 2007, before the reintroduction experiment

✔ "Farming methods that nurture living creature"

Agri. Technologies

Create swales (or “e” in Japanese) to be dug around the paddy fields

Create biotopes

Create fishways

Irrigate paddy fields in winter

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✔ Established "agricultural methods that nurture living creatures" that not only protect the environment for biodiversity but also increase agricultural income, and extended the methods throughout Sado Island
Steady revival of the wild Toki population

Roadmap 2020 for Toki Return to the Wild (March 2016)

Goal: 220 toki in Sado Island living in the wild around 2020 to enable the birds to live in the natural environment

→ Achieved the goal 2 years ahead of schedule.

Areas with reintroduced toki (current)

Appearance frequency

high

low

Fledglings hatched this year

Photo: Sado Nature Protection Management Office, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
GIAHS  Biodiversity, Nature, Culture, and Food
Recognising the value of tradition to coexist with nature
Ageing and decrease of birthrate
From a city facing emerging challenges before others to a frontrunner in finding solutions

Decline in young population, Rapidly ageing society, Decline in the working-age population

Loss of land and housing, Lifeline crisis (hospitals, water, roads)

Loss of agricultural land and farming community. Loss of local community. Loss of tradition and culture

Island depending on fossil fuels, Shrinking economy, Decline of small businesses

■ Living coexisting with nature and living creatures
■ Living with tradition, culture and historical townscape
■ Caring for and preserving the environment
■ Childcare friendly and secure living

To be a frontrunner in finding solutions

Well-being
Coexisting with nature
Challenges to creating local CES and becoming a SDGs Future City

- Establishing a sustainable island that is self-sufficient and decentralised

- Coexisting with nature
- Sustainable use of rich local resources

- Optimal energy mix
  - self-sufficient, decentralised renewable energy

- No.1 in healthy life expectancy in Japan,
  - Building an island where everyone can play an active role

- Promotion of local consumption and production,
  - Food and nutrition education

- Maintaining agricultural tradition and community