

Case Study 1

Oyama City (Tochigi Prefecture)

Registered Participant Name: Oyama City

Type of organization: Local government

Relevant Aichi Targets* (Rice Paddy Targets**) : 7,8,17 (7,8,15)

"Rice paddies as one of 3 supports for Ramsar Convention wetland wise use"

In its planning relevant to Watarase-yusuichi's listing as a Ramsar site, Oyama City gives first priority to securing the flood control capabilities of Watarase's reservoir No. 2 while promoting the Ramsar wise use concept based on three main areas of activity - "Creating an Eco-Museum," "Restoration of Japanese Crested Ibises and Oriental Storks to the wild," and "Local economy support through environment-friendly agriculture, etc."

Specifically, the city is marketing agrichemical-free " Winter-flooded Paddy Rice." The winter-flooding method uses natural biological cycles that create fertile soil and control weeds, resulting in environmentally safe and sound rice agriculture.

To complement winter flooding, we are building channels and fish ladders connected to water sources to provide wildlife pathways and refuges for fish, etc. during summer when paddies are allowed to dry out. The aim is to create a good environment for biodiversity and safe agricultural crops.

A "Winter-flooded Rice Paddy " owners' system was set up starting in FY 2015. Owners are being sought in the Tokyo metropolitan area, and the system includes owner participation in planting, weeding, and harvesting the crop as well as biodiversity surveys and social exchanges among urban and rural owners. Some of this rice is supplied to local schools for school lunches as one way to involve local children.

Note: *, ** See p. 11, List of Rice Paddy & Aichi Biodiversity Targets



Case Study 1 rice planting in winter-flooded paddies

Case Study 2

Kuju Furusato Nature School (Oita Prefecture)

Registered Participant Name: Kuju Furusato Nature School

Type of organization: Nature school

Relevant Aichi Targets (Rice Paddy Targets) : 1,7,8 (1,7,8)

"Creating rice paddies in harmony with nature"

Our group aims to create rice paddies that are not merely rice-producing units but irreplaceable natural environments providing habitat to living things, even to Japanese Crested Ibis. We employ methods that supersede the goal of avoiding agrichemicals that negatively impact nature, aiming to positively contribute to creating a richer natural environment and a healthy ecosystem where abnormal pest outbreaks are unlikely to occur. We nurture rice paddy organisms which in turn nurture the rice crop.

Nature-harmonious rice paddy construction methods:

- No agrichemicals of any kind are used at any stage of building and maintaining the paddy. Weeds are controlled by hand and by deep-flooding.
- The paddy drying-out period is postponed until tadpoles and dragonfly larvae have matured.
- Biotope areas are constructed with unimpeded access to and from paddies to provide refuges for wildlife during the drying-out period.
- Traditional farming methods are practiced and their efficacy verified through surveys. A special method peculiar to Kuju is the use of geothermal heat. Rice seedlings are planted in a corner of the paddy and kept warm with hot spring water. This means the paddy has water in it about a month earlier than usual, providing spawning habitat to the early-breeding Japanese Brown Frog.

Rice planting / harvesting and wildlife surveys in these nature-harmonious rice paddies help participants understand the great importance of rice paddies as an environment for living things.

We hope to further enhance this environment by expanding biotope areas, building fish ladders, etc. to make our paddies a model case for others. Also, by gathering and sharing data on resident biota and searching out better ways to promote greater biodiversity together with greater productivity, we hope to attract more like-minded participants and expand the area of nature-harmonious rice paddies.



Case Study 2 wildlife survey by children