

Achieving Nature Positive by "OECMs x Rice Paddies"
– The Promotion of OECM at Rice Paddies and Farmlands



Rice Paddies on OECMs in Japan

~ Enhancing biodiversity of rice paddies
by listing on OECMs in Japan
and other rice-growing areas ~



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WHY RICE PADDY?

NEGATIVE Background

- Critical decrease of wetland habitat over the past 100 years.
- Many Natural wetlands have changed to Rice Paddy.
- Change of quality of rice paddy ; from Wet to Easy-to-Dry.

POSITIVE Background

- History of sustainable use for thousands of years.
- Possible to enhance biodiversity of rice paddies by appropriate using.
- Asia-origin and global agro-wetland.
- Recognized as one type of wetland by Ramsar Convention.

Initiative to enhancing biodiversity of Rice Paddies in Japan

Good case studies

- **Winter Flooded Rice Paddy Project** started at rice paddies around Kabukurinuma wetland, in Japan in **1990s**.
- ***"Kabukurinuma and surrounding rice paddies"*** was listed in **Ramsar sites in 2005**.
- Ramsar COP9 Side Event for Rice paddy resolution (NGO; J&K)(2005)
- **Rice Paddy Resolutions in Ramsar (X.31) (2008)** (MOE: J & K)
"Enhancing wetland biodiversity in rice paddies as a wetland system"
& **in CBD (X/34, 2010)**(MAFF: Jpn)
- **Bridging Ramsar & CBD by Rice Paddy resolution & decision. (2010)** (MOEJ, MAFFJ, RNJ)
- **Rice BED** (Rice-paddy Biodiversity Enhancement Decade) & **Rice BED 2030 project (2011-20/ 2021-30) (RNJ)**
- National 30by30 Roadmap: Promotion of **OECM** (CBD **2022**)
- Some Rice Paddies listed on OECMs in Japan (2025)

Farmers Join to Winter Flooded Rice Paddy around Kabukuri-numa since 1998/99 winter



WFRP Benefits both Wildlife & Agriculture

[Wildlife in rice paddy] = Habitat Recovery

- Rich biodiversity... from microorganisms to waterbirds
- Spread flyways of Geese throughout Japan by the network of WFRP.

[Agriculture] = New method of Farming = WFRP Method = IBM (Integrated Biodiversity Management)

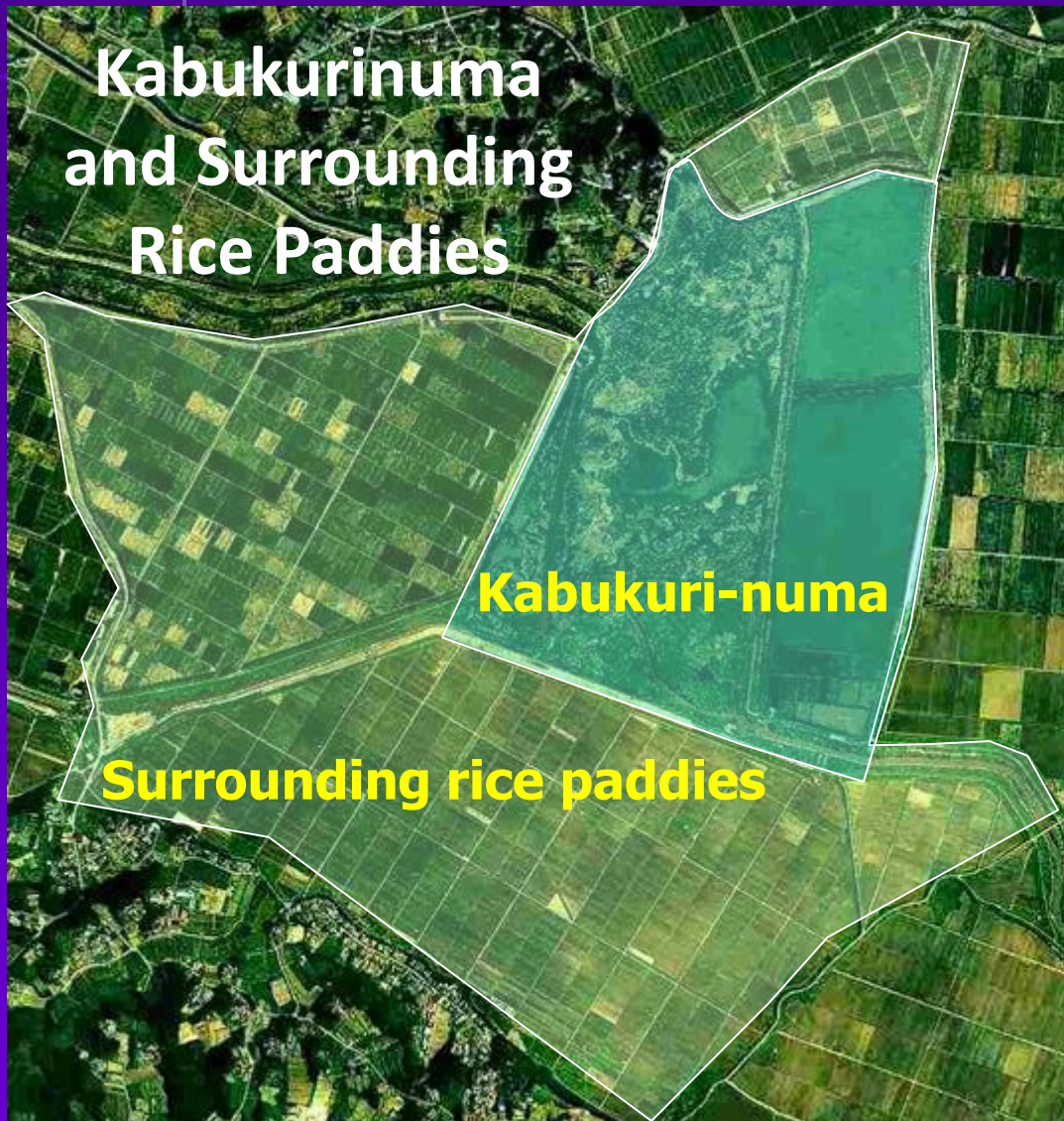
- Weeds Control Effect (No or less herbicide)
- Pests Control Effect (No or less pesticide)
- Waterfowl Droppings as Fertilizer (Less fertilizer)
- Decompose rice straw
- Model of IBM

[Co-existent way for Agriculture and Nature ; Agri-Biodiversity]

- Sustainable
- Less Impact against Environment

Kabukuri-numa and Surrounding Rice Paddies

New Ramsar Site in November 2005



- First Ramsar Site Involving Large Area of Rice Paddy, typical Asian Wetland, under Agreement of Most Stakeholders.
- New Idea on Ramsar as a Useful Tool for Agri-Environmental Rice Farming.

Winter-flooded Rice Farming in Ramsar Site Produces Higher Value-added Rice

- Twelve farm families produce **higher value-added Winter-flooded Paddy Rice** brand in rice paddies in Ramsar Site since 2004.
- **Environmental profit** for wildlife and **economical profit** for wildlife friendly farmers.
- Ohsaki City (Tajiri Town) is positive to adopt Agri-environmental policy activity and supported the challenge by its own policy of direct benefits from improved environment.
- **First step for Abundant Waterbirds and Profitable Agriculture**
- Next step: From dispersed distribution to amalgamation

Fuyumizutambo-Mai

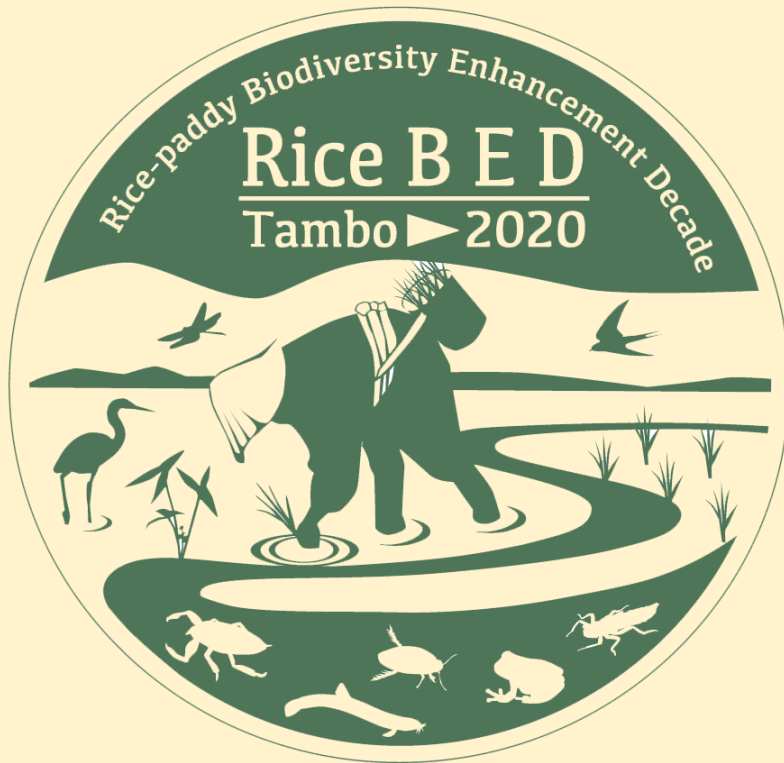
**“Winter Flooded
Paddy Rice”**



Rice BED (2020) & Rice BED 2030 Projets

organized by Ramsar Network Japan

Rice-paddy Bio(cultural)diversity Enhancement Decade



Rice Paddies listed on OECMs in Japan (2025)

- “Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites” have been certified:
- 328 sites with a total area of 93,000 ha,

Examples of Rice paddies on OECMs.

- #4 Endo Organic Farm(Sendai, Miyagi)
- #5 Kubokawa Ihatov World (ichinoseki, iwate)
- #6 Izunuma Nosan Winter Flooded Rice Paddies (Tome, Miyagi)
- #7 Sawada-kami Igune and the Surrounding Rice Paddies(Osaki, Miyagi)
- #9 新童子下・童子下の田んぼ(宮城県本吉郡南三陸町)
- #28 ふれあいファーム三ヶ村(新潟県十日町市)
- #71 みさとの里うしろだに(熊本県下益城郡美里町)
- #238 神戸の里山林・棚田・ため池(兵庫県神戸市)
- #245 コウノトリ育む中筋の里地里山(兵庫県豊岡市)
- #248 細尾の棚田、池沼植物群落(兵庫県宝塚市)

#4 Endo Organic Farm 遠藤環境農園



Organic Rice paddy just after rice transplanting



Intermediate Egret feeding nearby the OEM site



Japanese Rice Fish

#05 Kubokawa Ihatov World 久保川イーハトーブ世界



Typical Landscape

写真の説明: 久保川イーハトーブ世界の代表景観



Weeding 写真の説明: の帰化植物抜き取り作業



#6 Izunuma Nosan Winter Flooded Rice Paddies

伊豆沼農産ふゆみずたんぼ



White-fronted geese resting
at winter flooded rice paddy

写真の説明: 重要湿地本サイトで休息するマガンの群れ



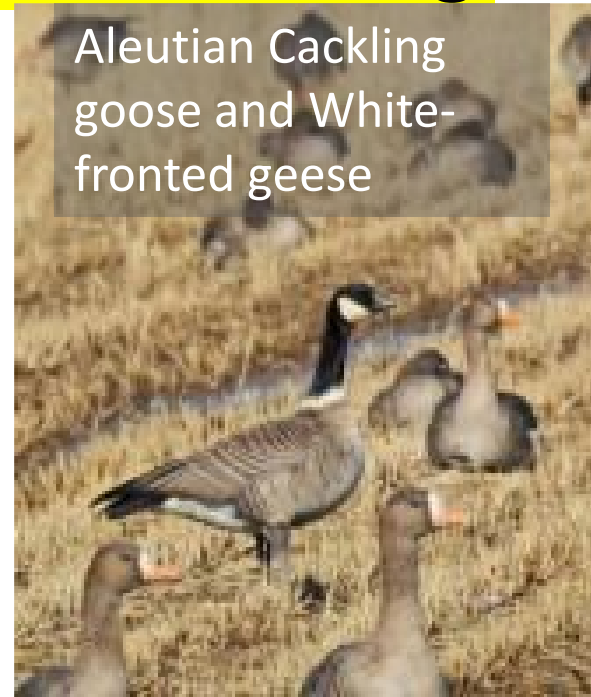
Experience of weeding

説明: 農業体験(除草・生きもの観察)



#7 Sawada-kami Igune and the Surrounding Rice Paddies

沢田上地区の居久根・周辺水田



Aleutian Cackling
goose and White-
fronted geese



Tokyo daruma pond frog in a rice paddy

写真の説明: 水田内のトウキョウダルマガエル

More rice paddies on OECMs in Japan & other rice-growing areas

Japan:

A new law “Regional Biodiversity Promotion Act “(April 2025)

- Effective and compatible to invite more rice paddies on OECMs.

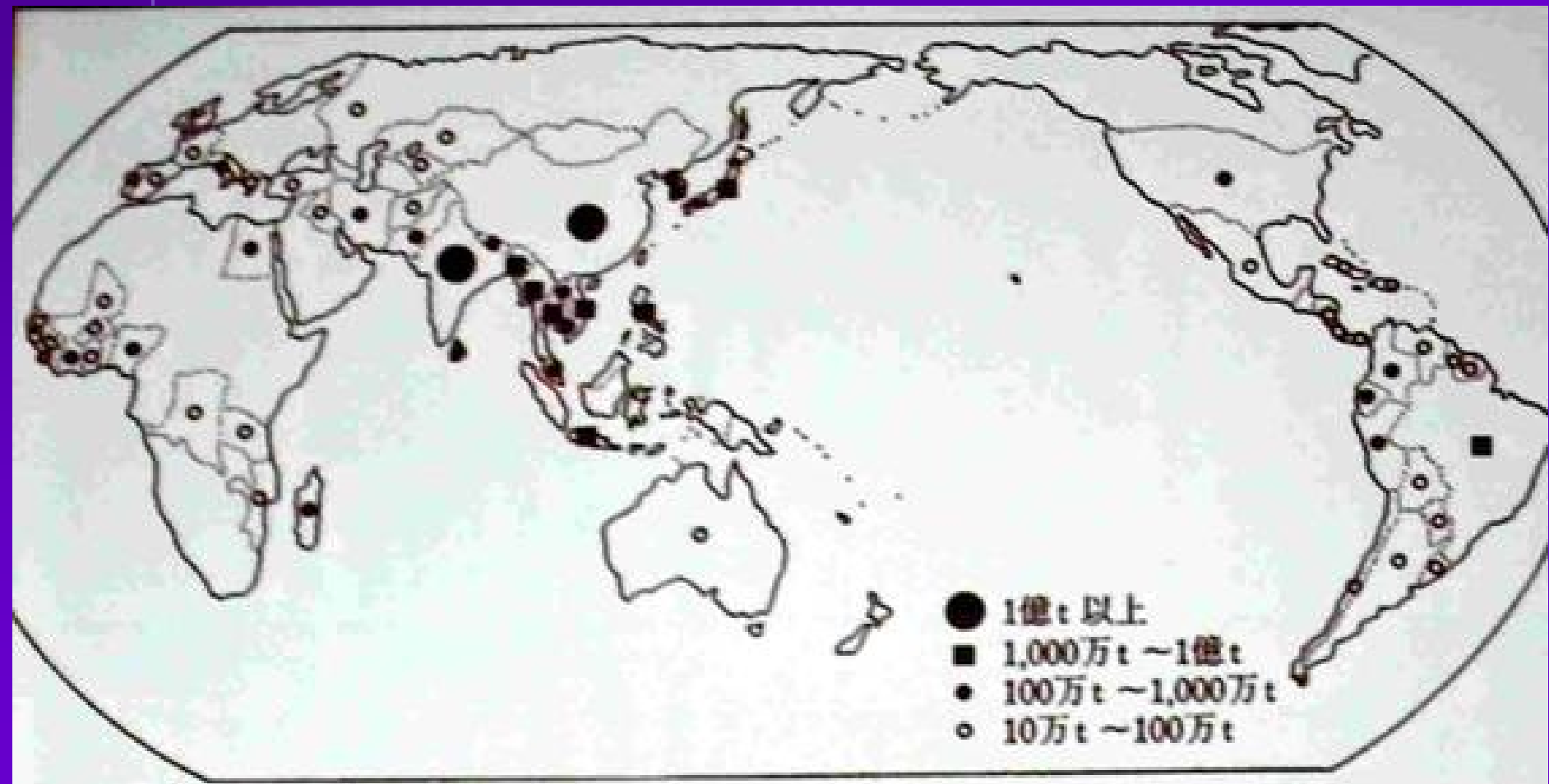
Other rice-growing areas:

- Appeal for listing rice paddies on OECMs, especially **Asia, Africa, Neotropic** areas including “Outside Rice Growing Ramsar sites”.

Develop rice paddies on OECMs to one of main streams to achieve Nature Positive.

Distribution of Countries with Rice Paddies in the World

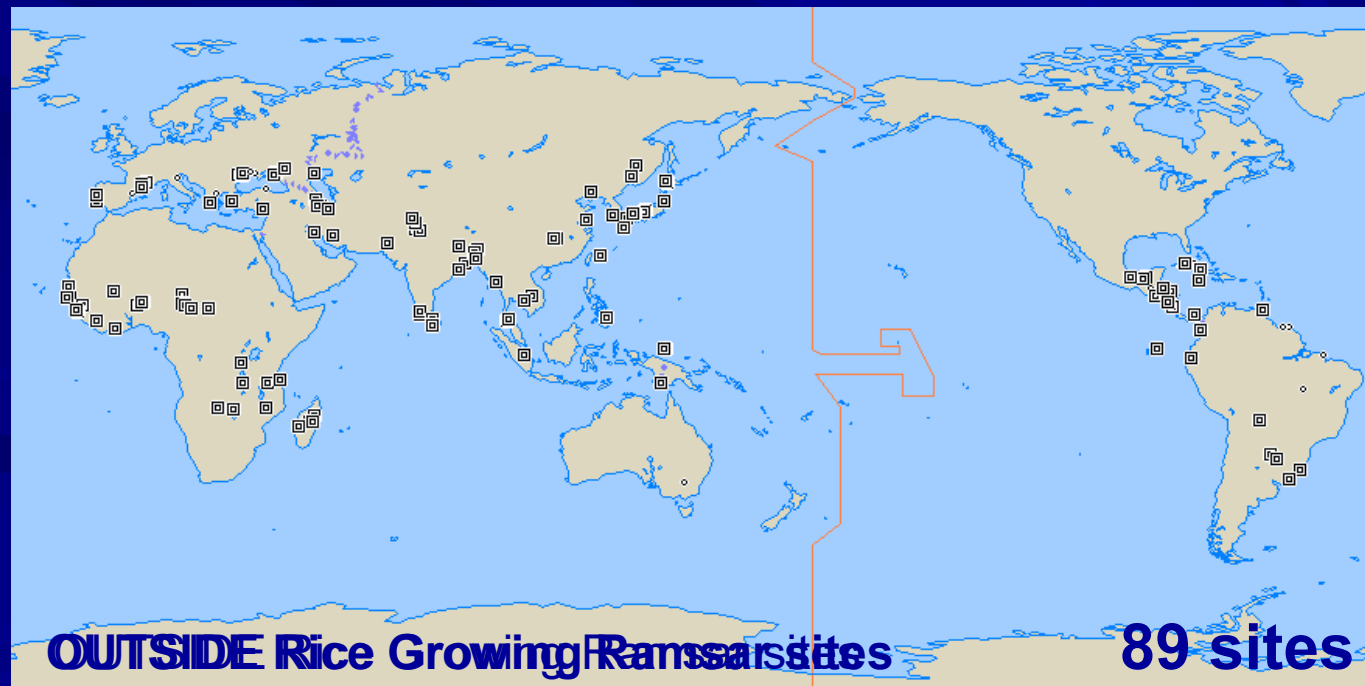
(1996, FAOSTAT)



Rice Growing Ramsar Sites, Inside or Outside

(data; the Ramsar
Sites Database by WI)

2008





Thank you for your attention