

Satoyama Regeneration Initiatives

-A Case Study in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan

Organizations:
United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa
United Nations University, Institute for Sustainability and Peace

Summary: Satoyama, or mosaic production landscapes, in Japan have been shaped through long-term harmonious interactions between human and nature in a manner that fosters human well-being while maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, the healthy ecosystems of these traditional production landscapes are threatened by impending problems of management abandonment due to the continuous depopulation and ageing of the rural communities. It is urgent to maintain, regenerate and rebuild the rural and enhance its resilience under the changing natural, social, and economic conditions.



Fig. 1 Location of Noto Peninsula

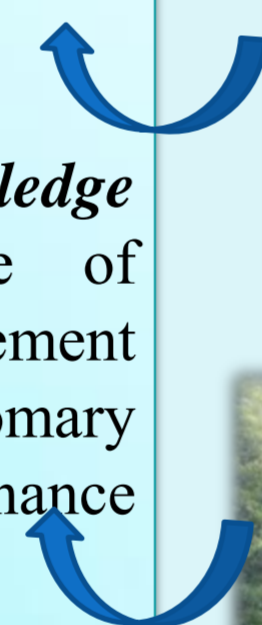
Objectives: This project documents and analyzes the local initiatives aiming at **strengthening resilience of local communities** through creating new commons, developing regional **multi-industrial system** approach and creating **new business model** of value-added products, and restoring satoyama landscapes through engaging multi-stakeholders. Noto Peninsula, which was recognized as GIAHS site in June 2011, was selected as the study site. The recognition of GIAHS has contributed to raising public awareness of valuing the ingenious agri-culture and satoyama conservation in Noto Peninsula. The overall goal of this research is to identify appropriate policies and experiences at the local level regarding how to motivate a wide range of stakeholders to participate in resilience strengthening strategies at the community-level.

(1) Enhance resiliency

Strengthen ecosystem functions and services
Conserve cultivated lands and restore abandoned farmlands to secure ecosystem services for human well-being at satoyama production landscape level.

Integrate traditional and scientific knowledge
Integrating the scientific knowledge of agricultural infrastructure improvement technologies and study of the customary management system in order to enhance resiliency.

Create Green Economy to secure livelihoods
Continued cultivation of diverse local varieties of crops well adapted to the local environment contributes to the creation of green economy which secure local livelihoods.



(2) Establish new commons

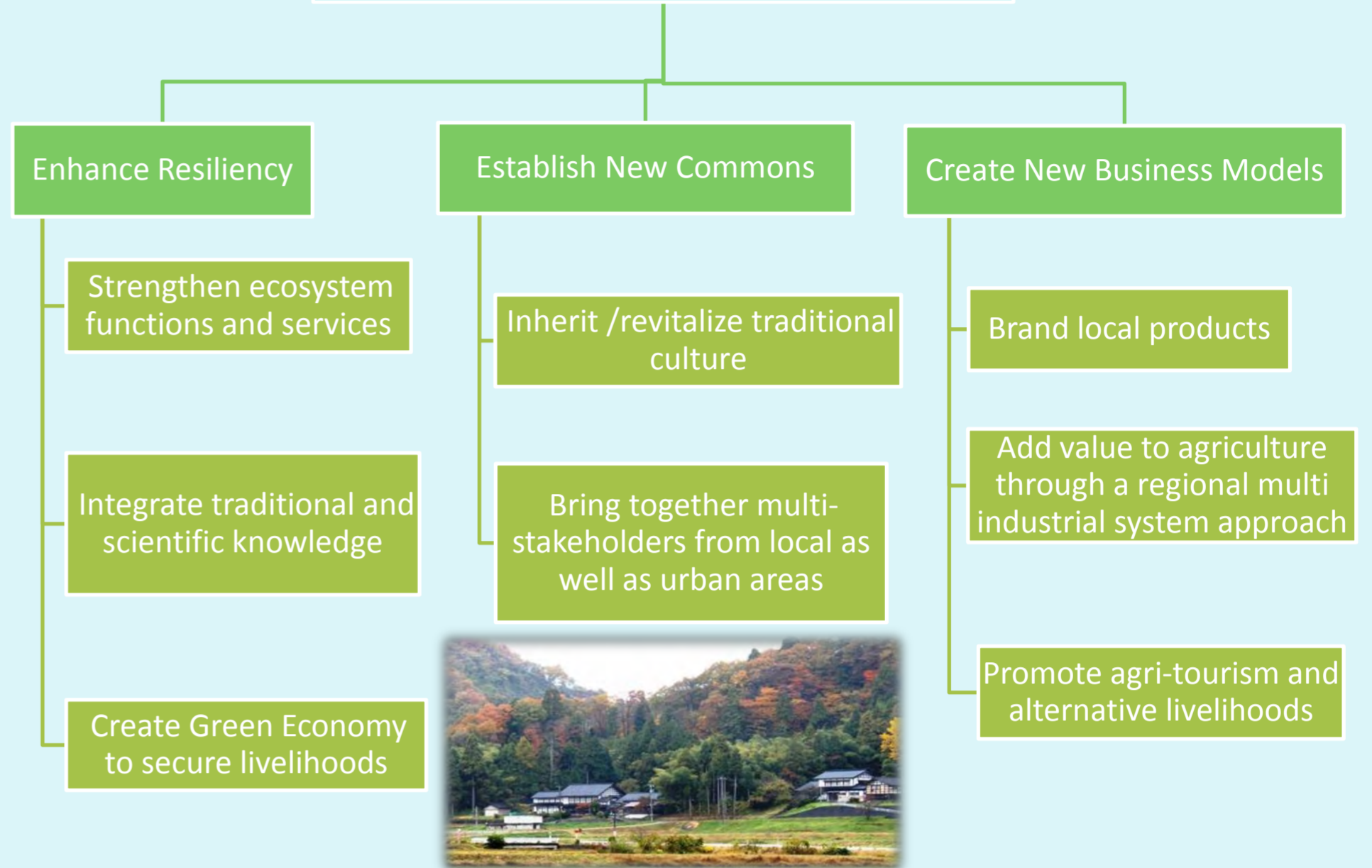
Consensus building meetings/social learning activities to identify the future scenarios of Noto Satoyama Satoumi Landscapes and potential to strengthen ecosystem functions and services.

Inherit /revitalize traditional culture
Recently, college students and urbanites are also participating in these local festivals and helping to sustain the festivals, inherit and revitalize the traditional cultures.

Bring together diverse stakeholders from local as well as urban areas
A satoyama conservation strategy involving multiple stakeholders of the "new commons" is studied by using a case study of abandoned land restoration.



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(3) Create New Business Models

Branding of local products

A recent initiative for branding rice produced in terraced paddy fields in Noto Peninsula is jointly launched by four Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JA) in Okunoto.



Add value to agriculture through a regional multi-industrial system approach

A "regional multi-industrial system" initiative for creating new high value-added business is being studied, using the case of directly transporting local agricultural products to the urban market and selling the home-made processed edible wild plants to local tourist industry such as hotels, restaurants and farmer markets.



Promote agri-tourism and alternative livelihoods

Rural tourism has been developed as a strategy to revitalize rural areas by catering to urban residents, offering them scenic rural landscapes and opportunities to participate in agricultural activities. With the opening of Noto airport, Noto Peninsula is of easy access to the global tourist market. The project will identify the challenges and study the potential to diversify rural income through developing rural tourism.



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