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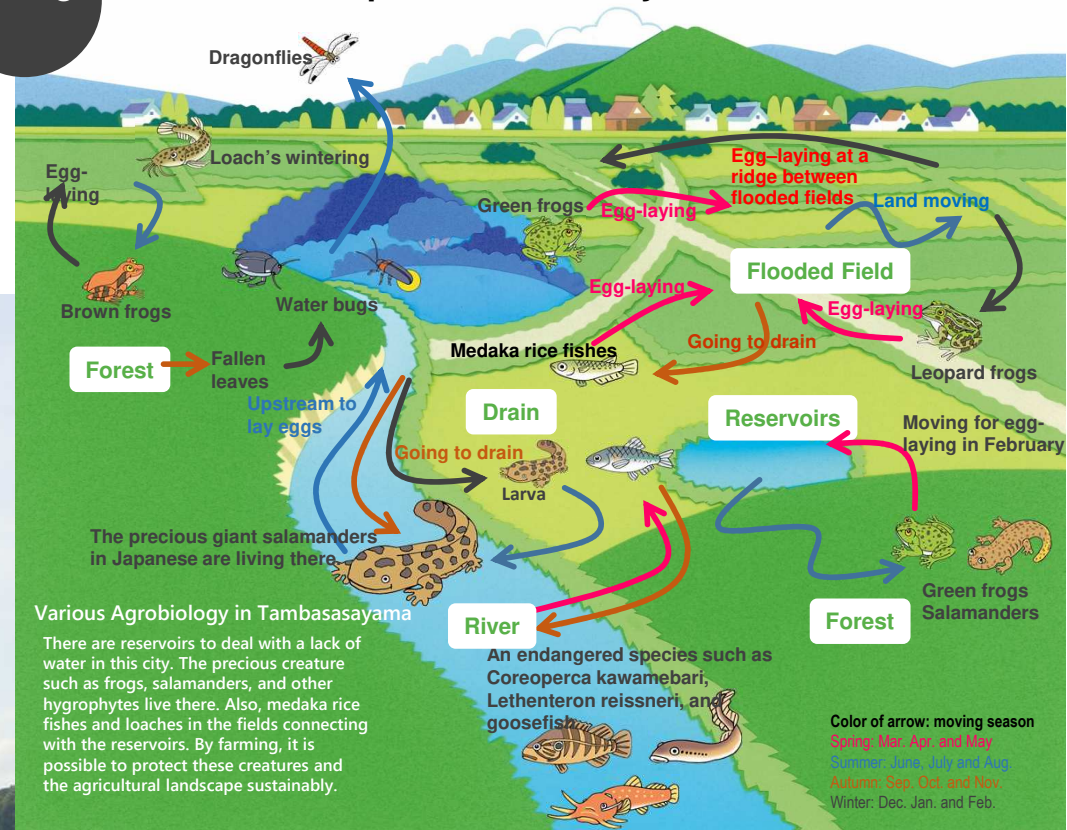
The Authorization for Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Systems Tambasasayama's *Kuromame* Cultivation Over 300 years

Tambasasayama is famous for *kuromame* (black soy beans). Cultivating *kuromame* in Tambasasayama was authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as the Important Agricultural Heritage Systems to inherit for the future. What is the traditional agricultural system? It includes culture, the agricultural landscape and varied agrobiology. This system should be inherited for the future.



Tambasasayama's *kuromame* cultivation; Best seeds by village's supporting and family agriculture
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Agricultural Landscape of Tambasasayama



(right) The dragonfly is taking a rest at the field. It is helpful for farmers because it eats bugs which are not food for growing rice.
(top left) The brown frog is hiding from its enemy behind a weed.
(bottom left) Green frog eggs in the trees

For the Rice as "Nouto no Megumi (Blessing from the Agricultural City)"

Tambasasayama's Rice is Grown at Fields with Creatures

Tambasasayama's rice has been grown at fields with many creatures such as frogs and dragonflies.

In order to continue the amazing agricultural condition, this city has three missions. First mission is farm without any fertilizers and chemicals. Second is to keep the river clean. Third is not to release water in the field from the end of June to the beginning of July out of consideration for wildlife.

Let's protect the environment and grow Tambasasayama's rice in the beautiful landscape.

(The conference which is addressing the seed production of Tamba *kuromame* is continuing the seed production very hard.)



Best Seeds Which Have Long History are a Precious Asset in the Community

Kuromame of Tambaasayama have many local species such as a lineage originating from “Kawagita” and “Habe”, and they have been inherited for the future. Especially, Motoziro Habe who contributed with agricultural improvement in 1800s and others selected best seeds from native species which are the various genetic resources. In the present, the place to produce seeds is decentralized by cooperating farmers and government to produce good seeds sustainably. The various seeds have been existing for a long time using this approach and they are the precious asset for the community.

Cooperative Fields: Village-Based Farming Connects Each Small Farmer

The areas which have a lack of drainage in this city established a dry field collectively. Also, people had to work at other cities as a *sake* brewer because it was difficult to farm in dry fields due to the extreme cold in winter season. Therefore, farming at the field cooperatively with other farmers became the new agricultural style because of a labor shortage. There are producer associations in each village because many small farmers in this city are from the farming style. And this production system which is working with other farmers and sharing farm machines makes an agricultural management effective.



The agricultural landscape in Tambaasayama should be left for the future. In this city, there are more than 90 sheds for ashes left and *medaka* rice fishes live in the drains with beautiful nature..

Kuromame Cultivation Came from Dry Fields Because of a Lack of Water



Cultivating *kuromame* started with dry fields because of a lack of water. And they was established by each village. At that time, a flooded field was the common in this city. However, it was impossible to cultivate *kuromame* in a flooded field. Therefore, it was possible to cultivate *kuromame* by digging a ditch in a flooded field and making a high ridge. In the present, the way to cultivate *kuromame*, *Tambaguro*, the name of *kuromame* cultivated in the area of Hyogo and Kyoto has been based on the agricultural style.



Yellow soybean cultivation in Hyogo



Kuromame cultivation in Tambaasayama city

(As you can see in these pictures, a ridge of the field in Tambaasayama when cultivating beans is higher than other fields in Hyogo.)

The Authorization for Japanese Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems Tambaasayama's *Kuromame* Cultivation



300 Years of *Kuromame* Cultivation in Tambaasayama

Kuromame (black soybeans) in Tambaasayama has been known as rotation crops of acreage reduction policy in 1970s by many producers and citizens so far. However, it is not true. About 300 years ago, a Japanese cookbook in the Edo era said that *kuromame* of Tambaasayama is good. It was the historical evidence which *kuromame* was cultivated in Tambaasayama since then.



Kuromame is on the list of ingredients in a cookbook written for ordinary people. Photo: National Diet Library.

Specialties Promotion and Supporting Farmers Succeeding at the Farming

Tambaasayama's *Kuromame* Cultivation Has Lasted for 300 Years. Let's Continue it for the Next 300 Years



Tambaasayama's *kuromame* have been inherited constantly by forerunner's efforts, techniques, and wisdom for more than 300 years. Let's continue inheriting the tradition for the next 300 years. Therefore, it is necessary to produce good seeds and keep seeking better techniques. And increasing people who grow better *kuromame* and want to do it is the goal in this city. Shall we cultivate the fascinating beans together?