

GIAHS Ayu of the Nagara River System




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What is the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) ?

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) are defined as sustainable and dynamic conservation systems protecting indigenous types of agriculture that feature globally important farming methods, biodiversity, landscapes, and cultures, that are passed down to future generations.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations launched the GIAHS initiative in 2002 and has so far designated 36 sites in 15 countries with the title, including eight sites in Japan (as of December 2015).

What is Ayu ?



Ayu (*Plecoglossus altivelis*)

Ayu (or sweetfish) is a migratory fish that moves between rivers and the sea over the course of its one year life span. Gifu boasts the largest yield of ayu in the country and it is designated as the prefectural fish. Ayu has been a valuable source of protein and enhances the economy and culture along the basin of the Nagara River.

GIAHS “Ayu of the Nagara River System”

Logo of the GIAHS “Ayu of the Nagara River System”



This logo shows a Nagara River ayu swimming in clear blue water which streams forth from the lush green mountains.