

## Editorial

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### Preface

Issues related to Sustainable Management in Satoyama-Satoumi and other Social Ecological Production Landscapes (SEPLs) require a complex understanding of ecosystem processes in both agriculture and forests, as well as social and economic systems. SEPLs encompass two main types of ecosystem: agricultural agro-forest and forests, and in some cases have relevance to aquaculture or coastal systems. The aim here is to integrate the findings and insights from both agriculture and forest as well as from various disciplines, including the use and understanding of diverse knowledge systems such as local and traditional knowledge. The interaction of landscapes and human activities has produced goods and services for local populations for long periods of time, which has resulted in an accumulation of local and traditional knowledge/traditional ecological knowledge.

In order to bring together an understanding of the topic, an international symposium was organized jointly by the Kanazawa University, School of Rural Development (coordinator Dr. Ryo Kohsaka) and Natural Resource Canada (coordinator Dr. Ian Thompson) and held on April 30–May 3, 2014 at Komatsu, Japan. The symposium was sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Co-operative Research Programme (CRP) on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems, whose financial support made it

possible for invited speakers to participate in the symposium, with other additional sources as noted in the acknowledgements. The title of the workshop was “Sustainable Management including the use of Traditional Knowledge in Satoyama and other SEPLS.” The symposium was supported by the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries), the MOE (Ministry of the Environment), Ishikawa Prefecture, Komatsu City, University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences International Bioindustrial Sciences Course, UNU-IAS (United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability), UNU-IAS OUIK (UNU-IAS Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa), and Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies. During a 3-day seminar, 22 speakers including scientists, policy makers and UN staff presented their views or scientific findings. From among these presentations, five papers are presented in this current issue, covering various agricultural or forest areas and social processes globally. The presented studies bring forward a variety of approaches which address a broad range of topics related to natural ecosystem processes and human introduced processes.

Thompson (this issue) sets the scene by providing an overview of the science policy interface of contemporary environmental processes at the global level. The importance of a multi-sectoral approach, and an understanding of local ecological knowledge and scientific information in forming the policies are identified as key issues to maintain SEPLs.

Cordonier-Segger and Freedom-Kai (this issue) examine the inclusion of traditional knowledge (TK) held by indigenous and local communities in the context of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and

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Agriculture (ITPGRFA). Their review suggests that the inclusion of such knowledge provides a channel for sustainable development under those international processes.

The first and last two papers discuss European cases of cultural landscapes, including Social Ecological Production Landscapes. These are followed by a case study with a focus on knowledge systems, including traditional knowledge for mushroom production in Japan.

Agnoletti and Santoro (this issue) highlight the role of cultural values, taking a landscape approach for forest management. The cultural value is largely overlooked in scientific exploration and policies in European contexts, including EU policies. They warn that an idea of ‘naturalness’ favoring processes of abandonment and re-naturalization for places that are not natural can be counter-productive for the community and society. Given the lack of strategies for cultural values, the paper advocates the practical implementation of existing tools, including those at regional and international levels.

Parviainen (this issue) analyzes the cultural aspects of northern European forests from a historical perspective. His historical analysis suggests overuse in the past, which eventually led to the establishment of sustainable forestry regulations, beginning in the nineteenth century. Among others, he highlights the transformation of the tradition of “Everyman’s right”, which has undergone changes such as

the commercial use of ecosystem services on related private lands.

Kohsaka et al. (this issue) highlight the transformation and interactions of knowledge systems in producing mushrooms in rural areas in Japan. In a rapidly depopulating society, new participants or agents are frequently needed to maintain the SEPLs or to address the underlying causes of change, such as the underuse of forest resources, including non-timber forest products. The paper highlights the dynamic exchanges of information among the new and older farmers of mushroom production, indicating that productivity might not depend on whether the person is the holder of “traditional knowledge”.

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