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Sustainable Development by Geographic Approach in Regional Revitalization

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● Research Outline

Relationship between Environmental Conservation Activities for the Enjyugahama Pine Forests and Disaster Prevention Education in Mihama Town, Wakayama Prefecture

The purpose of this research is to consider environmental preservation activity development in the Enjyugahama pine forests in Mihama Town, Wakayama Prefecture.

Disaster prevention education, such as cutting down pine forests and planting pine trees, is underway in the coastal area of Wakayama Prefecture where trough *Nankai* trough earthquakes are predicted. The Enjyugahama pine forests, which date from the Edo Period are local disaster prevention and tourism resources. At the request of the residents, the government leads conservation and management of the pine forests.

Part of the Enjyugahama pine forests is a place for local residents to interact, and a place for disaster prevention education and regional revitalization for the next generation. As a sacred place for an anime work of contents tourism, the Enjyugahama pine forests has become a tourist attraction. In addition, agricultural environmental protection practices using pine needle compost are also undertaken.

Environmental conservation of the Enjyugahama pine forests, which serve a disaster prevention function, is entering a new phase. It will lead to future disaster prevention and mitigation measures by conducting disaster prevention education to learn about past natural disaster situations and subsequent reconstruction through environmental conservation activities of the Enjyugahama pine forests.

Trends in Intellectual Property Protection of Genetic Resources

This research is related to the perspective of the intellectual property strategy of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Intellectual property problems of genetic resources include the problem of new varieties of plants of the Korean strawberry variety “Sol Hyang”, the problem of naming the Chinese “Kobe beef”, and the problem of illegal export of Wagyu sperm.

Regarding the strawberry “Sol Hyang” problem, since South Korea was not a member of the “International Convention for the Protection of New Plant Species” at that time, and the protection period for Akihime’s breeder’s right has expired, it is not a case of infringement in “Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act”.

Regarding the issue of naming “Kobe beef” produced in China, although “Kobe beef” is protected by both the Trademark Law (Regional Collective Trademark System) and the Geographical Indication Law, there is no bilateral treaty between Japan and China. Therefore, it cannot be dealt with it.

Regarding the Wagyu genetic resource illegal export problem, it is said that the intellectual property law of Japan has not been established in the first place.

This research is to examine trends in intellectual property protection of genetic resources from “Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act”, Trademark Act (Regional Collective Trademarks), “Act on Protection of the Names of Specific Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Foodstuffs”, and “Act on Prevention of Unfair Competition on Livestock Genetic Resources”.