

# An Analysis of Saji's Urushi Land Usage on the Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu

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## I Introduction

“Urushi” lacquer is cultivated in Japan and in the Korean Peninsula and has been used since ancient times as lacquerware and as an adhesive. Saji-cho, located in the eastern part of Tottori Prefecture, has been producing lacquer for a long time and production continued until 1965. Then stopped because of the increase of imported production and the lack of success. However, in recent years, there have been activities to plant lacquer trees and revive the area through production of lacquer. In this report, we explore suitable sites for urushi fields using old maps from the Edo period.

●**Purpose** In order to contribute to the restoration of urushi fields in Saji-cho, Tottori City (formally Saji Village), which was once a lacquer-producing area, we will provide more clarification on the land use, especially the distribution of urushi fields, from old maps and we suggest a promising candidate site for reclaimed urushi fields.

●**Background** We will focus on the "Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu" created by the Tottori domain at the end of the Tenpo period around 1844. "Zenzu" of each village is owned by the Tottori Prefectural Museum. We will analyze land use such as urushi fields and read the landscape of the village at that time based on the trace map. In the previous research on the "Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu", there is an explanation of the picture map in the collection.

## III-2 Land usage seen on the map

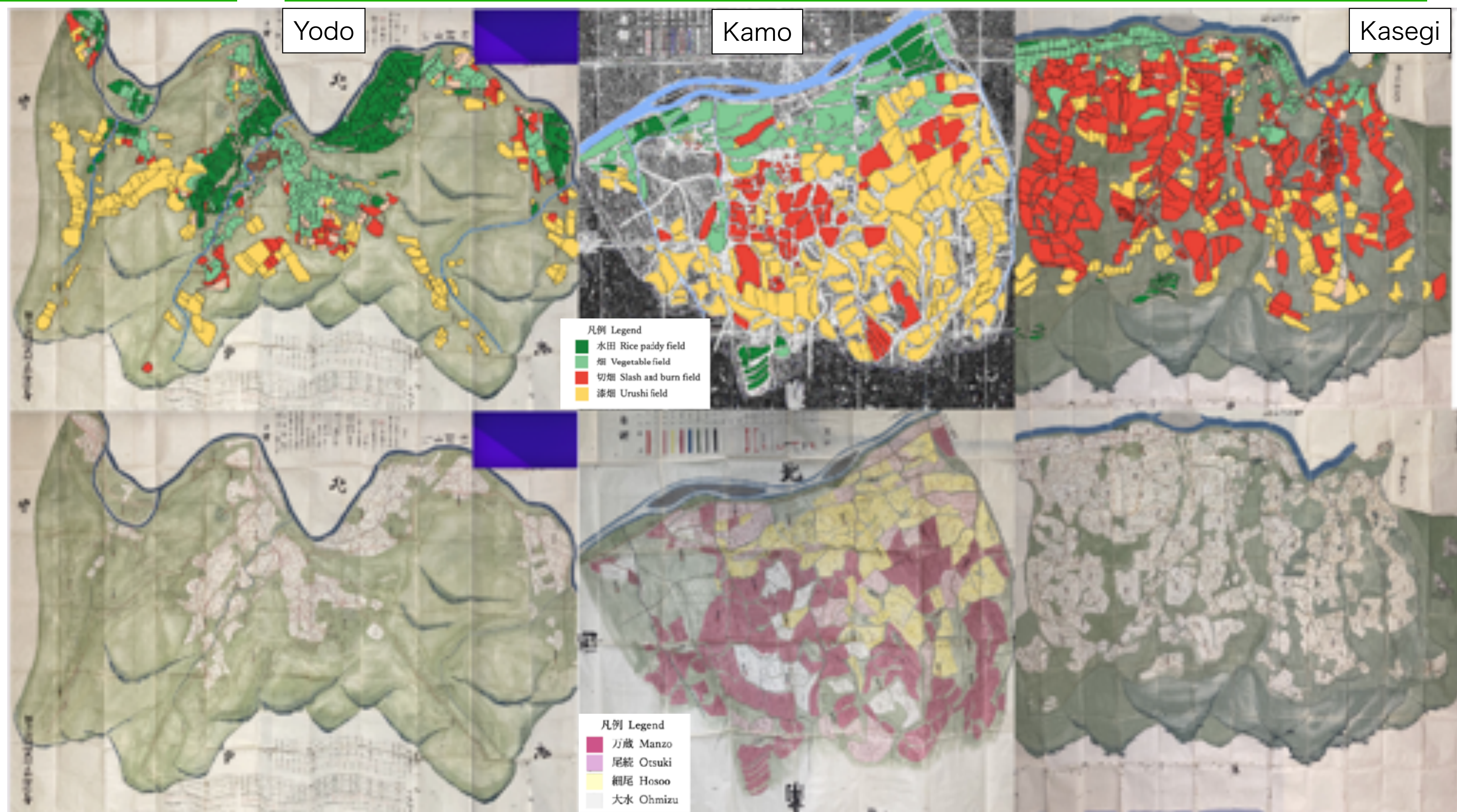


Figure.3 Land usage according to the "Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu" (upper: land usage, lower: original map (corrected))

## II Lacquer production in Saji

### ●History of Saji-cho

In 1896, Kuchi Saji Village, Naka Saji Village, and Kami Saji Village were established. In 1910, three villages merged to form Saji Village, Yazu District. In 2004, it merged with Tottori City and was renamed Saji-cho, Tottori City.

### ●Description of "lacquer" that appears in the document

Muromachi period 1413 (Oei 20)  
Edo period Kan'ei 9 (1632),  
Kan'ei 21 (1644), Jokyo 1 (1684)  
-Description of annual tribute on lacquer 1695 (Genroku 8).  
-Welcomed craftsmen from old Yamato province to learn lacquer tapping techniques. We presumed that an increase in full-scale production had begun.  
Kansei 11(1799)  
-Records of villages with an annual tribute of lacquer and the production volume of lacquer (Table 1).  
-Kasegi, Yodo and Kamo(Hosoo, Otsuki, Omizu, Manzo) are the main ones.

Table.1 Lacquer production in each village of Saji

村	智頭郡下橋村々御高・物成・諸沢物産 (1799年)			田畑地誌全図 (1844年)	漆畑の有無
	(米) 石/斗/升	リットル換算	順位		
葛谷	-	-	-	-	未調査
小原	-	-	-	-	-
刈地	-	-	-	-	未調査
津無	-	-	-	-	-
吉市	-	-	-	-	×
大井	-	-	-	-	×
森坪	1/7/40	378.82	10	-	-
加瀬木	10/7/13	1953.63	1	○	-
高山	0/0/71	128.08	14	○	-
津野	0/0/23	41.49	15	×	-
福園	0/1/75	153.33	13	○	-
方蔵	3/3/71	723.37	5	○	-
大木	6/2/74	1251.91	3	○	-
尾崎 (付)	(資料欠)	-	-	○	-
畑	2/1/35	441.96	8	-	-
春谷	1/7/62	418.51	9	○	-
細尾	3/4/2	616.94	7	○	-
川本	3/3/50	685.48	6	-	-
余戸	8/3/59	1603.67	2	○	-
屋際	5/7/53	1123.83	4	-	-
仲	1/3/58	339.13	11	-	-
柳原	0/7/78	266.98	12	○	-

\*Four grey colored villages show Kamo.

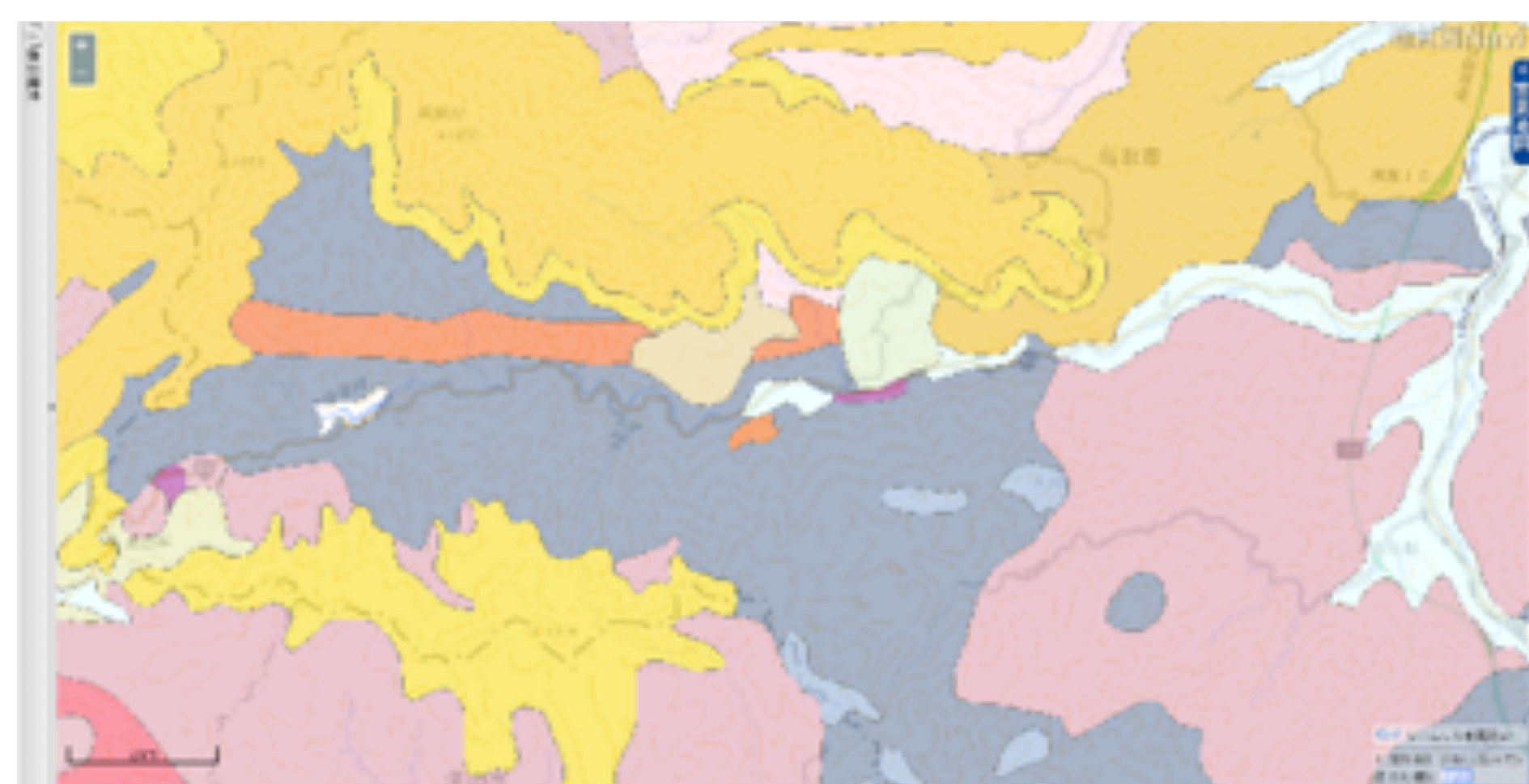


Figure.1 Geological map of Saji-cho



Figure.2 Inclination map of Saji-cho (Made by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan Map vector version)

## III-1 "Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu"

●“Denbata-Jitsuzuki Zenzu” of Saji-cho’s 12 maps:each are 3meters by 3meters is owned by the Tottori Prefectural Museum

-Furuichi, Oi (1st and 2nd), Kasegi, Takayama, Tsuno, Fukuzono, Kamo(Hosoo, Otsuki, Omizu, Manzo),Tsukutani, Yodo, Tochiyama.  
-Ten villages, Kasegi, Takayama, Fukuzono, Kamo(Hosoo, Otsuki, Omizu, Manzo),Tsukutani, Yodo, and Tochiyama, were described as urushi fields. The especially intensive urushi fields are Kamo, Kasegi, and Yodo.

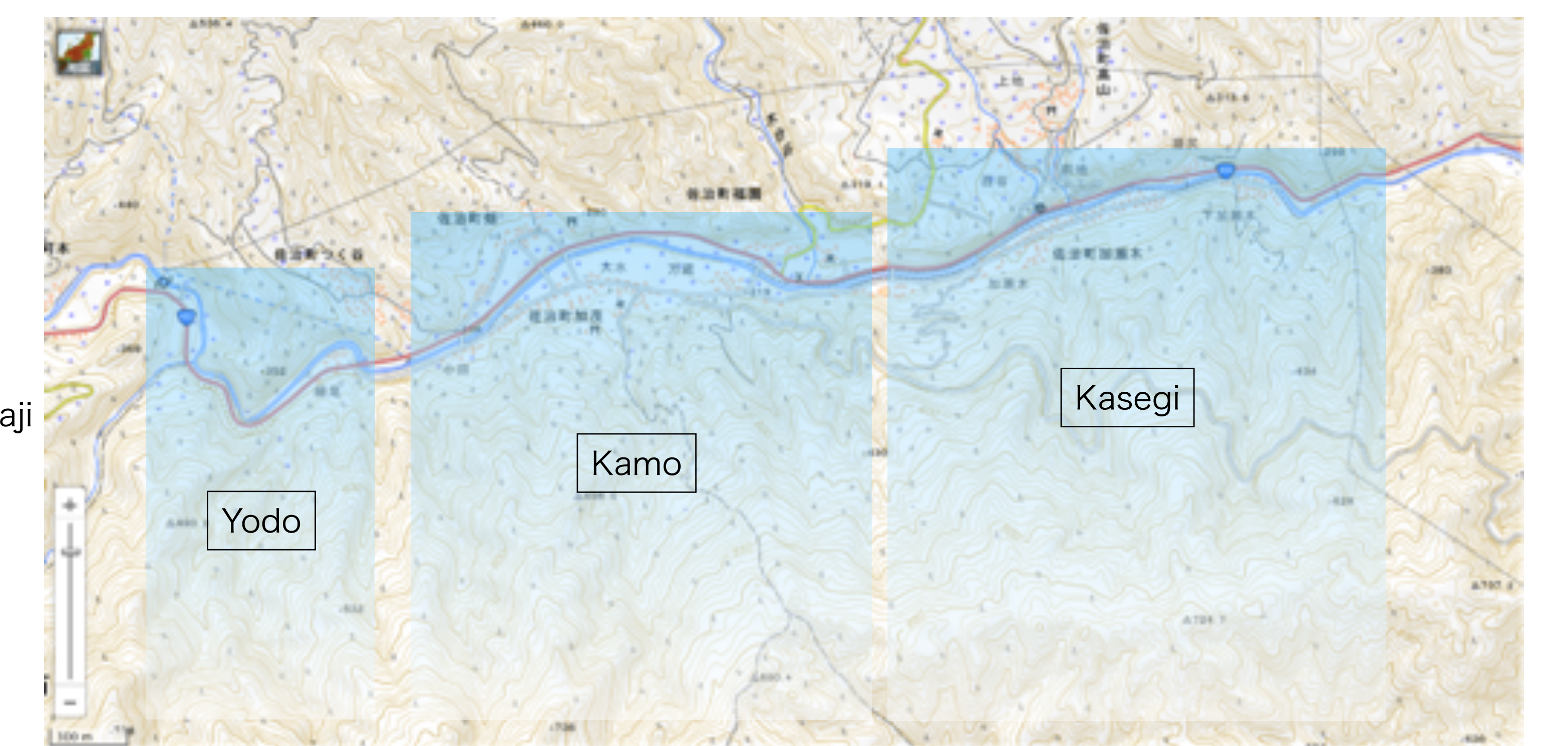


Figure.4 Topographic map of the three villages (Geospatial Information Authority of Japan Map)

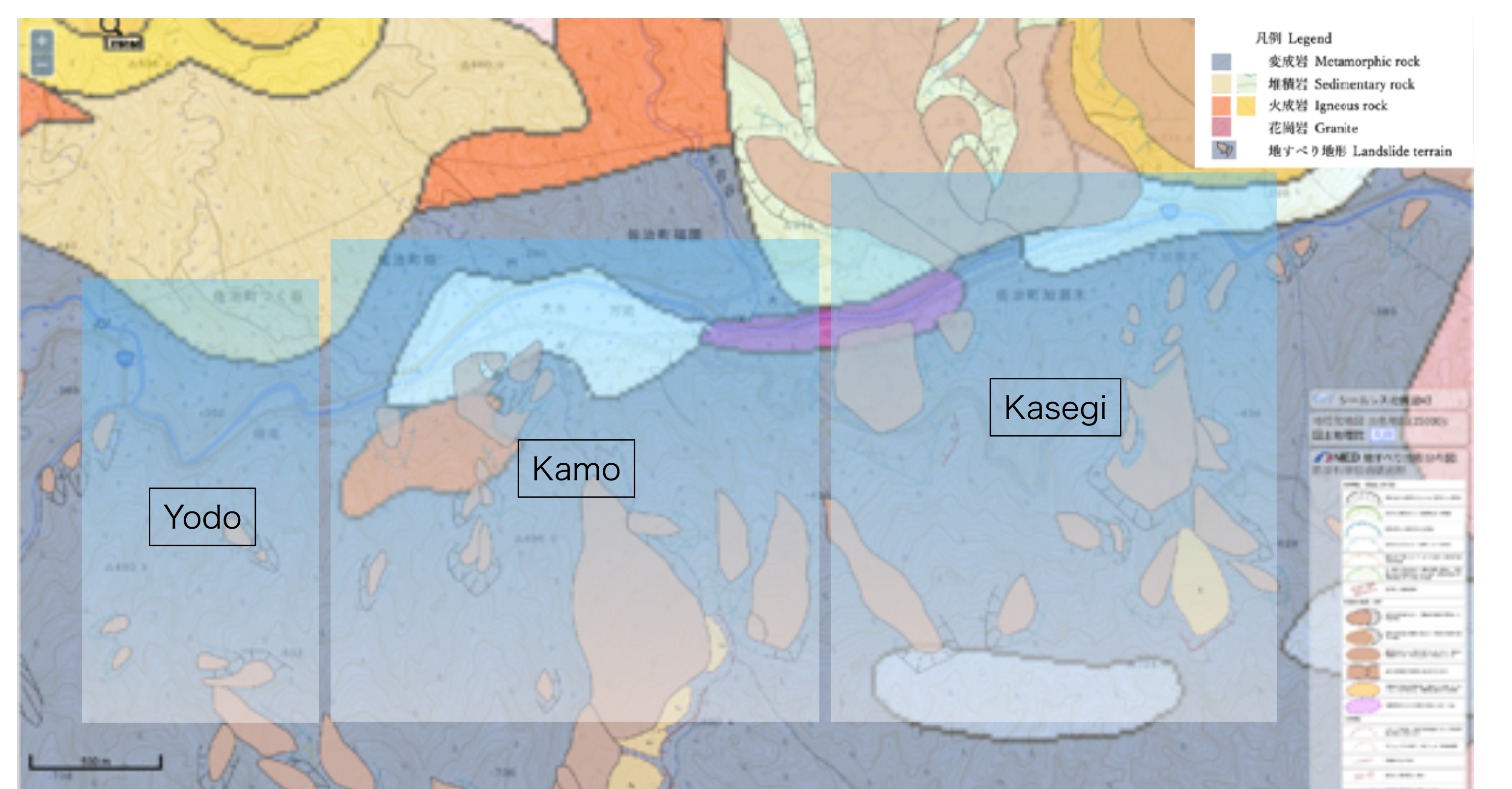


Figure.5 Geological map of the three villages (AIST seamless geological map)

-Houses, rice paddy fields, vegetable fields, slash and burn fields are located near urushi fields from the low-altitude riverside toward the mountains.  
-Slash and burn fields are on the slope of a mountain.  
-The lines of ridges expressed the shape of terraced fields and terraced rice paddy fields on the mountain slopes.  
-As it is generally said that pine trees are suitable for dry areas and lacquer is suitable for wet areas, many urushi fields tend to be distributed in the valleys.  
-The area that suffered from the landslides of the valley is currently being used for pear fields (Figs. 4 and 5).  
-At the time, they were used for vegetable fields and urushi fields (Figs. 3 and 5).

## IV Conclusion

### ●Differences between the three villages

-Kamo Village is an area that had the most active urushi fields.  
-Kasegi had many slash and burn fields and a urushi field above them in Kasegi.  
-Yodo had many wastelanded urushi fields painted green. We infer that the waiting period is for trees to recover after being sapped and for the new seedlings to grow after being sown.

### ●Commonality between the three villages

-The site of the urushi field was used for the production of mulberry, tobacco, and pear until 1965, when production stopped. The scenery of the village is completely different from that of the Edo period (Fig. 4).

### ●Conclusion

-From the above, the area that suffered from the landslides is regarded as a promising candidate site for reclaimed urushi fields.



Current Kamo

### References

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