

Guide to Kaduma Anazeki



Kaduma Anazeki Headworks



Midori Net Kaduma

Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District

History of Kaduma Anazeki

The history of trunk channel of this land improvement district dates back to 1599, when the Nambu Feud ordered Jinroku Kamatsuda, an expert minor, to drill an 11-meter long, 1.8-meter wide tunnel through Tsurugi-nagane, a series of cliffs of Mt. Yuzaka-yama and construction a dam, to take water from the Shizukuishi-gawa River to develop paddy field area to improve management of the feud. Two years before that, Nobunao Nambu, the 26th feudal lord of Nambu Feud began construction of a new castle to move the capital of the feud from Sannohe (now in Aomori Prefecture) to Kozukata (now in Morioka City), then the feud needed to develop new paddy fields. This official dam for irrigation of Nambu Fued is the precursor to the Kaduna Anazeki Headworks. The rice cultivated and harvested from paddy fields irrigated by water from this dam was said to be of the best quality of all rice produced in the feud and was all stored in the feud's rice storage houses.

This official dam for irrigation was named Kuduma Dam, because the dam was built to irrigate the area formerly called Kaduma-mura Village.

Thereafter, lateral channels were added one by one to the irrigation channel from irrigation dam in association with the tunnel expansion works done in 1670 by Jinshichi Yoshida, the first dam chief, with supports to drilling of the Kaduma Shinseki (Kaduma New Dam) by the feud, and repeated efforts of the feud to develop new paddy fields. A historical document "Nambushiyou (meaning Nambu History Summary)" (published in 1911) says "The area irrigated by the system is very wide, with several tens of lateral channels, of which the most outstanding are four villages; namely, Kami-kaduma, Naka-kaduma, Shimo-kaduma, Shin-kaduma, and extending to both Iwate and Shiwa Counties. The upland fields that were converted to good paddy fields by this irrigation system were significant, amounting to 30 thousand koku or more (one koku is almost equivalent to about 180 liters) in terms of rice production.



Former Kaduma Anazeki Headworks



Water intake at the former Kaduma Anazeki Headworks

Many years thereafter, in 1886, during the Meiji Restoration after abolishment of the feud administration system, the Kaduma Anazeki Irrigation Dokoukai was established to take over the management and maintenance of the official feud dam. In 1894, the Kaduma Anazeki General Irrigation Association (1st stage) was established, thereby the management of the dam was delegated to the private sector for the first time. Further, in 1910, the association was reformed to the Kaduma Anazeki General Irrigation Association (2nd stage), the precursor to the Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District. After enforcement of the Land Improvement Law in 1949, the association was reformed in 1951 to make a fresh restart as the present Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District.

During these years of transformation, the Kaduma Anazeki Arable Land Union was established in 1926 to excavate lateral channels that branched from the Kaduma Main Dam and the associated arable land reform. In 1947, on completion of this project, the union merged with the Kaduma Anazeki General Irrigation Association, precursor to the Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District. The Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District expanded through a series of mergers in 1949 of the Shinyamano Arable Land Union which was established in 1920, in 1971 of the Kemuriyama Land Improvement District, and in 1975 of the Fudou Land Improvement District. In 1985, duplication with the Sannoukai Land Improvement District was resolved.

The Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District has been purchasing mountain forest areas in Ohshuku Area, Shizukuishi-cho Town, Iwate County and developing headwater forests since 1928, when it was yet a general irrigation association, to conserve the water source area of the Shizukuishi-gawa River, from which the irrigation water is taken. The headwater forest belonging to the Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District now amounts to 233 hectares, and form beautiful forests of Japanese cedars, Japanese trees of genus Zelkova, etc. In 1987, the Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District was decorated by the prime minister for contribution to promotion of greening.



Headwater forest

Although this land improvement district has a long history, with its origin as management and maintenance of water channel for irrigation of the Nambu Feud’s official irrigation water dam system, it is now quite modern in its facility, as a result of a series of works explained below. In 1953, the “Shizukuishi-gawa River Irrigation and Drainage Improvement Project,” a prefectural project, started, followed in 1960 by the start of the “Shizukuishi-gawa River Area Agriculture Irrigation Project,” a central government’s project. These projects improved and expanded the main channels, which were originally dug by traditional and primitive methods without timbering, and converted them into lined channels, improved the headworks, built new dams. As a result of all these efforts, the improved system now irrigates about 5,000 hectares of paddy fields in its area of jurisprudence.

After completion of these projects, problems still remained to be solved. These are obsolescence of facilities that had been in prolonged use after completion, instability of water supply in the western part of the project area where water supply had been dependent upon small streams. To correct such situations, the “Morioka Southern Area Agricultural Water Utilization Project,” a second-stage central government project, started in 1989. Thereafter in 1995, a land reform prefectural project done in association with the central government project started to install new irrigation channels and drainage canals, to separate irrigation channels and drainage canals, to install pumping stations and new irrigation channels in the western part of the project site, thus realized stable supply of irrigation water, thereby contributed to stability and modernization of the local agricultural economy.

The Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District consists of Morioka City, prefectural capital, Yahabe-cho Town, Shiwa-cho Town. Recently, there is a tendency of population being concentrated in urban surroundings, which causes agricultural land in urbanization promotion areas to be converted into residential sites. Along with such trends, problems prone to be caused by urbanization, such as discharge of foul water into irrigation channels and drainage canals, are becoming serious. In 1984, the land improvement district established jointly with the city and town governments in the area of jurisprudence the Kaduma Anazeki Area Irrigation Channel, etc. Utilization Coordination Conference, and discussing countermeasures, etc.

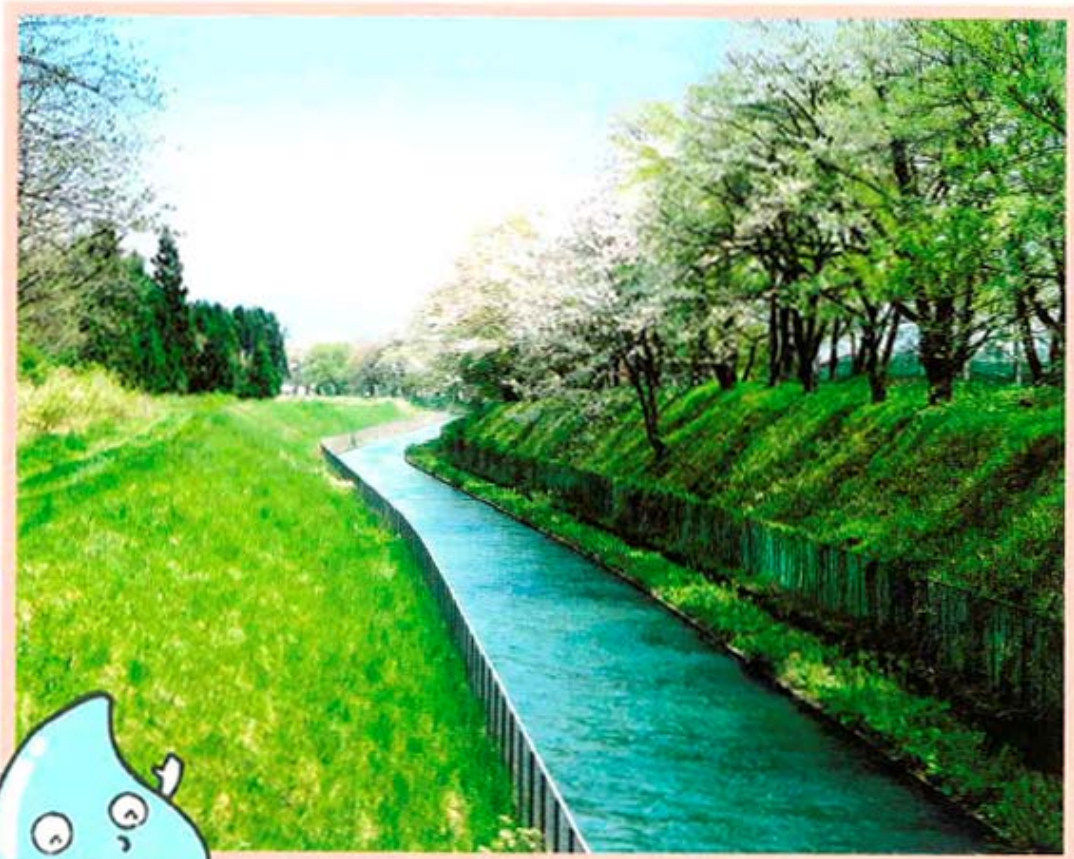


Inariba Large Diversion Work

Against the background of ever rising expectation on the part of people for realization of multifunctionality—“such as natural environment conservation, headwater conservation”—of agriculture and agricultural communities as an element of the movement towards 21st century Land Improvement District Development, the land improvement district conducts activities for maintenance and conservation of environment of the channel side parks around the Kaduma Anazeki Headworks, as an effort to have the importance of this facility better and extensively understood by as many people as possible, with a view to realizing attractive and rich agricultural communities. These activities—cleaning of channel side parks, for example, so easy that everyone can do—are done in cooperation with community people and organizations. The land improvement district will intensify such activities, in other places for example, and thereby intensify activities for promotion of 21st century Land Improvement District Development movements.



Planting activity near Kaduma Anazeki Headworks



Kaduma Main Dam



Tama chan

Compiled and published by
Kaduma Anazeki Land Improvement District