

Executive summary

Genbegawa Irrigation Canal

As the Nakazato district laid in the plain land, which had a 1/200 – slope, situated between two rivers, it was suitable place for rice growing. However, to develop the paddy effectively, it needed a main watercourse. A man called Gembe, a local leader in the 16th century, started constructing the ditch to irrigate the arable land over 11 villages in the Nakazato district.

Many of the bank protections on ditch made by lava bond were constructed by the lava extrusion from Mt. Fuji, which is now one of the world heritages. They provided a pioneering approach there. As the spring water from Mt. Fuji snow runoff is cold, they planned to broaden out the upper part of the ditch and reduce the water depth in order to raise the water temperature. They built the flow channel in a high altitude to prevent frothing in from muddy water by heavy rain. These innovative attempts turned this area into a major paddy field zone, and contributed to more advanced agricultural community. The reservoir was also constructed in the recent repair works.

There was a time that urbanization substantially deteriorated the water quality, but the approach for environmental conservation efforts including repair business of caring environment has restored the quality. The NPO, Groundwork Mishima, in charge of the facility management, held more than 200 times of workshops in three years in order to establish the water management system by citizen, NPO, government, businesses, farmers and water managers on the basis of the partnership.



1960s



Right now



Mt. Fuji and the reservoir for controlling water temperature



Location