

Community and the Conservation of Cultural Landscape – A case of Longan in Taiwan



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Cultural Landscape and Cultural Heritage

- In the field of cultural heritage, the cultural landscape defined as "combined works of nature and of man".
- Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.



- In the system of World Heritage, out of 120 sites were nominated as cultural landscape due to its historic, cultural values.



- A pilot research on the significances of the longan cultivation as cultural landscape has been conducted.
- In the landscape of agriculture or others, various elements, including tangible and intangible, are also the part of daily life of local people in the landscape field.
- How to conduct the investigation, registration, management of the cultural landscape with local community is an advanced process in Taiwan even the importance and necessity is gradually recognised in the field of cultural heritage.

Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- Lognan is a tropical tree that produces edible fruit. The tree may grow over 30m in height.
- Lognan and Lychee are also mentioned simultaneously: not only the growing area are almost the same, form, leaves, flowers are also similar.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

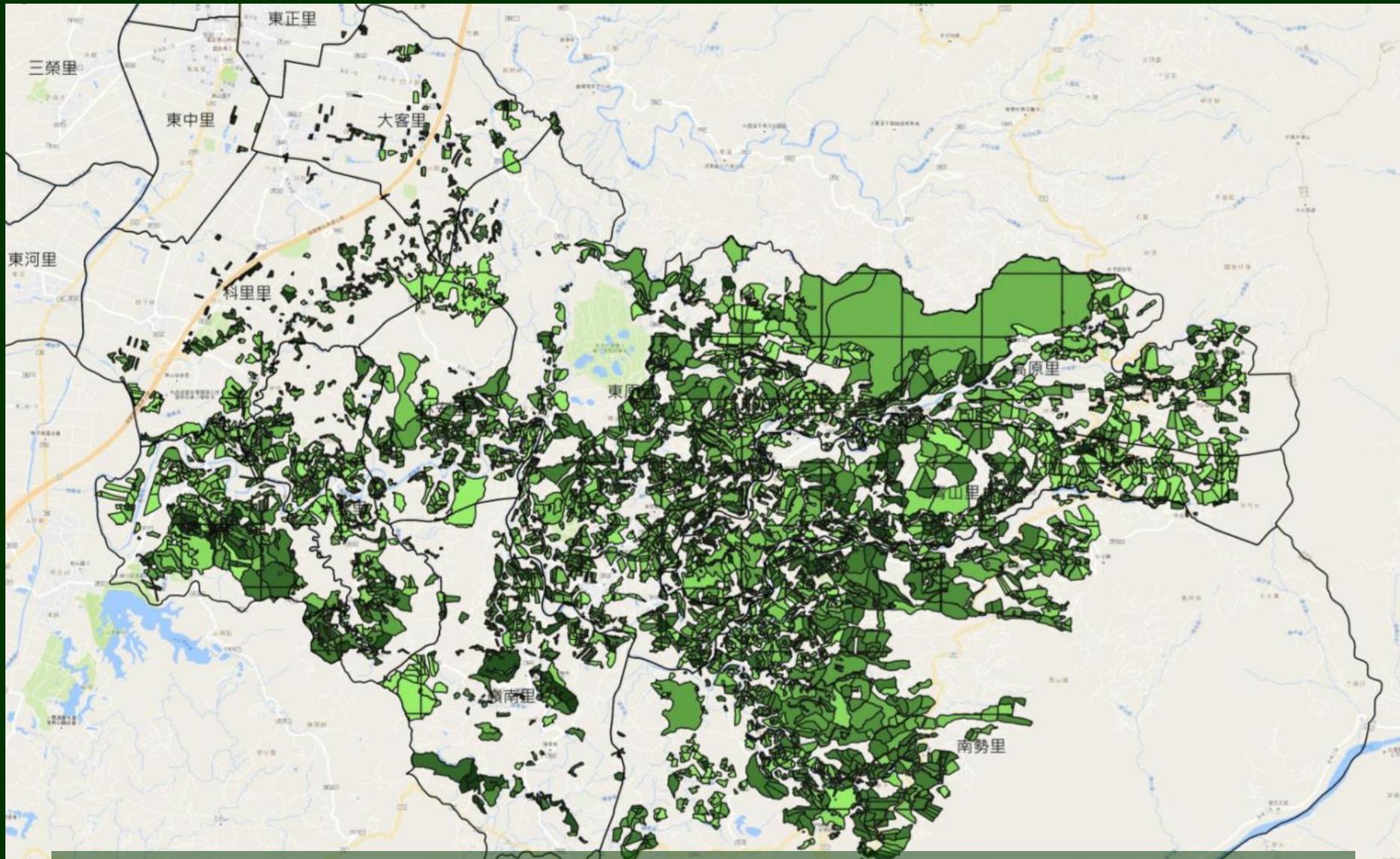
- Although the fruit is edible, it is usually hard to be preserved and transported freshly.
- The roasting (drying) process may remove most of moisture in the fruit, by which the roasted lognan could be preserved in room temperature.
- Although the fruit of Lognan are not as sweet and juicy as lychee, the roasted lognan is well known for its nourishing function in Chinese Medicine and widely used in food and dessert.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- For this reason, in the hill area of southern Taiwan, there is a landscape of cultivating lognan tree and roasting stoves.





- In Dongshan District, through investigation, more than 1,227 hectare land cultivates lognan which is a highly concentrated area in Taiwan.

- Some of the cultivated land is also mixed with orange, tangerine even coffee tree. However, lognan tree is widely recognized in the landscape.



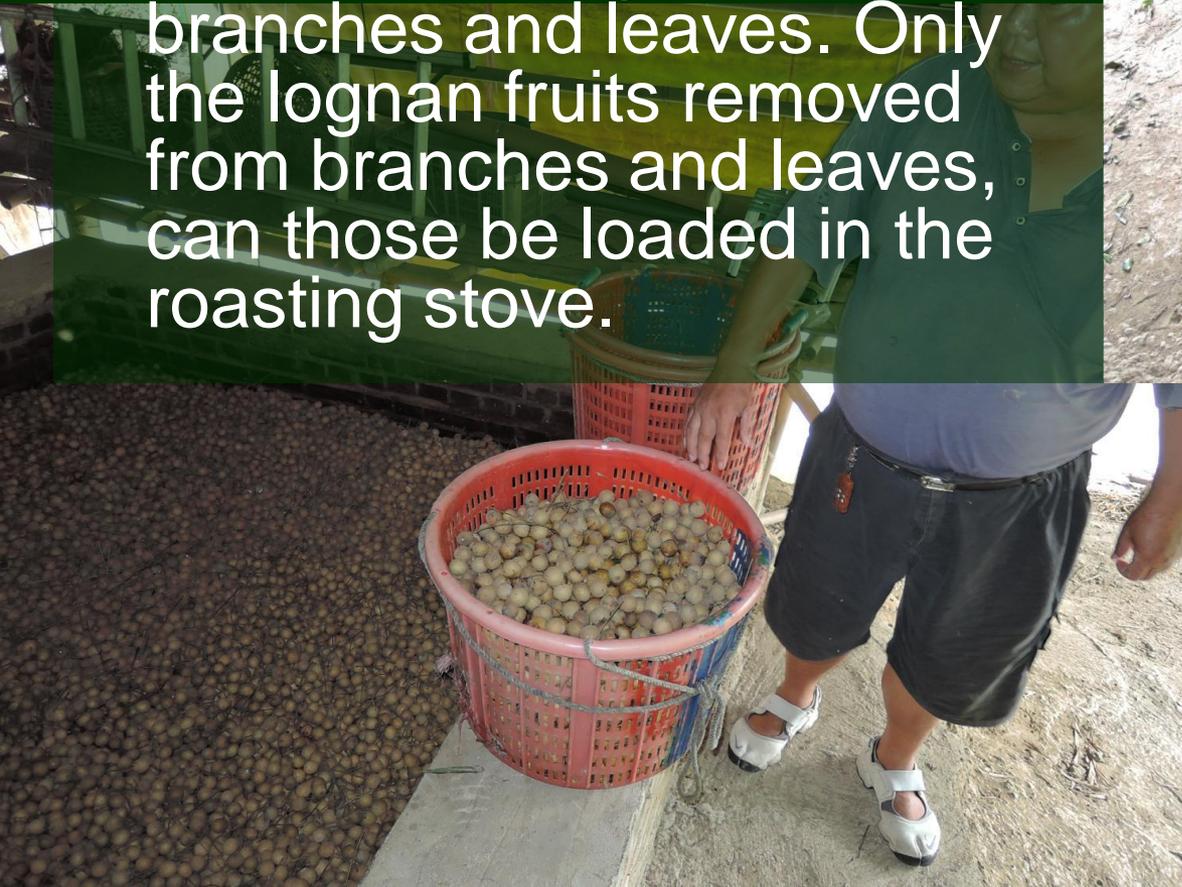
Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- The process of roasting could be described as follow:
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- i. Picking
- Traditionally, due to the height, picking of lognan fruits needs specific tools, or by climbing up with ladder.
- In recent years, trees were dwarfed for picking and cultivating.
- However, this is still a labor intensive work which is usually done by family member. Sometimes hiring temporary workers is also necessary.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- i. Picking
- Cultivated lognan fruits are fresh and along with branches and leaves. Only the lognan fruits removed from branches and leaves, can those be loaded in the roasting stove.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- ii. Roasting Stove for Lognan
- The roasting of lognan is made on a special design stove. The stove has two level: the under level made for fire and smoke, and the upper level for throwing in fresh lognan.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- ii. Roasting Stove for Lognan
- Traditionally, these stoves were made according to the hill land, although some is made on a plain. As for the material of the stove, it usually uses local, convenient, inexpensive material.
- Thus it could be made by adobe brick in the past, now is probably made by normal brick, while in the more mountainous area it also could be made by stone, by which various forms could be seen.
- However, there will always have a rooftop on it because rain and water should be avoided during the roasting process.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

A large industrial roasting stove, resembling a tank, is filled with a vast quantity of small, round, light-brown lognan fruits. The stove is divided into sections by dark metal walls. In the background, a person wearing blue jeans is partially visible, and there are some lights and equipment, suggesting an indoor processing facility.

- iii. Process of Roasting
- The season of cultivation usually lies on August to September. Once the fruit of lognan is cultivated, it should be roasted as soon as possible.
- The fruit will be loaded in the upper level of the stove, which likes a tank. In each tank 1,200 kg raw fruit of lognan may be loaded. The roasting process will last for 5-7 days, and farmers will have to stay aside the roasting stove day and night to control the fire.

Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- iii. Process of Roasting
- It can be only roasted by mild fire. Once the fire starts, on the one hand it could not be burned out, it also could not rage on the other.
- Only the hot smoke curl through the whole stove, by which the moisture inside the fruit is removed, and the sweet taste and smoke smell is retained.



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- iii. Process of Roasting
- The most important process is overturn of fruits. To make sure every fruit in the tank is well roasted, the overturn process must carry out every day. It includes up-down and front-rear process, and uses specific tools made by bamboo.
- The overturn process requires strength and skill, however it's difficult for those aged farmers. New crane and basket are designed for the overturn process now, by which the roasting stove and its building has also slightly changed.



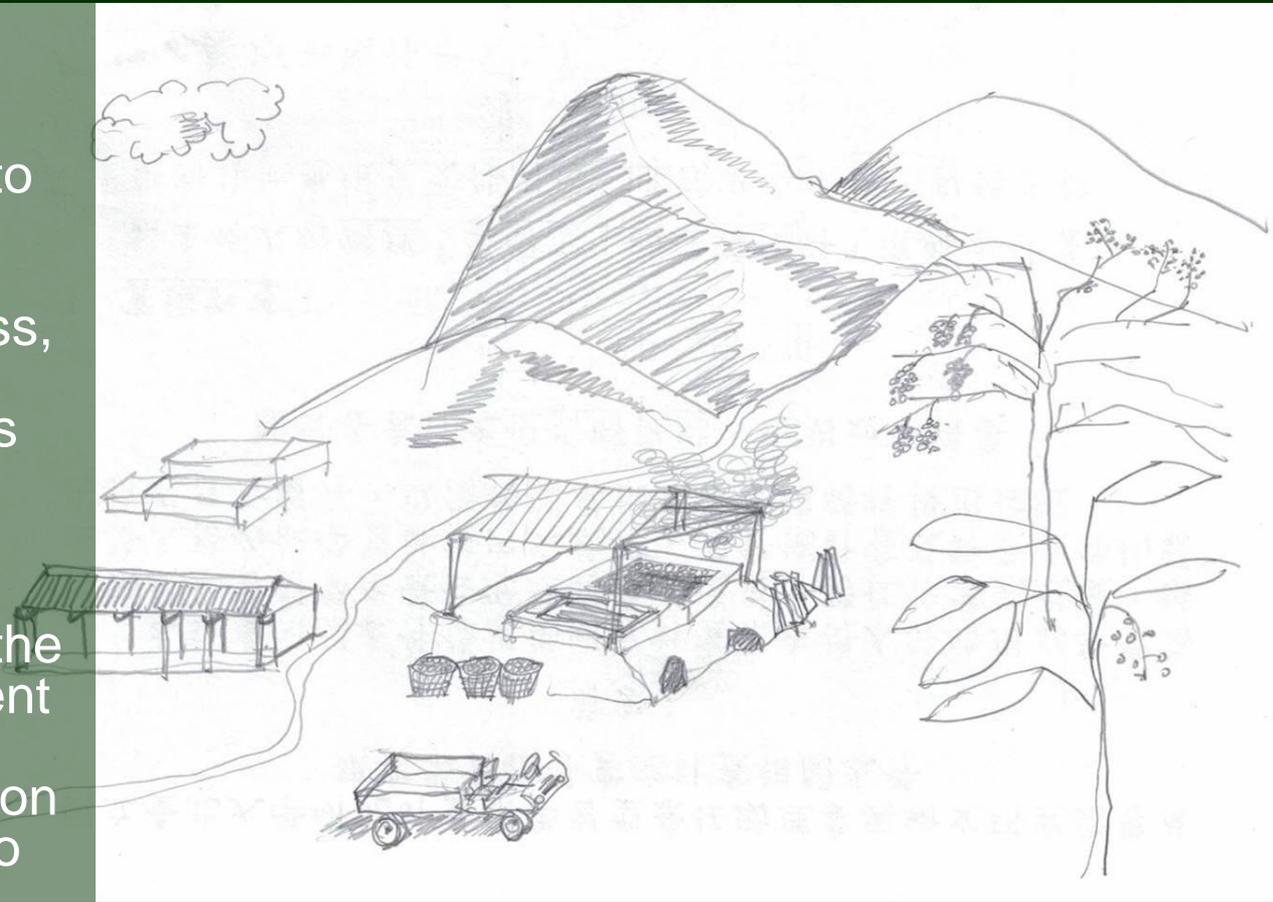
Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- iii. Process of Roasting
- After all fruits on the hill is roasted, farmers will clean the stove and have thanksgiving ceremony.
- The roasted fruits weight only one-third of original, and are carefully stored. Some roasted-fruits will be sold directly, while others will be processed again to remove shell and seeds, by which the flesh is kept and preserved.



Lognan Cultivation, Producing and Cultural Landscape

- iv. The Landscape of Lognan
- It's a landscape that people use land and environment condition to cultivate lognan, which could be preserved through roasting process, and could earn money through selling products outside the site.
- It's also a significant landscape to represent economic activities on the hill area which is different to those on the plain, which shows the intention of people to work and to use of nature.



- As for the cultural heritage value of the landscape, it is obvious a landscape which has evolved for more than 50 years, since the cultivation of longan has been recorded from 150 years ago.
- The use of resources and ways of life and economic production show a significant example of sustainable land use in the hill area.
- In this way the community member shower their identity and self-confidence over the area they live which become the basic foundation of social significant of the cultural landscape.



Community and Investigation

- The landscape of longan actually is part of daily life of local people. There are also various stories and context inside.
- The investigation with community people may explore locations of every element in the field. It also may provide a new chance to communicate with local people by which the idea of cultural landscape, cultural heritage, conservation and maintain, may be spread upon local people.



Participating Investigation

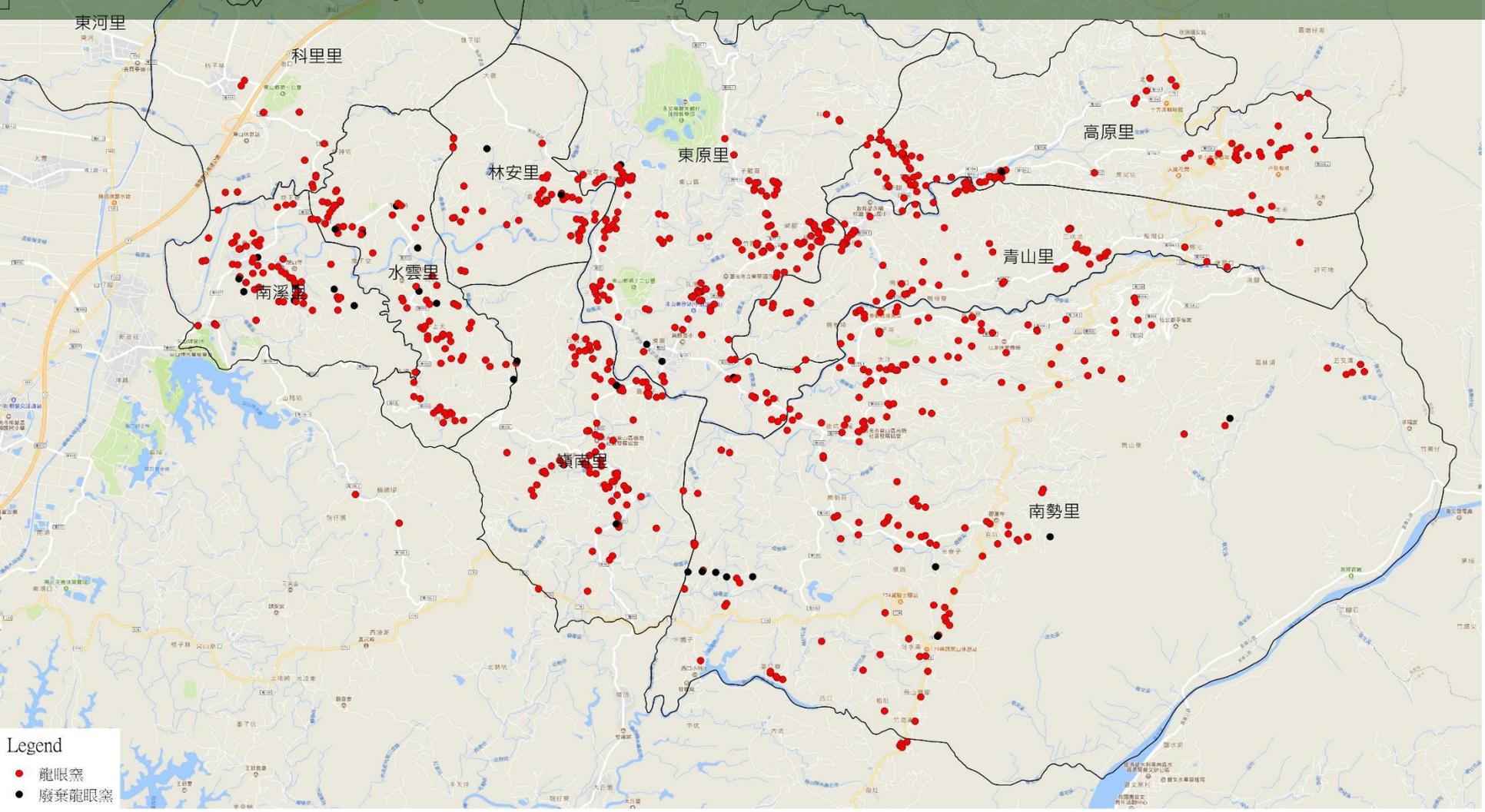
- The participating investigation is held by research team and local people.
- (1) Through the local participation, the research team may go deep into the local community.



Participating Investigation

- (2) Local people, especially for the community in the country side, have well understanding of detail of their own community. Since the social network in the local community is usually complex and close, some stories other than the style or material of roasting stove may be reported, even the owner is not at the site.
- (3) Local people, especially those who joined the case study travel, have already held basic knowledge of cultural heritage and cultural landscape. In the social network of local community, it is better that the discussion between local people, than the announcement from research team or government. It will be useful for the transmission of the idea of conservation and helpful for government authorities in the future.

- out of 23 times of participating investigation were held, one to four local people helped each time.
- More than 774 roasting cottages and 1,998 roasting stoves were recorded in the project. Every cottage may contain one to eight roasting stoves.



Conservation Challenge through Community Opinions

- A roasting stove may not be registered as a legal agricultural facility only if the soil and water conservation work is built and recognized.
- However, not all roasting stoves require a complete and expensive soil and water conservation work as the law described.
- Another problem facing is aging population in the area, people who work in this industry are in their 50-60s and 70-80.
- This may cause the precious agricultural landscape disappearing in the next 15-20 years.

Conservation Principles Derived from Community Participation

- (1) In the conservation work, different authorities and tools should be included.
- (2) Since the cultural landscape is a dynamic and ever change process, the conservation may allow reasonable and necessary change.



Conservation Principles Derived from Community Participation

- (3) People is the center of a cultural landscape, by which the conservation and management plan including welfare of community member is inevitable.
- (4) The conservation and protection of tangible and intangible heritage in the landscape will enhance the value of a cultural heritage.
- (5) Conservation work should not violate the idea of sustainability which is also valued by other legal systems.

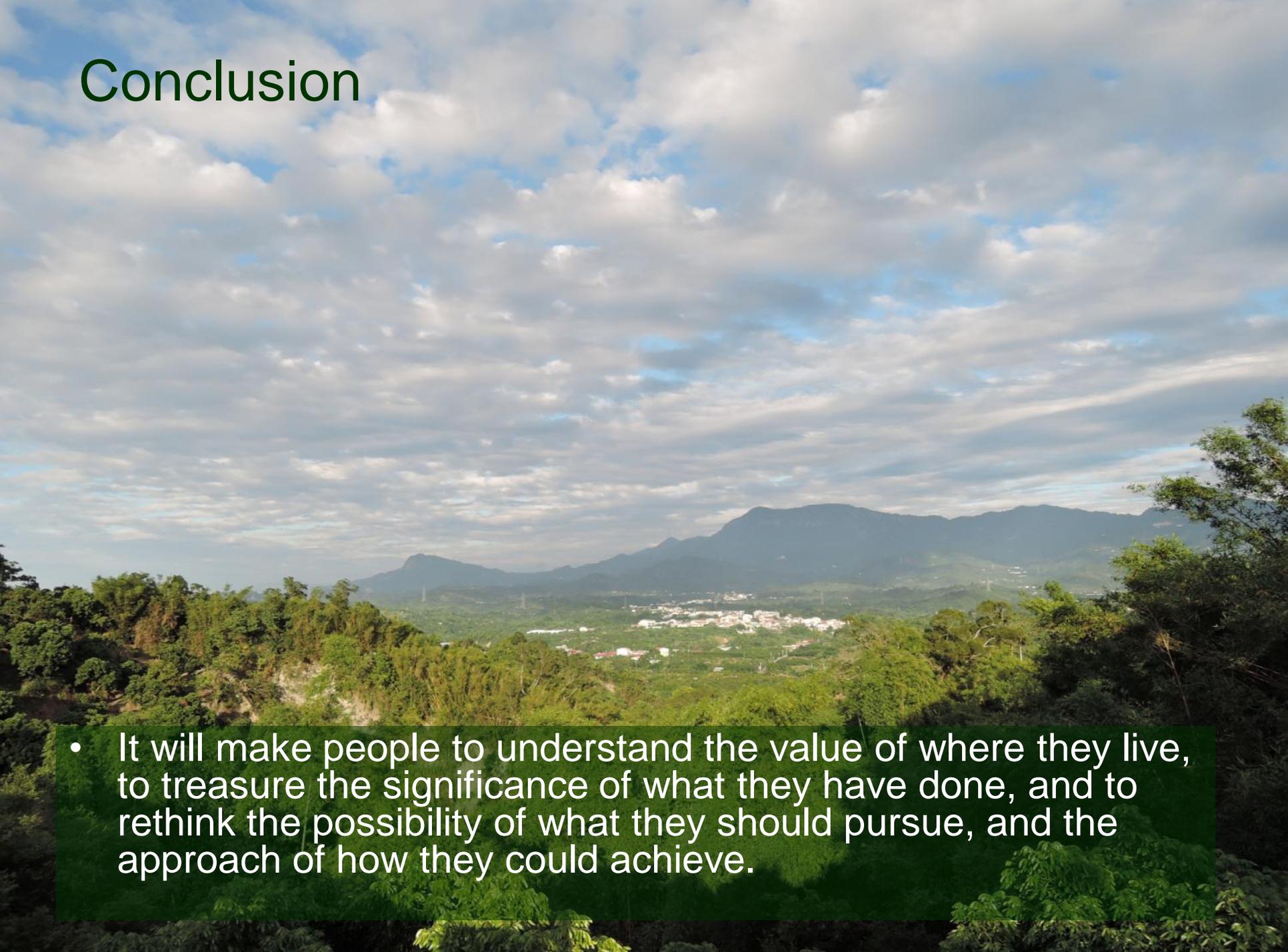




Conclusion

- A site of cultural landscape comprised of local people and their life. A museum of daily life may be a concept for demonstration, research, exhibition, education and promotion in the local scale.
- For the conservation of a cultural landscape of lognan cultivation and production, the museum will also become a good media for local people to rethink and discussion.

Conclusion



- It will make people to understand the value of where they live, to treasure the significance of what they have done, and to rethink the possibility of what they should pursue, and the approach of how they could achieve.

Thank you for your attention!

