

# **“Protecting natural dye-plants and traditional dyeing-technique in Japan:**

**Promotion of natural dyes as  
sustainable natural resources through  
expert-networks.**

UNESCO International Symposium & Workshop

On Natural Dyes

6-12 November 2006, Hyderabad, INDIA

**By Hisako Sumi &  
NGO EARTH NETWORK**

**Researching and promoting natural colour**

# *Strobilanthes cusia* in Okinawa

## Making Indigo Pigments

### HIGA Indigo Farm



This vat is used for  
150 years.



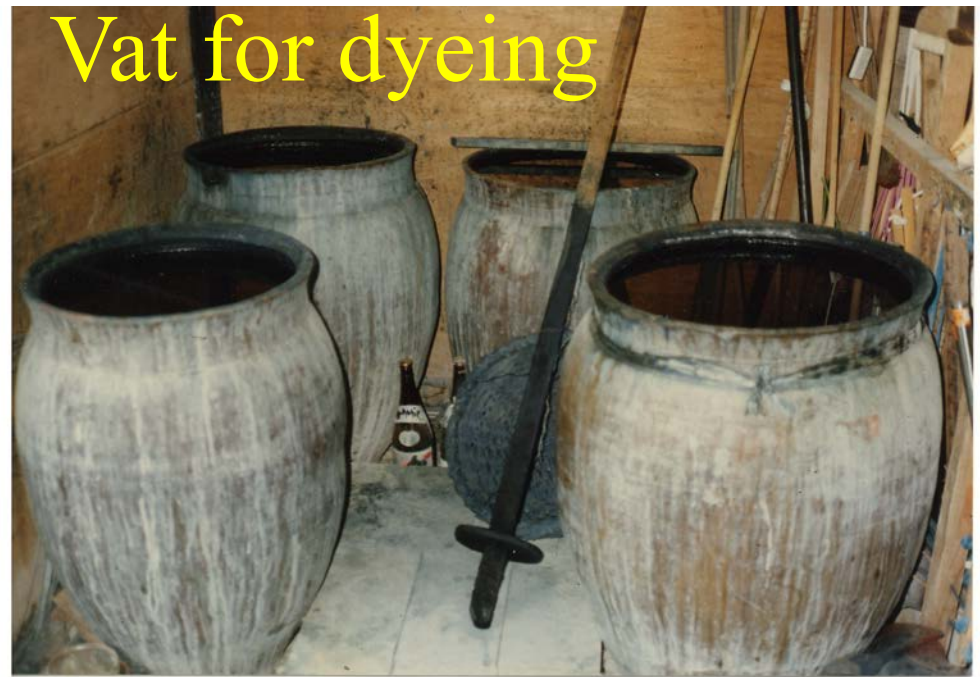


# Process of making indigo pigments in Okinawa





Vat for stock



Bashyo yarn for ikat



# Murasaki (endangered plant )

*Lithospermum erythrorhizon* Siebolt et Zucc





# Murasaki at Hiraodai in Kyusyu





Murasaki,  
rate of germination  
is very low, and  
intercross happens easy.





# Center for Medicinal Plant Resources, National Institute of Biomedical Innovation



1 year  
roots



Cultivated species



*Rubia cordifolia* L. var. *pratensis* Maxim.





# *Conservation of Isatis tinctoria var. yezoensis*, Hokkaido





# *Rubina akane*



published in science  
textbook for high  
schools, approved by  
government for the  
2008 school year



# *Clerodendron trichotomum*



No mordant dyeing  
& Lipophilic nature



# Promotion of making SUKUMO & indigo pigments using *Polygonum tinctorium* and make vats.



Anybody can dye silk, wool, cotton, ramie on its own, in a garden



The educational tool using natural dyes and pigments that we developed, purchase by children and schools. It's increasing yearly. At least, my some photo-data will be published in science textbook for high schools approved by government for the 2008 school year.



NGO Earth Network collaborates with

Natural Dyes and Pigments Conference,

<http://ndpc.info>

Research Center for Medicinal Plant Resources,  
National Institute of Biomedical Innovation.



- I believe that our activities can be expanded to an international level. Research on natural dye plants, shells and insects should be continued world-wide.
- I hope that this symposium will be the beginning of such an international movement.

Hisako Sumi