

Welcome Address

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Secretariat of Agriculture
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Distinguished guests and participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, it is my great pleasure to extend the most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the "International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resource Management in the Tropics" which has been organized and sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center in collaboration with the National Institute of Agrobiological Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Since the first symposium was held in 1967 under the auspices of the Tropical Agriculture Research Program of the Council, the Council has devoted its efforts to promote international collaboration with the tropical countries in the fields of agriculture and forestry research.

I am very pleased to learn that today's symposium is the twenty-seventh of its kind and that for the last twenty-six years, a large number of research scientists from abroad and Japan have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

I am also pleased to inform you that this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first agricultural research station in Japan in 1893. Therefore the Council decided that today's symposium should be held in commemoration of One Century of Agricultural Research in Japan.

This symposium has been organized in view of the importance of genetic resource management which should prevent valuable germplasm from being lost, and pave the way for the improvement of various crops in the countries located in the tropics and sub-tropics.

In this context, the symposium is very important and I am convinced that useful information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations for the collection, evaluation, maintenance, and utilization of such genetic resources.

I do hope that the symposium will be fruitful and successful.

I again wish to express my cordial welcome to all the distinguished guests and participants.

Thank you.