

Inaugural Address

Shinya Tsuru
Director General
Tropical Agriculture Research Center

Distinguished Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center (TARC), I have the honor and privilege to open the "International Symposium on Utilization of Feed Resources in Relation to Nutrition and Physiology of Ruminants in the Tropics" sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan.

Above all, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to all the guests and the participants, in particular to those who have come to Japan from abroad.

The TARC was established in 1970 with the objective of contributing to the development of agricultural technology in the tropical areas in undertaking research programs in a spirit of international collaboration.

The basic principle of our research activities is to work together with overseas scientists on a partnership basis to solve technical obstacles which hamper the agricultural development of the tropical and sub-tropical countries and regions. The TARC activities cover a fairly wide range of research fields such as crop production, plant protection, soil and water management, pasture and animal husbandry, agriculture and food engineering, forestry and agroforestry, and so on.

One of the major activities of the TARC is to send research scientists to overseas research institutions located in the tropical and sub-tropical countries and regions to conduct collaborative research work on the above-mentioned research areas. Over 40 staff members of the TARC with long-term assignments have been engaged each year in such collaborative activities in many parts of the world, mainly in the Asian countries and partly in South America and Africa during the past two decades.

Another important activity of the TARC is to hold international symposia for exchanging information and ideas among different countries and among scientists concerned. Since 1967 these symposia have been held each year, covering such subjects as crop production, plant protection, soil and water management, pasture and animal husbandry, and so on.

The present symposium, the twenty-fifth of its kind, will give the opportunity to consider the current situation and future prospects of utilization of feed resources of ruminants in the tropics.

It is generally recognized that presently the tropical and sub-tropical countries are faced with various kinds of nutritional constraints on the production of ruminant livestock, which are presumably caused by a shortage of feed supply, low quality of roughage, climatic stress, and so on.

Therefore, emphasis should be placed on the development of feeding strategies for ruminant livestock to improve the nutritional status.

On the other hand, these countries have a potential to utilize various kinds of fibrous feed resources derived from agricultural residues and by-products. Therefore, physiological and nutritional conditions of ruminants should be identified for the utilization of fibrous feed resources to enhance the productive efficiency as well as to improve fibrous feed resources.

In the nearest future, to promote sustainable ruminant production, it will be necessary to evaluate the factors responsible for such constraints on feed resources in order to implement appropriate measures to improve these factors.

In the present symposium, the causes of the constraints will be evaluated based on scientific data. The establishment of relevant measures for their improvement with emphasis placed on sustainable utilization of feed resources in taking account of the nutrition and physiology of ruminants in the tropics and sub-tropics will be discussed.

I am convinced that these exchanges of information will further contribute to the enhancement of research in these areas.

I sincerely hope that this symposium will be significant and useful in contributing to the development of effective measures for the promotion of sustainable animal production in the tropics and sub-tropics.

I also hope that our friendship and cooperation will be further strengthened through our joint effort in reaching this common target of immense importance.

Thank you.