

Welcome Address

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Chairman

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MAFF

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), it is my great pleasure to extend sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Sustainable Agricultural Development Compatible with Environmental Conservation in Asia which has been organized and sponsored by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).

The Research Council has been continuing, among other activities, to promote international research collaboration with both developing and developed countries as well as with international research organizations. To strengthen these activities, 4 years ago, the former Tropical Agriculture Research Center (TARC) was reorganized into an entirely new research center, JIRCAS, with an expanded mandate in the covering of regions as well as research subjects. This is actually the 4th International Symposium since the establishment of JIRCAS.

In recent years, food supply and environmental deterioration problems on a global scale have become increasingly critical, especially in the developing regions. It is generally recognized that sustainable development of agriculture is essential to solve these problems, and I believe that Asia is the most important region from this point of view. Therefore, the objective of this symposium is to discuss with world authorities on food and environmental problems what international research collaboration should be like, in order to promote sustainable agricultural development compatible with environmental conservation in Asia.

I am convinced that valuable information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during this symposium.

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

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

Thank you.