

## Closing Words

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Since last Monday we have been discussing on four groups of major rice diseases and their control measures including the use of resistant varieties.

In tropical Asia, climatic condition is favourable to rice cultivation and rice has been a major food supply source to Asian people because of its high productivity as compared with other cereals. Thus the ancient civilization had flourished in major rice growing areas in Asia and disseminated therefrom to other parts of the world. In this region, however, tropical human diseases had been on epidemic and had been suppressing the increase of human population. The advent of modern medical science reduced human mortality caused by these diseases and explosive population increase is occurring in many Asian countries. To meet with the increased need of food supply, we have to seek for measures to increase the production of rice.

Together with human being, rice crop in this region has been suffering from various hindrance including diseases and I am expecting that recent advanced science and techniques which protect crops from diseases and insect pests may play a similar role in rice production increase as medical science did in relation to the human population increase. I am confident that participants in this symposium have discussed on various phases of rice diseases and their control measures to find clues to the solution of the problem of rice production increase. Regarding this problem, adoption of high yielding varieties, fertilization at high level accompanied with denser spacing, introduction of irrigation and shift from single cropping to double cropping are frequently spoken among rice specialists, but it should be mentioned that these techniques are liable to induce more serious occurrence of rice diseases. Without due recognition of this liability, rice production increase in this region would hardly be achieved.

The combat against rice diseases in this region should start with the acquisition of proper knowledge on the identification of disease and their causal pathogens including the existence of strains. I trust that participants in this Symposium could exchange their knowledge on these points through their presentation of papers and discussions made thereon. The remarkable success the medical science achieved in the eradication of tropical human diseases could be attributed to the adoption of the epidemiological concept in the practical control procedure and I am believing that the same concept is to be adopted in the combat against rice diseases. A number of participants to this Symposium referred to this point briefly to understand the occurrence of some diseases. Although a series of pesticides are being used in controlling rice diseases in this country, but their use in most countries other than this country would involve economic problem if the use is studied in term of cost benefit ratio for the moment. This problem, I am hoping, should be discussed in more detail on another opportunity not in far distance.

This is the Symposium the Research Council held for the second time regarding rice in this region. The first one was on the development and ripening of rice grain. And it was convened on the opportunity of the Eleventh Pacific Science Congress held in 1966. In spite of rather poor linguistic ability of most of Japanese participants, the symposium went on wonderfully in success by the kind and friendly cooperation of foreign participants and I

most cordially express my appreciation of this cooperation of foreign participants.

We are going to publish the proceedings of this Symposium aiming at distributing the achievements made at this occasion to those rice workers who could not attend this Symposium. Accordingly, I would like to request the distinguished participants to join and cooperate in preparing the proceedings.

Distinguished participants, I am now coming to say last words. May I hope that you all may enjoy the sightseeing in this city scheduled in this afternoon and field trip starting in next morning. May I hope your good health, happiness in your life and further success in your work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and friends, thank you again.