

## Welcome Address

Toshihiko Nishio  
Director General  
Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Fisheries Research Council

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 Production of Vegetables in the Tropics and Sub-Tropics" which is being organized by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, in collaboration with the National Research Institute of Vegetables, Ornamental Plants and Tea, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, respectively.

The first symposium which was held under the auspices of the Tropical Agriculture Research Program of the Council took place in 1967. Since that time, the Council has devoted its efforts to promote international cooperation with the tropical countries in agricultural research fields.

I am very much pleased to learn that the present symposium is the twenty-third of its kind and that for the last twenty-two 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.

The present symposium has been organized in view of the importance of the improvement of vegetable crops/varieties, their cultivation methods and cultural environment under tropical and sub-tropical conditions to achieve sustainable vegetable production. Indeed, the consumption of vegetables contributes to the improvement of human nutrition worldwide as well as to the diversification of crop production in the tropics.

The symposium, in this context, is very important and I am convinced that various and valuable information on vegetable production in each country will be exchanged throughout the discussions during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations to alleviate the constraints on vegetable production.

I do hope that the symposium will be successful.

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

Thank you