

## Welcome Address

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National Research Institute of  
Vegetables, Ornamental  
Plants and Tea

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Research Institute of Vegetables, Ornamental Plants and Tea, I wish to extend a cordial welcome to all the participants particularly to those from abroad.

Our research institute is the only national organization in Japan responsible for comprehensive research on vegetable production which is the subject of the current symposium. Research activities of our institute cover a wide range of themes relating to vegetables including genetics, breeding, physiology, cultivation methods, post-harvest technologies, pathology, entomology and soil science.

While many other agricultural research institutes including the Tropical Agriculture Research Center are located in Tsukuba Science City, our institute is located in Mie Prefecture where the environmental conditions are more suitable for the cultivation of many vegetables. This is the reason why the symposium is held here at Tsu City. In that sense, our institute can be considered as the geographical host institute as well as the institute most closely related to the subject of the symposium. Also arrangements have been made to enable you to visit our institute after the symposium to become more acquainted with our activities.

Our institute was established in 1986 through the reorganization of agricultural research institutes but one of the initial organizations, the Vegetable and Ornamental Crops Research Station became independent in 1973 from the former Horticultural Research Station in order to meet the rapidly increasing demand for vegetables in Japan. Since then vegetable production has become even more important worldwide.

I am convinced that this symposium will offer the best opportunity to exchange information on the most recent developments of technology as well as problems relating to vegetable production in the Asian and South American countries. I also believe that mutual understanding among the scientists will become deeper and that international cooperation in research on vegetable production will be further promoted.

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

Thank you