

Closing Remarks

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

At the end of the symposium on "Soil Constraints on Sustainable Plant Production in the Tropics", I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants for contributing so significantly to the success of the symposium.

This symposium was aimed first at outlining the soil constraints facing the tropical and sub-tropical countries, second at describing studies on the causes of the constraints and on the methods of improvement, and finally at discussing future problems and perspectives for improving soil productivity and promoting ecological and environmental preservation.

The Tropical Agriculture Research Center is presently sending 40 researchers to various countries to carry out cooperative research. We would like to continue this relationship through mutual exchange of information and good will. We are glad that this symposium has made it possible to exchange opinions and enhance the opportunity for the cooperation.

During this symposium, we have shared a great deal of information on the soil constraints and sustainable crop production in different countries under the different agro-climatic conditions. In Japan, as has been reported in the symposium, high agricultural production is attained by the accumulation of integrated technology encompassing various fields of agricultural sciences in which research activities on soil science and plant nutrition have played an important role. It was also reported that Japan faced serious soil constraints for sustainable crop production due to the application of an excessive amount of fertilizers, insufficient application of organic matter and so on. I would like to take this opportunity to ask all the participants to make every effort to further promote cooperation in order to alleviate these constraints worldwide.

On behalf of all the members of the organizing committee of the 24th International Symposium on Tropical Agriculture Research, I now have the duty and honour to declare the symposium closed.

Thank you.