

Four Research administrators have been invited to Japan in the effort to promote mutual understanding in tropical agricultural research

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has launched the Tropical Agricultural Research Program from 1966 to improve the level of agricultural technique in tropical regions directed toward Southeast Asian region for the time being, and Japan is very anxious to positively promote this project for the mutual benefit of all countries in the region.

Needless to state, if any progress in this project is to be achieved it can be accomplished only through the cooperation and understanding of related countries, without which not much can be expected.

So in order to mutually seek and deepen the cooperation and understanding with Southeast Asian countries, the Research Council invited the leaders in research of Southeast Asian countries to Japan from October 11 to 20, 1967 to have them inspect the research and experiment institutions of Japan and comprehend the conditions in research and experiment as well as to hear their opinions on the program to further promote the cooperations among all countries concerned.

Visiting Research Administrators

- 1) Dr. Sala Dasananda
Director-General, Department of Rice,
Ministry of Agriculture, Thailand
- 2) Mr. Mohamad bin Jamil
Director, Division of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Corporate, Malaysia
- 3) Dr. J. W. L. Peiris
Deputy Director of Agriculture (Research),
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ceylon
- 4) Mr. Nai Samai Chareonratha
Chief, Research and Experiment Station
Division, Department of Agriculture,
Ministry of Agriculture, Thailand

Itinerary of the visiting Research Administrators

- Oct. 12: Meeting at the Research Council and visit to the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences in Tokyo.
- Oct. 13: Visit to the Agricultural Machinery Research Institute in Omiya and the Central Agricultural Experiment Station in Konosu.
- Oct. 14: Visit to the Department of Physiology and Genetics of the National Institute of Agricultural Sciences, the Horticultural Research Station and the Agricultural Engineering Research Station in Hiratsuka.
- Oct. 15: Flight to Fukuoka in Kyushu.
- Oct. 16: Visit to the Kyushu Agricultural Experiment Station in Chikugo and the Kyushu Branch of Horticultural Research Station in Kurume.
- Oct. 17: Inspection of high-yielding paddy field in Saga Plain and visit to the Saga Prefectural Experiment Station. Flight from Fukuoka to Kyoto.
- Oct. 18: Visit to the Kyoto University and back to Tokyo.
- Oct. 19: Discussion at the Research Council.
- Oct. 20: Visit to other Research Institutions near Tokyo.

Outline of Discussion at the Research Council on October 19

Japanese side presented the briefing on the Tropical Agricultural Research Program now being promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and each of the visiting administrators not only understood its objectives but evaluated the program as highly significant in the improvement of agricultural

techniques in Southeast Asian region. And they promised to render their cooperation.

Major points expressed by the visiting administrators on the Tropical Agricultural Research Program of Japan, in the order of speaking are as follows:

Dr. Peris of Ceylon

Ceylon desires to have an expert in bacterial leaf blight which is, by far the most damaging rice disease and an expert in small agricultural machinery.

Mr. Jamil of Malaysia

In view of the effort of Malaysia to be self sufficient in rice in 5 years, she desires the sending of expert who can render an overall judgement on variety improvement, irrigation and management to ensure the rice production increase.

He visualizes and hopes that some day cooperative research system for Southeast Asia will be instituted eliminating the national boundaries.

Dr. Dasananda of Thailand

Thailand's most pressing need in the field of research is the training of researchers, so he has expressed a keen desire to include a program to offer the scholarships in the Tropical Agriculture Research Program to train the Thailand researchers, training program in Japan for such laboratory instruments and installations as electron-microscope and x-ray machine and the sending of short-term expert on special subject such as by United Nation Special Fund.

Mr. Chereonratha of Thailand

The Department of Agriculture of Thailand is in charge of practical research on maize, sorghum, kenaf, castor-bean, rubber, casaba and cotton. And among those researches for which Japanese cooperation is requested are:

- 1) Experiment in casaba, castor-bean, soybean and ground nut,
- 2) Concentration of the varieties and breeding of whole-year-feeding variety of mulberry tree and control of root rot,
- 3) Harvesting of vegetable seed,
- 4) Research in banana production.