

2026 JIRCAS-NARO-FFTC Workshop

Soil Health and Multifunctionality: Integrating Science and Practice for a Sustainable Future

Tsukuba, Japan

July 13-14, 2026

July 13 Day 1: Forum, Tsukuba International Congress Center		
Time	Speaker and Topic	Note
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening: 1. JIRCAS 2. NARO 3. Mr. Vincent Lin, Director, Food and Fertilizer Technology Center for the Asian and Pacific Region Group Photo	Pre-record Remark: NARO, FFTC (5 mins)
Keynote Lecture Moderator: TBD		
09:30 – 10:00	S01: The Implementation of Soil Health Program in the Philippines: Key Components Integrating Science and Practice Dr. Gina P. Nilo/ Former Director and Resource Person, DA-BSWM, the Philippines	25+5 min
Session I - Nutrient Cycling and Soil Functionality Moderator: Dr. Hirotaka Ihara/Leader, Nutrient Cycle Group, Department of Soil Environment Management, Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, NARO, Japan		
10:00 – 10:20	S02: Managing Nutrient Cycling for Improving Soil Health and Soil Functionality	15+5 min

	Dr. Sadao Eguchi/ Principal Researcher, NIAES, Japan	
10:20 – 10:40	S03: DOA Soil Test Kit to Evaluate Soil Properties and Monitor Soil Health Changes for Deciding Site-Specific Fertilization Dr. Charirat Kusonwiriawong/ Scientist, DOA, Thailand	15+5 min
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee/ Tea Break	
Session II - Water Retention and Climate Resilience Moderator: Dr. Keisuke Omori, Director, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)		
11:00 – 11:20	S04: Water Retention and Climate Resilience in Philippine Agriculture Engr. Patrick Espanto/ Engineer, DA-BSWM, the Philippine	15+5 min
11:20 – 11:40	S05: The Effect of Biochar Application Depth—Improvement of Biochar Use Efficiency Dr. Kosuke Hamada/ Senior Researcher, JIRCAS, Japan	15+5 min
11:40 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
Session III - Biodiversity and Soil Ecosystem Services Moderator: Dr. Yu-Wen Lin, Researcher, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Taiwan		
13:30 – 13:50	S06: Advances and Extension Strategies for Mitigating Cadmium and Arsenic Accumulation in Crops: Implications for Soil Health in Taiwan Dr. Chien-Hui Syu/ Associate Researcher,	15+5 min

	Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taiwan	
13:50 – 14:10	S07: Tiny Predators, Big Impacts: Protists as Engineers of Soil Health Dr. Asiloglu Rasit/ Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University, Japan	15+5 min
14:10 – 15:00	Coffee/ Tea Break	
Panel Discussion: Toward Integrated Soil Health Management Moderator: Dr. Keiichi Hayashi, Director of Environment and Resources Program, JIRCAS		
15:00 – 16:30	Panelists: 1. Dr. Akira Hasebe/ President, Japan Soil Association, Japan (with a 5-10 mins presentation) 2. Dr. Yu-Wen Lin/ Researcher, Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), MOA, Taiwan 3. All speakers *Follow-up on Soil Health WS for 2025 is being discussed through panel discussions	90 min
16:30 – 16:45	Closing Remarks: Dr. Fumio Ihara, Deputy Director, FFTC	