

I am delighted with the completion of this book “Agriculture in Palau” in partnership with the Palau Community College, Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences, Bureau of Agriculture of the Ministry of Marine Resources, Environment and Tourism, the Environmental Quality Protection Board and various relevant organizations. Generally, it is not easy for people living outside of Palau to get detailed information on soil and agriculture in Palau. This book, in which the current situation, fundamental issues and possible solutions of agriculture in Palau are shown in plain English, will be a useful resource of information for not only Japanese but also all overseas researchers interested in this country.

As mentioned in this book, promoting agriculture and enhancing food security have

recently become critical issues in Palau. The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the Palauan economy that mainly relies on tourism, which reminds people in Palau of the importance of developing domestic agriculture. The Government of Japan has started planning intensive agricultural cooperation with Palau since 2019, and the first official cooperation framework between the two countries is scheduled to be established as “The Task Force for Facilitating Agricultural Cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Palau” in 2021. The content of this book is expected to be utilized by the officials to make a detailed plan of assistance by Japan. I hope this book, cooperatively written by researchers from both Palau and Japan, represents and deepens a long-time friendship between our two countries.

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FOREWORD