

## Closing Remarks

**Takahito Suzui**  
**Chairman of the Organizing Committee**

Distinguished Guests and Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Symposium, I would like to deliver the closing remarks.

I would like to thank all the chairmen, speakers, and other participants for their valuable contributions. Also, I express our thanks to Dr. Kainuma, Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, and all of members of the Center.

The 27<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on "Plant Genetic Resource Management in the Tropics" aimed at promoting research for the development of appropriate technologies and global strategies for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in the tropics in various countries and International Research Institutes.

To address this problem, four sessions were organized after a keynote address in which Dr. Iwanaga, Deputy Director, International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR), outlined the role of international organizations in global genetic resources management from the viewpoint of an effective international system for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. In the first session which dealt with the exploration and collection of genetic resources, including current problems in the tropics and subtropics, 9 reports were presented. In the second session the evaluation and utilization of the resources were taken up, in which 8 papers analysed the genetic diversity of germplasm and use of genes from landraces and wild relatives. In the third and fourth sessions, conservation and data management of the resources were described, in which 6 papers were presented on cryopreservation, in-situ, in vitro-conservation, and germplasm and DNA data management. The general discussion was chaired by Dr. Hayashi and Dr. Rana.

During the meeting, we discussed in detail various aspects relating to the management of plant genetic resources including exploration, collection, evaluation, preservation and data management as well as technical advances. Scientific advances and strategic papers on plant genetic resource management were contributed by the participants from various countries and research organizations. Through the discussions, we gained information about the present situation and programs of genetic resource management in the countries and also recognized the need to make every effort to further promote collaboration among countries. We reconfirmed that international organizations can play an important role in supporting the development of the national capacity and thereby develop a global system for plant genetic resource management.

Thus, it is my great pleasure to say that the symposium was very successful. During this symposium, we shared a great deal of information on plant genetic resource management in the tropics and the subtropics. Genetic resources are likely to play an important role in food production and contribute significantly to the development of biotechnology.

I anticipate that this symposium will contribute to the promotion of research development and global strategies for the conservation of plant genetic resource management in each country and the International Research Institutes.

On behalf of all the members of the Organizing Committee, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have so actively participated in this symposium to make it such a success. I thank again all the distinguished guests and participants for their active participation and cooperation. I now extend my best wishes to all of you for your work in your respective countries and organizations and I look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

I now have the duty and the honor to declare the symposium closed.

Thank you.