

Welcome Address

Eitaro Miwa
Deputy Director General
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Research Council Secretarist

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, it is my great pleasure to extend the most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the "International Symposium on Fruit Production in the Tropics and Subtropics" which has been organized and sponsored by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences in collaboration with the Fruit Tree Research Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The council has devoted its efforts to promote international research collaboration with the countries located in the tropics and subtropics in agricultural fields. This symposium which would be the 27th is actually the first since the Tropical Agriculture Research Center was reorganized into the new Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) on October, 1993, with a view to further strengthening the function of the center for research collaboration as well as collection of information pertaining to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the developing regions.

I believe that, although the prospects for the expansion of the fruit industry in the tropics and subtropics in future are encouraging, various problems such as insect and disease control, preservation and utilization of fruit tree genetic resources, improvement of varieties, project in postharvest technology should be addressed in order to secure its sound development.

I am convinced that valuable information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during this symposium which is focussed on the fruit industry in the tropics and subtropics.

I do hope that the symposium will be fruitful and successful.

I again wish to express my cordial welcome to all the guests and participants.

Thank you.