

Welcome Address

Isamu Ueno
Director General
Fruit Tree Research Station

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Fruit Tree Research Station, it is my great pleasure to extend the most sincere greetings to all the guests and participants in the first "International Symposium on Fruit Production in the Tropics and Subtropics" sponsored by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences in cooperation with the Fruit Tree Research Station.

In recent years, subtropical and tropical fruits have played an important role in the international fruit trade.

Also our country imports many species of tropical fruits, especially banana and pineapple. Japan is a small country, but fruit production covers various climatic zones ranging from cool to subtropical areas. The cultivated fruit species in our country are mainly citrus, apple, Japanese pear, Japanese persimmon, grape, peach, etc.

Since the establishment of the Fruit Tree Research Station in 1902, we have attempted to develop a technology for fruit production and processing, including fruit breeding and cultivation, postharvest technology and protection from diseases and pests. These activities have contributed significantly to the development of the fruit industry in Japan.

Research on subtropical and tropical fruits, such as pineapple, mango, papaya, etc. has just started in Okinawa and in a few southern prefectures in Japan and many problems remain to be solved.

This symposium covers various aspects relating to tropical and subtropical fruit trees including genetic resources, control of diseases and insect pests, storage and postharvest physiology as well as cultivation of temperate zone fruits in the countries located in the tropics and subtropics. All of us who have cooperated in this symposium hope that the discussions and exchanges of views will contribute the promotion of fruit production in the tropics and subtropics.

Again, I would like to express my sincere welcome to the distinguished guests and participants.

Thank you.