

Closing Remarks

Shichiro Tsuchiya
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 Japan International Center for Agricultural Sciences, and all the members of the Center.

The 1st "International Symposium on Fruit Production in the Tropics and Subtropics" aimed at promoting research for the development of appropriate technologies and global strategies for the cultivation of tropical fruits and fruits from the temperate zone in the tropics and subtropics in various countries and International Research Institutes.

To address this problem, four sessions were organized after a keynote address in which Dr. Kitagawa, Professor Emeritus, Kagawa University, Japan, outlined the role of fruit production in the tropics and subtropics from the viewpoint of major commodities in international trade.

In the first session which dealt with the collection and utilization of tropical and subtropical fruit tree genetic resources, including the activities of IPGRI, 4 reports were presented.

In the second session, technology for the cultivation of temperate zone fruits in the tropics and subtropics was outlined, in which mainly grapevine cultivation was analyzed and breeding strategies for temperate zone fruits in the tropics and subtropics were discussed.

In the third session, two reports on pest control of tropical and subtropical fruits were presented and virus, virus-like diseases and harmful insects were analyzed.

In the fourth session, storage and postharvest physiology of tropical fruits was described, in which, 3 papers were presented on storage technologies and physiological mechanism of maturation or senescence of tropical fruits.

The general discussion was chaired by Dr. Yamaguchi and Dr. Sanada.

During the discussion, the promotion of international collaborative research on an interdisciplinary basis involving all experts related to fruit production was strongly advocated since the constraints on fruit production are common to every country, and various research fields should be closely interrelated for the progress of technology.

In this regard, the information and the results of the investigations carried out in each country and organization which were reported in this symposium should contribute significantly to the promotion of more efficient production and transportation systems for fruits in the respective countries.

I am convinced that this symposium will be the starting point of fruitful exchanges of research information and of collaborative research for fruit production in the tropical and subtropical countries.

Once again I would like to thank all the participants for their presentations and for their active role in the discussions which took place during the symposium.

Now the symposium is closed but I sincerely hope that we will gather again and talk about subjects of mutual interest in the near future.

Thank you.