

## Welcome Address

**Kuniyasu Kadowaki**  
**Director,**  
**International Research Division,**  
**Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council Secretariat**

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 Innovative Weed Management Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture" which is being held as a part of the 15th Conference of Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society (APWSS) and sponsored by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS) collaboration with the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC).

The Council has devoted its efforts to promote international research collaboration with the countries located in the Asia-Pacific region in agricultural fields. Today's symposium is the second one since the Tropical Agriculture Research Center was reorganized into the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), with a view to further strengthening the function of the center for research collaboration as well as collection of information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the developing regions.

In recent years, since food problems and global environmental problems have become serious worldwide, especially in the developing regions, sustainable development of agriculture is required to solve these problems.

I believe that weed management is an essential component for the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

I am convinced that valuable information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during this symposium which is focused on the development of a weed management strategy for the promotion of sustainable agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region.

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

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

Thank you.