

Welcome Address

Sakue Matsumoto

Chairman

Agriculture, Forestry and

Fisheries Research Council

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, MAFF, it is my great pleasure to extend sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Postharvest Technology in Asia which has been organized by the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS).

The Research Council has been continuing, among other activities, to promote international research collaboration with both developing and developed countries as well as with international research organizations. To strengthen these activities, five years ago, the former Tropical Agriculture Research Center (TARC) was reorganized into a new research center, JIRCAS, with an expanded mandate in the covering of regions as well as research subjects. This is actually the fifth International Symposium since the establishment of JIRCAS.

This year during the symposium, for the first time, various aspects relating to the development of postharvest technology in Asia will be discussed, which may be as important as the development of technology for the production of crops for sustainable food supply.

Indeed, postharvest technology may enable to address some important issues, including the reduction of the loss and waste of agricultural commodities in addition to the development of agricultural products with higher quality and added value by the agro-industries.

In this context I wish to express my cordial welcome to all the guests and participants who have gathered to discuss this challenging issue here in Tsukuba Science City. I do hope that the symposium will benefit all of us with your active participation and cooperation.

Thank you.