

Closing Remarks

Dr. Toshihiro Senboku of JIRCAS, on behalf of Mr. Azuma, Chairman of J-FARD;

Thank you very much. My name is Senboku, the Vice President of JIRCAS. On behalf of Chairman Azuma of J-FARD, I would like to extend my closing remarks. Originally, he was scheduled to attend and offer these closing remarks. But it seems that he had other prior commitments and I have been asked to read his closing remarks on his behalf.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to say a few words on behalf of the organizers at the closing of this symposium. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for the very large turnout. At the same time I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the co-organizers, CGIAR, JICA and the UNU, as well as extend my gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other research institutes under their auspices, and to the University of Nagoya and the International Federation of Agricultural Journalism for their kind support.

As is well known, the United Nations has set a primary target of halving people suffering from malnutrition and poverty by the year 2015 under the Millennium Development Goals. This has been set as the primary target. In order to achieve this target in the domain of agriculture as well, efforts are being expended around different regions in the world to offer sufficient supply of food against the backdrop of growing demand for food in developing countries and also to make contributions towards poverty reduction in the rural areas. At the center of such efforts are the 15 different centers under the CGIAR.

On the other hand, Japan depends 60 percent, or more than 60 percent of its food from overseas. Stability in international demand-supply of food is of basic interest to Japan's food and agricultural policy. Also, as a member of the developed community, Japan is being expected to contribute toward the development of developing countries. So from that perspective, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and their affiliated research organizations have been making substantial financial contributions every year.

Having said that, from the standpoint of personnel contribution from Japan, it must be said that we are lagging behind substantially. If we look back, in terms of wheat and rice which supported the grain revolution in the past, they were basically Japanese varieties. As this example exemplifies, the agricultural research and technologies which Japan has accumulated over the years can meet the expectations of the international community.

In order to make contributions toward international research with this know-how, we sincerely hope that the young researchers in Japanese agriculture, forestry and marine research can be internationally-active and be more meaningful. So this is the objective behind today's symposium, and we do hope that this will serve as a catalyst toward increased human and personal contribution by the Japanese researchers in line with financial contribution.

The keynote speaker of this symposium, Dr. Yakushiji, is indeed the key figure in Japan's research collaboration efforts. And he was most encouraging in his remarks. He said, "We should strengthen science and technology cooperation with developing countries and disseminate Japan's technologies."

Also, as was pointed out by Dr. Rabbinge, we need to expend efforts toward cooperation so that the rainbow evolution can be realized.

Last but not least, I would like to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to all the participants of the symposium. Thank you and good bye.

Thank you for your kind attention.