

Mr. Koji Tanaka
Vice President, J-FARD

Good evening, everybody. My name is Koji Tanaka, from Kyoto University. I am assigned as Vice President of J-FARD which was the focal topic in the Panel Discussion. Then, I am very pleased to be here to give the Closing Remarks on behalf of J-FARD. But, originally, the President of J-FARD, Mr. Azuma, was scheduled to be here, but due to his sudden official duties abroad, it became impossible for him to attend this symposium. That is why I am here to close this symposium instead. I am also very pleased to be here to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of JIRCAS, and make the Closing Remarks for the 40th anniversary celebration.

First of all, as one of the co-organizers, I have to express sincere gratitude to all the participants in this symposium for your very generous and enthusiastic participation, to all the speakers as well as panelists in this symposium, who activated the discussions of the symposium. Lastly, I have to thank the J-FARD members for their generous efforts to organize and manage this very fruitful symposium.

Yesterday, in the first session of this symposium, Dr. Koyama of JIRCAS very briefly summarized and introduced the history of JIRCAS or JIRCAS development within the last decades. According to his presentation and my understanding, the research activities by JIRCAS seem to have developed and have been organized and conducted following three stages of research approaches or research development. In other words, the last four decades can be divided into three stages. First, pro-production of pro-productivity research approach period in the 1960s and 1970s. Second, the system research approach periods in the late 1970s and 1980s. And the third, comprehensive research approach periods in 1990s and onwards, reflecting trends of international research activities concerning agricultural and rural development. And, I think JIRCAS has played very important roles in some of the international agricultural researches as well as international collaboration and cooperation to promote agriculture and to improve the well-being of people in developing countries.

As this historical process indicates, JIRCAS has successfully developed its research functions and organizational structure, so that JIRCAS has made good in challenges posed by various issues and problems arising during the last forty years. In that sense, JIRCAS has been very successful in promoting research activities and also develop collaboration with the international agencies as a representative of research institutions in Japan. I think the only one institution who represents presence of agricultural research in Japan is JIRCAS. In that sense, I would like to celebrate the 40th anniversary again from the bottom of my heart. In this symposium, we could exchange opinions and views, and could develop discussions on how to create and develop collaborative networks among research institutions including universities at various levels and at national and international levels. Also, we could learn through the vital discussions at the Panel Discussion for example on how important and how difficult it is to create and organize more effective and collaborate mechanisms combining institutions at various levels as well as by individual researchers. And then, we also learn that it is very necessary for any agricultural research institutions to redefine some issues to tackle. For example, we have discussed global public goods, and then following the discussion, not only JIRCAS but also we, all the agricultural researchers need to redefine what should be done through institutional and individual efforts. Needless to say, JIRCAS is not an exception from various issues. I think or I hope for the coming ten years, JIRCAS will make big efforts to expand and also to strengthen more effective collaboration and also more sustainable linkages with local institutions as well as international institutions. And I believe JIRCAS has the powers to make stronger linkages among these institutions, including universities.

Anyhow, time has already run out, so I have to close this symposium. I would like to remind all of you that this symposium was organized to celebrate the 40th anniversary of JIRCAS, and then I would like to congratulate again, And also, I would like to close this symposium by saying or by

expressing my hope or expectation that JIRCAS will be able to celebrate its successful achievement to be obtained within the next ten years--- that is the 50th Golden Anniversary of JIRCAS to be celebrated 10 years later. Thank you very much.