

# Keynote Speech General Discussion

**Chairman Mr. Osamu Koyama:** I would like to take one or two questions. Yes, over there please.

**Dr. Mohamed Abdellahi Ebbe, National Centre for Prevention and Control of Desert Locust, Mauritania:** Thank you very much. Babah from Mauritania. Thank you for the nice and interesting deep study. I just want to comment on the aspect concerning the mobile phone. We are seeing it as a problem in a country like Mauritania, where the company advertising policies are very aggressive, and as an impact; people tend to buy phones just to talk, and that is clearly affecting the poverty in many of the farming and rural areas. We are seeing people selling their sheep to buy mobile phones, and then asking for relatives in the urban areas to send them credit just to talk about anything. I think this topic is very important and unfortunately I am not an economist but it needs more attention from economists to be studied and to understand exactly how to counter this problem. Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you very much. A nice comment, but some negatives also. Another question, please.

**Dr. Satoshi Nakamura, Research Fellow, JIRCAS:** I am Satoshi Nakamura from JIRCAS. I was very interested in the response of the maize yield to the rainfall from 1960 to probably 2000-something. It looks like the crop production is less resilient to the old times. As you mentioned, so many times are affecting the resilience of the crop production, but what do you think of this? What is the primary effect or primary factor that affects it that the damage has become so serious these days?

**Prof. Umetsu:** The yield decline is not only caused by precipitation. It is affected by many government policies like subsidies for fertilizer for example or the price support system for the maize itself. So there are many factors involved, not only precipitation. We have to look at the impact of those government policies also at the same time, not only the rainfall after the shock.

**Dr. Nakamura:** In older times it is very clearly affected by the precipitation I think, but nowadays I think it is very different. Sometimes damage is more serious than the other times. That is why I asked. Thank you.

**Chairman:** I am sorry; time is over. Thank you very much Prof. Umetsu. And I would like to close the keynote speech session. As a chair I should say something useful, but I can only say that we got a very clear picture about resilience concepts and the real interpretation, as well as what kinds of measures we should discuss in the later sessions.

The clear messages given by the two speakers were very common. I think we need a very holistic, inter-disciplinary and comprehensive approach; it is very essential to tackle this kind of issue.

Please give your applause to the two excellent speakers. Thank you very much.