

Welcome Address

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Council of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Japan, I would like to express my hearty welcome to all the participants of the present Symposium.

The first symposium which was held under the auspices of the Tropical Agriculture Research Program of the Council took place in 1967. Since that time, the Council has devoted its efforts to promote international cooperation with the tropical countries in agricultural research fields. With a view to meet the world and national requirements in promoting technologies pertaining to tropical agriculture, the Japanese government established a new research institute in 1970, the "Tropical Agriculture Research Center", which is exclusively responsible for international cooperation dealing with agricultural research programs on a government basis in the tropical and semi-tropical countries. I am very much pleased to learn that the present Symposium is the eleventh and that for the last ten years a large number of research scientists from home and abroad have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

It is quite clear that the recent dramatic increase of agricultural production in some selected areas of the tropical countries was initiated by the great success of crop improvement. We should say, however, that the areas which benefited by the success are limited and there still remains much to be done in the field of crop breeding and genetics to involve wider areas. I am very happy to see gathered at the Symposium so many prominent breeders and geneticists from both the tropical countries and Japan. I am sure that fruitful ideas and information on technologies developed in each country will be exchanged throughout the Symposium.

I also expect that the discussions which will take place at the Symposium will contribute to the development of a host of research and investigations aimed at improving agricultural production in the future.

I do hope that the Symposium will be successful.

I again wish to express my hearty welcome to all the distinguished delegates and participants.

Thank you.