

Inaugural Address

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Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, I have the honor and privilege to open the International Symposium on Pesticide Use in Developing Countries – Present and Future – which is being held as a satellite symposium of the Fifth International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry (IUPAC) under the co-sponsorship of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan (TARC) and the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC).

Above all, I would like to extend my cordial welcome to all the participants, in particular to those who have come over to Japan from abroad.

The Tropical Agriculture Research Center was established in 1970 with the objective of contributing to the development of agricultural technology in the tropical areas in undertaking research programs in a spirit of international collaboration. The basic principle of our research activities is to work together with overseas scientists on a partnership basis to solve technical obstacles which hamper the agricultural development of the tropical countries. The activities of the Center cover a fairly wide range of research fields such as crop production, plant protection, forestry, agricultural engineering, farm management in the tropics, etc.

One of the major activities of the Center is to send research scientists from Japan to overseas research institutions located in the tropical countries to conduct cooperative research work in agricultural fields. About 40 staff members of the Center with long-term assignments are engaged each year in such cooperative activities in many parts of the world, mainly in the Asian countries and partly in the Latin American countries. When the effective cooperation requires any additional basic research work with the use of sophisticated equipment which is presently not available in the cooperating institutions, the Center invites to Japan the research partners involved so as to enable them to carry out the necessary work.

An other important activity of the Center is to hold international symposia for exchanging information and views among different countries and among scientists concerned. Since 1967 the symposia have been held every year, covering such subjects as crop diseases, animal production, methods of crop breeding, optimization of fertilizer effect, water management in paddy fields, silvicultural technologies, etc.

The present symposium, the sixteenth of this kind, will give the opportunity to consider various aspects relating to the use of pesticides in the developing countries. Undoubtedly, the use of pesticides including insecticides, fungicides and herbicides has contributed significantly to the stabilization and increase of yields of a large number of crops cultivated in the tropical and subtropical regions. However there is also a growing awareness among the authorities concerned of these countries of the need to regulate the manufacture, registration and use of agro-chemicals so as to prevent or minimize undesirable side-effects such as environmental pollution associated with the toxicity of some of the pesticide residues to plants, animals and humans along with the development of resistance to the chemicals. Since pesticides have become an essential tool to achieve crop protection, these problems should be tackled actively in order to promote the safe use of pesticides for the increase of agricultural production.

I am convinced that the discussions in the present symposium will further contribute to the

enhancement of research in these fields.

I sincerely hope that the symposium will be successful and that through our joint effort friendship and cooperation will be strengthened.

Thank you.