

Welcome Address

S. SEKIYA
Director-General
Secretariat of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries Research Council

Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, it is with great pleasure that I extend my most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Soybean, which is being held under the cosponsorship of the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center.

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 meeting 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 programs in the tropical and subtropical countries. I am very much pleased to learn that the present symposium is the seventeenth of its kind and that for the last sixteen years a large number of research scientists from Japan and abroad have enjoyed their participation in the symposia which have been convened by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center.

The present symposium has been organized since the problems relating to the cultivation of soybeans in the various growing countries particularly in those located in the tropical zone are assuming an increasing importance worldwide.

I am convinced that fruitful ideas and information on techniques developed in each country will be exchanged throughout the discussions which will take place during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations.

I do hope that the symposium will be successful.

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

Thank you.