

Welcome Address

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Distinguished Guests and Participants,

On behalf of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council, it is my great pleasure to extend the most sincere greetings and best wishes to all the participants in the International Symposium on Virus Diseases of Rice and Leguminous Crops in the Tropics which is being sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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.

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

The present symposium has been organized in view of the importance of virus diseases of rice and leguminous crops for agricultural production. Indeed, yield losses caused by these diseases are considerable and deprive large segments of the populations living in the developing countries of the tropics of an invaluable source of nutrition.

The symposium, in this context, is very timely and I am convinced that various and valuable ideas or information on technologies developed in each country will be exchanged throughout the discussions during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations to alleviate the detrimental impact of these diseases.

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