

## 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 **Technology for Double Cropping of Rice in the Tropics** sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan.

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, soil fertility, plant protection, forestry, pasture and animal production, agricultural engineering, 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 collaborative research work in agricultural fields. About 40 staff members of the Center with long term assignments are engaged each year in such collaborative activities in many parts of the world, mainly in the Asian countries and partly in the Latin American and African countries.

Another 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, tropical soybean, pesticide use, etc., and this year double cropping of rice.

It is most appropriate that for the present symposium, the twentieth of its kind, the theme which was selected should involve the participation of researchers working in such a wide range of fields, encompassing plant breeding, agronomy, entomology as well as agricultural engineering, mechanization and economics, etc. Indeed the successful implementation of rice double cropping which has contributed so significantly to the increase of rice production, particularly in Asia, requires a multidisciplinary approach for the establishment of an elaborate infrastructure, the adoption of complex agronomic practices to use as efficiently as possible the inputs available as well as concerted efforts to foster the understanding and cooperation of the rural communities.

In future it will be essential to further promote an even closer collaboration among researchers belonging to various fields of agriculture in order to improve the technology for the execution of double cropping schemes and to remove some of the constraints which offset the benefits derived from this practice.

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 useful in contributing to the development of effective methods for promoting double cropping of rice.

I also hope that our friendship and cooperation will be further strengthened through our joint effort in reaching this common target of immense importance.

Thank you