

Welcome Address

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Distinguished Guests, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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 distinguished guests and participants in the International Symposium on Technology for Double Cropping of Rice in the Tropics which is sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

It was in 1967 when the first symposium was held under the program sponsored by our Council for the promotion of tropical agriculture research. Since that time, the Council has been strengthening its efforts to promote international cooperation with the tropical countries in agricultural research fields.

The present symposium is the twentieth of its kind and I am pleased to learn that a large number of scientists from seven countries and four international organizations are participating in this symposium.

The present symposium has been organized in view of the importance of the development of technology for the implementation of rice double cropping so as to increase the production of this commodity which plays a major role in farm management in these areas and which is the staple food of a large number of the world population.

In order to develop the technology for rice double cropping, it is necessary to further promote research cooperation among various countries and in various fields such as agricultural engineering, breeding, pest and disease control, soil science and mechanization.

The symposium in this context tries to cover all aspects of rice double cropping and I believe that, through the exchange of information and the discussions this symposium will contribute to integrated development of technologies and extension of rice double cropping in tropical areas.

I hope that the symposium will be successful and that your stay in Japan will be fruitful.

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

Thank you