

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 Crop Losses due to Disease Outbreaks in the Tropics and Countermeasures" which is being held as a satellite symposium of the Fifth International Congress of Plant Pathology under the co-sponsorship of 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 twenty-second of its kind and that for the last twenty-one 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 the estimation of crop losses due to diseases and of the improvement of methods of control in the tropics to achieve sustainable agricultural production. Indeed, crop losses caused by the 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 important and I am convinced that various and valuable information on crop loss assessment 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 crop 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