

Welcome Address

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Research Council

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 Soil Constraints on Sustainable Plant Production in the Tropics" which is being organized and 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 twenty-fourth of its kind and that for the last twenty-three 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 various kinds of soil constraints on sustainable plant production in cultivated lands, pastures and agroforestry and forestry lands which confront the countries located in the tropical and sub-tropical regions.

The symposium, in this context, is very important and I am convinced that valuable information will be exchanged throughout the discussions during the symposium so as to further promote research and investigations to alleviate the soil constraints on sustainable plant production, with emphasis placed on the adoption of low-input technology and preservation of the eco-systems and natural environment.

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.