

Inauguration Address

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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to extend a cordial welcome to all those attending this Symposium on Insect Pests of Rice. We especially welcome those from abroad who are participating in this Symposium.

During the past years, exchange of information between many countries has been attempted. It is desirable for researchers to participate in the discussion of many subjects of common interest. This is the fifth international symposium sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Since 1967, a series of symposia are held to discuss rice diseases and their control, maize problem, effect of optimum use of fertilizer in rice cultivation, and farm mechanization, successively.

This year each delegate from participating countries is expected to give an outline of recent research progress concerning major rice insect pests. Also interesting reports on fundamental studies being made on such insects as borers, planthoppers and leafhoppers, midges and maggots, and other injurious insects in the respective countries.

There is a growing awareness concerning the contamination of water, air, soil, and food stuffs caused by agricultural chemicals. Under these circumstances it is now a generally accepted fact that future control of insect pests should be what is known as "integrated control". As a basis for this control method, ecology must play a more important role. In addition, knowledge in other fields of entomology and crop sciences are also referred as indispensable. I am of the opinion that what we discuss at the Symposium may be a steppingstone toward integrated control. For this reason, it is my sincere hope that in the concluding session gainful discussion may ensue concerning this future control method of other problems.

I am sure there will be many interesting and enlightening comments during the Symposium. In conclusion, may I again extend a warm welcome to you all attending this symposium. We express our sincere feelings that our experiences during the next four days will be fruitful.

Thank you.