

Inauguration Address

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests and Outstanding Participants,

As chairman of the Symposium Organizing Committee, I have pleasure to extend my cordial welcome to all attending this meeting, particularly the distinguished delegates from abroad. I am confident that their brief stay in Japan will not only be pleasant but also fruitful.

Since 1967 the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry had held international symposia annually on various aspects related to the technology of tropical agriculture. After 1970 the holding of symposia has been sponsored by the Tropical Agriculture Research Center. In 1970 we had a symposium on farm mechanization, and in 1971 on insect pest of rice with kind support and close cooperation rendered by a number of scientists of many Asian countries and related international organizations.

This year the Tropical Agriculture Research Center took up the food legumes as the subject of this symposium, and I have been requested to arrange and organize the symposium.

Leguminous crops, in general, are grown for three purposes; human consumption, livestock feeding and partly for green manures.

Therefore, they are grouped into edible legumes and forage legumes. It is intended that this symposium will deal primarily with edible legumes, simply because of the limited time available for the session.

The edible legumes in Southeast Asian region have so far been grown as traditional crops and they are becoming increasingly important in the general trend of crop diversification in the region.

In view of such a situation the proposed symposium has selected three major topics:

- 1) Recent development in the production of food legumes and related research development in Southeast Asian countries.
- 2) Recent trend of production of food legumes and related research activities in Japan.
- 3) Problems related to the processing and utilization of food legumes.

In view of the nature of this kind of symposium, it would be appropriate to place our emphasis on the technological aspects, rather than on the economic problems.

I earnestly hope that all participants from abroad as well as those from the host country will benefit from the discussions and exchanges of up-to-date information concerning research on production, processing and utilization of food legumes.

Lastly, I would like to request all participants for their kind cooperation in the deliberation of this symposium so that the symposium will yield successful results.

Thank you.