

Inaugural Address

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Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Guests

On the occasion of the opening of the International Symposium on Downy Mildew of Maize, I wish to send our warm greetings to you all, in particular, the distinguished scientists from abroad who have come here to participate in this symposium.

Since 1967, the Tropical Agriculture Research Center, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, holds an annual international symposium on tropical agricultural research.

This symposium is the second event followed the first one which was on "Maize Production in Southeast Asia", held in 1968. Several problems of maize production in each country were already pointed out at the last symposium and Downy Mildew of Maize was also inevitably involved as the most destructive factor for maize production.

In view of above situation, this symposium was organized by the close cooperation with the Inter-Asian Corn Program, and being set to ensure a mutual understanding each other on the pathogen and the control measures. We are not sure as to what extent Japanese research information could contribute to this symposium because we have never experienced the occurrence of Downy Mildew of Maize in Japan. We hope, however, we will be warriors to overcome this disease in near future through the training in this symposium.

I sincerely hope that this symposium will also be helpful to all the participants from abroad to pave the way to the promising counter-measures for the control of Downy Mildew Disease.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the cooperation which every participant has shown for this symposium, and sincerely hope this symposium will result in success by our joint efforts.

Thank you