

Closing Remarks

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Distinguished guests, all the participants here and online, good afternoon. I'm Seiji Yanagihara, vice president of JIRCAS. As we conclude this year's symposium, I would like to take a moment to offer some closing remarks on behalf of the organizers.

First, I would like to deeply thank Dr. Sarada Krishnan and Dr. Toshihiro Hasegawa for your insightful keynote speeches today. And to express my gratitude to all the session speakers for your valuable contributions to this symposium. I would also like to thank everyone else for your active participation in this symposium. A little short in time for more questions or comments. I'm sorry about that.

The JIRCAS International Symposium is held every year with the aim of providing a forum for participants from national agricultural research institutes, universities, and international agricultural research organizations in developing regions to discuss and exchange ideas on the challenges facing agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in developing regions, as well as their sustainable development.

This year, as the global average temperature reaches an all-time high, we focused on research related to resilient genetic resources under the "global boiling" era. For over 50 years, JIRCAS has been working with partners to develop crops that can be sustainably cultivated even in poor agricultural environments in tropical and subtropical regions. However, dealing with "global boiling" is a new challenge. Thus, it is important to conserve and utilize genetic resource diversity for both genetic resources that have not been used until now and those that have already evolved in research and development. As discussed in today's lectures and panel sessions, I believe that the conservation and utilization of genetic resources in building resilient food systems is an area where international joint research is indispensable. I hope this symposium has provided an opportunity to explore further strategies for the conservation and utilization of genetic resources.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO) for their support of the JIRCAS International Symposium. I would also like to express my appreciation to everyone involved in the planning and execution of this event.

Thank you very much.

