

Closing Remarks

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It's 17:10 sharp, so the program went very well, very punctual. Thank you very much for your cooperation. I appreciate this opportunity to deliver a few concluding words and with a little bit more of your patience, I would like to give my impression about today's symposium and our future relating to this symposium.

At JIRCAS, we and agriculture researchers in general fully recognize the importance of leguminous crops in achieving development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in achieving food and nutrition security. However, this recognition is not so common or so deep particularly among ordinary people in Japan partly because pulses are not major food items in Japan. In this symposium, we focused on the multidimensional roles of these important crops as viewed from different perspectives. We accumulated knowledge on these crops, including crop development history, domestication history, global and regional and local production and consumption situation, biodiversity as well as cutting-edge research results, with some beautiful pictures. All presentations were very interesting to me. Given the limited time we had, I would say that we were able to cover a wide range of topics that are useful toward maximizing the power of leguminous crops in agriculture and in livelihood and dietary development activities.

I sincerely hope that this one-day event renewed and enhanced our recognition of these important crops. Needless to say, the issues of agriculture and livelihood and dietary development that we are facing now are very complex issues, and that resolving these issues require a collaboration among various research disciplines. In the final panel discussion, the need to carry out multidisciplinary research was also raised. Legume research alone is obviously not sufficient. There are still many challenges that need to be addressed and we still have much to learn. So, we certainly need more of this kind of events in order to continue our activities on this issue.

This event was organized in relation to the International Year of Pulses. However, our activity on leguminous crops will continue for the coming years. This occasion should be a good starting point for the coming activities.

JIRCAS can play an important role and we stand ready to work with many partners combining researchers with various research fields; however, we will keep our affectionate eyes on leguminous crops, which will be a key component of our research in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our speakers, especially Dr. David Bergvinson, DG of ICRISAT, and Professor Emeritus Kazumi Maeda from Kochi University, for the excellent keynote speeches, and our session chairs and moderators for their good summarizations and moderations. I would also like to offer special words of gratitude to our co-organizers, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, for allowing the use of this nice facility and our cooperators, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan Pulse Foundation for providing us very tasty sweets, and the FAO Liaison Office in Japan and the J-FARD.

Last but not least, thank you to all symposium participants and to everyone involved in planning this event. We are truly grateful for your valuable contributions and attendance. Thank you very much.