

**FFTC's International Symposium on
“Recent Progress in Swine Breeding and Raising Technologies”**



Welcome Remarks

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Dr. Hsu-Sheng Lur, Director General of the Department of Science and Technology of the Council of Agriculture, Dr. Ing-Haur Hwang, Director of the Taiwan Livestock Research Institute, Dr. Hsiang-Jung Tsai, Director of the Animal Health Research Institute, Dr. Akio Takenaka, Director of the National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences in Japan, FFTC Deputy Director Dr. Takashi Nagai, distinguished animal and agricultural scientists who represent more than 10 countries, colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to all of you.

On behalf of the Food and Fertilizer Technology Center, allow me to express and extend my warmest welcome and sincerest appreciation to all of you for your important presence and participation in this international symposium on “Recent Progress in Swine Breeding and Raising Technologies.” In particular, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the officials and staff of the Livestock Research Institute of the Council of Agriculture of Taiwan and the Animal Health Research

Institute for co-organizing this workshop with us and for providing excellent local arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of this symposium. I would also like to thank the valuable support of the management of the Rural Development Foundation and the Council of Agriculture who believe in the objectives of this symposium.

The globalization of the swine industry has caused major changes to national and international swine production over the past few years, and these changes are going to be more rapid and likely to continue. Trade liberalization has dramatically brought about structural changes in the industry, such that less competitive countries are under increasing pressure from imports by more efficient countries with lower production costs. Now that more pork is consumed than any other meat in the world, experts say technological innovation and enhancement are the most important imperatives for raising production efficiency in Asian livestock. Swine, in particular, is the first target for application of these innovative technologies to improve its growth trait, meat quality, and reproduction efficiency.

Undoubtedly, science and technology in swine breeding and raising are moving and growing at a rapid pace. For one, molecular marker-oriented breeding is continuously advancing in its quest for selecting various superior traits such as prolific, stress-free, better meat quality and disease resistance. Same is true with feeds and nutrition whose continuing challenge is to provide swine with balanced diet at less cost using locally available feedstuffs. Coping with advances in technology, therefore is a great task which even animal scientists admit is difficult to do if there is no sharing and exchanging of information. This international symposium, therefore, is FFTC's response to this particular need.

Today, we have gathered 18 distinguished speakers— international scientists from different countries and more than a hundred participants who are part of the Asian swine industry to share and exchange recent advanced research and practical technologies on swine breeding and raising. This event serves as a platform for future cooperation and technical exchange among scientists, policymakers, extension specialists, and various stakeholders to ensure safe and high quality production of swine products by Asian small-scale farmers.

This symposium therefore becomes timely and relevant in the light of global trends that call for more advanced and modern approach to pig farming, especially for the region's small-scale producers whose income and economic alternatives depend heavily on the swine industry.

FFTC, together with the LRI, AHRI, RDF and COA organized this workshop with the common belief that through sharing and committing to a mutual cause, there is significant opportunity in the region to improve the competitiveness of the swine industry relative to other forms of meat protein, and thereby make positive contributions in attaining food security and sustainable development within the region.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you present here today for your time and effort you spent in ensuring the success of this gathering. May you find this workshop most fruitful, rewarding and enjoyable! To all our international participants, may you enjoy your short visit in Taiwan, and may you have the opportunity to explore the scenic beauty of this island, and experience the warm hospitality of its people.

A pleasant day to all!