

Welcome Address

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Distinguished Members of ISTRC,
Honorable Guests and Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my privilege to welcome, in behalf of the Filipino scientists and research administrators, all the foreign delegates to this conference. The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Resources Research is deeply honored by this opportunity to co-sponsor with the International Society for Tropical Root Crops this very important symposium. This celebration is as timely as it is important. For in no other occasion in the history of Philippine agriculture has the root crops commodity been given so much attention by the highest government officials of our country.

The role of root crops is undergoing a transition from backyard plantings to commercial farms, from supplementary food to industrial products. But the most challenging role given to root crops is the production of alcohol or alcohols. If the high energy value of root crops can be converted to fuel that is comparable in cost with petroleum products, then we can start developing energy farms --- farms that will serve as renewable sources of energy to fuel the industrial world of the future. Root crop plantations may serve as perpetual fountains of energy when the vast oil fields begin to dry up.

I am certain that each one of you has a special role for the root crop species of your interest. I see and recognize participants from all regions of the world. We eagerly wait to hear of your accomplishments. We thirst for new knowledge. We will share what we have.

To our friends from Latin America, I have these few words to say . . .

A nuestros paisanos de Sud-America, bienvenidos a Filipinas. Queremos tomar esta ocasion en expresar, en proferir nuestro agradecimiento sobre la germoplasma de la yuca, del camote o patata dulce y la papa. Todos de origen America Latina, pero traídos a Filipinas en tiempos pasados. Durante la epoca cuando viajaban los gallones Españoles desde Acapulco, Mexico a Manila. Estas valeosas plantas fueron introducidos a otras partes del Oriente. Asi que hoy dia la yuca es elemento principal en Indonesia y el articulo de exportacion mas importante de Tailandia. Por todo esto, estamos muy agradecidos, muchas gracias.

Once again allow me to welcome you all to this symposium. Welcome to our country and **MABUHAY TO YOU ALL!**

