

# Message from the President

## *Being willing is not enough; we must do*



*Dr. Yohei SATO*

The National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences became an Independent Administrative Institution (a semi-autonomous agency) on 1 April 2001 and altered its name to the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES). The mission of the new Institute was clearly described in legislation: to conduct fundamental technological research and other activities pertaining to the environments of organisms used in agricultural production, with the aim of helping to upgrade technologies for the conservation and improvement of those environments. At the same time, a 5-year Plan with a target year of 2005 was formulated. The 5-year Plan aimed to achieve the following research targets, on not only a local but also a global scale, within the frame of the Institute's mission:

- 1) implementation of strategies to ensure stable food supplies under global environmental change
- 2) assurance of the safety of food and the environment by utilizing the natural circulation function of agriculture
- 3) succession of our agro-environmental resources to future generations.

To fulfill the objectives of the 5-year Plan, the following key concepts were targeted:

- 1) Publicity, Autonomy and Transparency
- 2) Safety, Security, Restraint and Succession of environmental resources
- 3) International, Interdisciplinary and Interregional relations

We have reviewed our yearly plans by a strict post-evaluation of both our production over the previous year and the degree to which we have fulfilled the objectives of, and endeavored to steadily implement, the 5-year Plan. To this end, we have examined the following nine objectives, which are fundamental to the implementation of the Institute's functions, and have

constantly checked our progress against them:

- 1) Reception (of ideas from the public, other disciplines, and policy needs)
- 2) Research (expansion to solve problems and engage new issues)
- 3) Cooperation (with other disciplines and policymakers, and in the signing of international Memoranda of Understanding—MOUs)
- 4) Discussion (in seminars, extension work, and public education)
- 5) Accumulation (of information in an agro-ecological research resource inventory)
- 6) Evaluation (of research, management, and institutional mechanisms)
- 7) Transmission (to specialists, and to the general public during public evaluation of our work)
- 8) Proposal (in the form of risk evaluations and environmental management plans)
- 9) Dissemination (via the press, TV, journals, and the Internet).

FY 2005 was the target year of the first 5-year Plan. We therefore examined our progress, not only what we have accomplished in FY 2005 but also in achieving the goals described in the 5-year Plan against the nine objectives mentioned above. Notably, the implementation of the 5-year Plan has received high praise from the evaluation committee constituted by the Ministries.

A new 5-year Plan with a target year of 2010 was formulated by the end of FY 2005. It will be important for us to constantly check our progress in achieving the goals of this new 5-year Plan against the same nine objectives listed above. Leonardo da Vinci said, "Being willing is not enough; we must do." We promise you that we will resolutely engage in our work, with these words as our motto.

Many products from FY 2005 are presented in this annual report, and for your information the new research and administrative organization are also introduced here.

It will be to our great delight if the reports of our work in FY 2005 inspire the further development of research on the agro-environment and are used to solve agro-environmental problems. A list of research papers published by NIAES in FY 2005 is included at the end of the report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any aspect of agro-environmental research.

Yohei SATO, Dr. Agr.  
President