

## Advisory Council 2006

The Advisory Council 2006 met on 26 April 2007 at NIAES to provide outside opinions and recommendations on the management of NIAES. The members of the council are external experts and include a professor, a consumer representative, and the directors of other independent administrative institutions (see Appendix).

The following comments were made:

- 1) To optimize research productivity at NIAES it is desirable to establish a new system that can evaluate the yearly achievements of researchers and reflect the evaluations in their working conditions. It is also desirable to evaluate the productivity of administrative staff.
- 2) NIAES needs to follow up on its own scientific results and promote technology transfer to society.
- 3) NIAES should be praised for having established a human resources development program, which will enhance the research ability of the institute in the future.
- 4) Collaboration with non-government research organizations or the private sector should be promoted to the same extent as that with educational and other official research organizations.
- 5) The establishment of the Monsoon Asia Agro-Environmental Research Consortium (MARCO) for the promotion of collaborative study among countries in the monsoon Asia region is a worthwhile move.
- 6) The results of a number of studies have been useful for the development of new methods applicable for farms. Examples are “Uptake of dieldrin and endrin from soils by zucchini” and “Inhibitory effects of rootstocks on Cd uptake by eggplant.”
- 7) It is an important task for NIAES to develop standard international methods for the risk assessment of ecological systems.
- 8) The establishment of methods of analyzing soil bacteria by PCR-DGGE is a valuable step.
- 9) We need to promote research on the modes of action of allelochemicals and search for ones that are new to science.
- 10) Long-term research is significant in the environmental monitoring of greenhouse gas fluxes and radionuclides and in the accumulation of agro-environmental resources.
- 11) NIAES activities, such as open seminars held in regional areas of Japan and a meeting with an NPO to discuss environmental issues, make important social contributions.
- 12) Contributions to international organizations such as IPCC are remarkable accomplishments.
- 13) We need to promote our activities in giving technological assistance to developing countries.