

## Research Collaborations

### 1. Establishment of the Research Consortium, MARCO

The Monsoon Asia Agro-Environmental Research Consortium (MARCO) was established on 14 December 2006 by the adoption of the below-mentioned statement at the NIAES International Symposium “Evaluation and Effective Use of Environmental Resources for Sustainable Agriculture in Monsoon Asia—Toward International Research Collaboration” held from 12 to 14 December 2006 at Tsukuba International Congress Center.

NIAES will pursue the following activities for the purpose of conducting research under the MARCO:

- (1) to provide venues regularly for events such as international symposia for exchanging research information,
- (2) to provide a website as a venue for exchanging consortium information, and
- (3) to help train the people who will carry on activities under the consortium.

#### **Symposium Statement: To Further Advance Agro-Environmental Research in Monsoon Asia**

The 276 participants from 15 countries in the international symposium “Evaluation and Effective Use of Environmental Resources for Sustainable Agriculture in Monsoon Asia—Toward International Research Collaboration”, hosted by the National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES) and supported by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, hereby confirm and agree upon the following points by consensus.

1. In monsoon Asia it is urgent that we solve environmental problems affecting agriculture in order to achieve sustainable development while maintaining a sound agro-ecosystem.
2. Solving these problems requires that researchers, administrative authorities, research institutes, and other entities connected with agriculture and the environment in the countries of this region make a concerted effort under close collaboration.
3. For that purpose, we shall create the Monsoon Asia Agro-Environmental Research Consortium, which transcends the boundaries of specialization and countries, and conduct agro-environmental research through international collaboration under the consortium.

### 2. Conclusion of Agreement for Education and Research between NIAES and the University of Tokyo

NIAES and Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the University of Tokyo (UT), concluded an agreement for improved education of graduate students and the support of their advanced research. Dr. Yohei Sato, President of NIAES, and Professor Hiroshi Komiyama, President of UT, as well as Professor Katsumi Aida, Dean of the Graduate School of UT, executed the agreement on 1 April 2006. Under this agreement, NIAES researchers participate in the education of graduate students at a newly established cooperative laboratory, the “Ecological Safety Laboratory”. Education using NIAES’s accumulated research resources will contribute toward raising young talent people who will be able to work in agro-environmental research in future.

### 3. Conclusion of Cooperative Agreement between NIAES and Toyohashi University of Technology

NIAES and Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT) concluded a cooperative agreement for the promotion of research on science and technology. Dr. Yohei Sato, President of NIAES, and Professor Tatsu Nishinaga, President of TUT, executed the agreement at NIAES on 21 September 2006. The cooperation includes exchange of scientists, exchange of research and technical information, and research cooperation. This cooperation between agriculture and technology will lead to new developments in agro-environmental sciences.




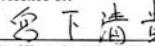
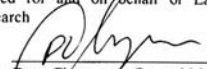
Signing ceremony for the agreement between NIAES and TUT

#### 4. Conclusion of MOU between NIAES and Landcare Research New Zealand Limited

NIAES and Landcare Research New Zealand Limited, New Zealand, concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning scientific and technical co-operation on 17 November 2006. NIAES and Landcare Research agreed to collaborate on some projects related to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems and reduction of the impacts of invasive species in natural and agricultural environments. The scope of activities under this MOU includes exchange of scientists, exchange of technical information and cooperative research.

##### ARTICLE 7

This agreement is written in English in two originals, both of equal validity.

Signed for and on behalf of NIAES:  Dr. Yohei Sato, President  November 21, 2006 Date  in the presence of:  Dr. Kiyotaka Miyashita, Principal Research Director	Signed for and on behalf of Landcare Research  Dr. Dave Choquenot, General Manager Biological Systems 17 November 2006 Date  in the presence of:  Signature and name of witness
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Signatures on the MOU between NIAES and Landcare Research