

Advisory Council 2008

The Advisory Council 2008 met on 19 March 2009 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) There are multiple research projects of a high level and which can be considered at the world's top level. NIAES should back this research officially.
- 2) NIAES needs integrated project research, as well as people who can work in crossover research fields, for major purposes such as raising the food self-sufficiency rate and performing comprehensive analyses that include farmland and forest land. NIAES should put its shoulder into such personnel development and project facilitation.
- 3) It is important that independent administrative institutions benefit society with the products of their research. It is hoped that the orientation of research will be more clearly defined in preparation for the integration to come in two years.
- 4) As the situation becomes increasingly harsh owing to reduced grants and other factors, it is praiseworthy how NIAES has been conducting research by obtaining outside funding. It is hoped that the institute can maintain the conditions making it possible to continue important research.
- 5) In the second research period the institute is carrying out research with the focus on risk research, but from now on what will be increasingly important is agriculture that raises productivity while decreasing the environmental burden, and agriculture that values biodiversity.
- 6) Evaluation documents on research sector were difficult to understand.
- 7) The institute holds many symposia, research presentations, and other events, and they are easy to understand. Their web magazine *Nogyo to Kankyo* is well done, and does an excellent job of public communication and providing information.