

## Advisory Council 2009

The Advisory Council 2009 met on 19 March 2010 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) Research activities are carried out at the high level that is expected of a research institution concerned with the agricultural environment. There has been a considerable increase in the level
- 2) The Council expects NIAES will play an active new role with the development of the farm soil classification system and its inventories of insects and pathogens by leading a national effort through collaboration with other institutions.
- 3) NIAES has many accomplishments in research at the farm level, such as remediation of cadmium pollution and the development of activated charcoal tablets, which are definitely beneficial to regional communities and society as a whole. The Council expects NIAES to investigate how these technologies may be applied to actual situations and expand the results to new developments.
- 4) NIAES provides high quality information through its web magazine "Agriculture and Environment". Their symposiums have improved in quality over the past three to four years. The institution carries out a variety of public relations activities, and the effectiveness of these should be considered.
- 5) Descriptions of studies tend to be fragmented, making it difficult to visualize where they are positioned in the whole framework. Some improvements have been noticed, but further innovations are expected. It will be helpful to illustrate the inter-relationships of the various research projects.
- 6) Studies on risk assessment and risk reduction are meaningful only when knowledge gained is applied to actual situations. Technology transfer to China and other foreign countries is also important. Research projects should be carried out keeping in mind techniques, such as cost benefit and cost reduction, for the transfer of the technologies to actual work sites.
- 7) Farming practices that also helped storks flourish was a successful new technique for bringing back the birds and producing economic benefits, such as higher added values to rice and increased tourism. NIAES should be able to show these effects and market values as well as costs to be expected from the adoption of NIAES technologies. Rough figures should suffice.
- 8) Research on methane generation from rice paddies produced important results. The Council expects them to be deployed by the Global Research Alliance and used in developing nations.
- 9) Human diversity is also important for a research institution. Diverse people should help society as one. Farmers should be given feedback. NIAES can have research projects for the benefit of urban areas.