

Statement from Japan – reflection on the achievements since the 2017

8th GRA Council Meeting

10 September, 2018

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

Japan hosted the seventh GRA Council meeting on 29 and 30 August 2017 in Tsukuba, Japan. The meeting was attended by 74 representatives from 27 countries and invited guests including observer countries and partners. Following the meeting, JIRCAS – NARO International Symposium on Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Mitigation was held and an excursion was organized to visit the Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, NARO and its free-air CO₂ enrichment facility.

*JIRCAS: Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences

*NARO: National Agriculture and Food Research Organization

We have been supportive to research groups and flagships. One example would be that the Japanese government is providing financial support to a project that is called “Development of comprehensive rice cultivation technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Asia” from 2018 to 2022, which will be implemented by researchers from Japan, Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Philippines, and IRRI, as a part of the flagship project of Paddy Rice Research Group. In the preceding flagship project, the effect of water management technologies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas from rice paddies was verified in four Asian countries with fund from Japan. However, farmers will not adapt these technologies just for the sake of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They need technologies that they can increase yields or incomes as well as reducing greenhouse gas

emissions. Therefore, under this new project, we aim to develop technologies combining water management technologies, manure management, and selection of cultivars, which not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also improve yield or income.

In addition, for the purpose of strengthening the dissemination of greenhouse gas mitigation technologies, Japan, in cooperation with Mexico, New Zealand, submitted a proposal to APEC for capacity building activities, which was approved. A capacity building training in Chili, and a workshop in Thailand is ready to be implemented in strong collaboration among GRA members to disseminate our research results related to the paddy rice flagship project.

To lift the profile of GRA and strength the relation with the partners and public, Japan, in cooperation with the secretariat, held a side event at the COP23 entitled “Finding ways to achieve sustainable food production without growing greenhouse gas emissions - Activities of the GRA” presenting the importance of GRA.

Japan has made extensive efforts to expand membership of GRA during its chairmanship. We invited five Asian and African countries to the previous GRA council meeting as observers in Tsukuba. Also, Dr. Iwanaga, the current GRA chair, had active discussions with the potential GRA new members on various occasions including the COP 23 side event. It is our great pleasure to report that three new members, namely, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia have joined during Japan's chairmanship.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the GRA members, partners and the secretariat for their dedicated support to Japan's chairmanship.