

Welcome Address

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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

Today I am very happy indeed to be among the galaxy of downy mildew researchers. Many of you have travelled long distances from your laboratories for exchanging views and valuable information pertaining to corn downy mildew diseases. I am sure that your experience would be invaluable to us, and to your colleagues.

Needless to say that corn is one of the most important cereal crops of the world at large and it has been gaining prominence throughout Asia as well. Corn constitutes an important export commodity for this country and, therefore, it is our aim to improve upon this crop with consolidated efforts.

Our dream of improving this crop is shattered to some extent owing to serious diseases and

pests that invade it frequently. Let me stress how deeply concerned are we to note serious damage caused particularly by ubiquitous downy mildew pathogens. I am glad that you have assembled here with the common desire and an ultimate goal of developing effective means to restrain these destructive agents.

Let us hope that some concrete proposals would emerge from this meeting and existing gaps in the information and knowledge would be filled in.

It gives me profound pleasure to welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to this country. Many of you have been here on previous occasions. It is sincerely hoped that you would enjoy your stay. I wish this meeting every success.