

Welcome Address

RAPEE SAGARIK

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Bangkok 9, Thailand.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen :

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning. Being a career agriculturist, I always enjoy meeting scientists especially those involved with improvement of agriculture in any way. Today my pleasure is compounded on being exposed to scientists of your eminence.

In my opinion, the International Meloidogyne Project is an extremely important endeavour for successful management of obnoxious root-knot nematodes. It is amazing that these nematodes attack such a variety of crops. And more often than not we fight a losing battle against these pests.

Let me assure you, Professor Sasser and your team of regional investigators, that our eyes are set eagerly on your important activities. We appreciate and applaud your ultimate aim of effectively controlling root-knot nematodes. It is most fortunate for this and other Asian countries to have Dr. Madamba as the

Regional Investigator for Region VI. This country feels honoured for being given the opportunity to host this Second Asian Regional Conference on Root-knot Nematode Research Program. I am sure that the Conference would take you a step nearer to your goal.

Some of You have previously visited this Country. But there are others who are here for the first time. Let me assure you that we, the people of this Country, will try to do everything possible to make you comfortable. I am confident that our Organising Committee would spare no efforts to take good care of you. But please forgive us if there are any shortcomings. Lately we have had a number of conferences on our hands, allowing us limited time for the preparation of this Conference.

I take great pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, in extending to you a most hearty welcome. I hope that you would enjoy your stay in our "city of angels".

I wish your deliberations every success.