

Report of the Symposium

“Agriculture is the solution! for climate change”

in Shiga, Japan

from 13th to 15th May 2019

MAFF
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



Outline

1. Report of the symposium
“Agriculture is the solution! for climate change”
2. Report of an additional event organized in Japan
International symposium
“Scaling up and out of climate-smart technologies
and practices for sustainable agriculture”



Overview

- MAFF Japan took the opportunity of IPCC-49 held in Kyoto to organize an **international symposium**, with the support of Shiga Prefecture, the **“4 per 1000” Initiative**, FAO, and the World Bank.

DAY 1: May 13th
Symposium



DAY 2: May 14th
Field Tour



DAY 3: May 15th
Workshop



- Participants: total **697** participants from **21** countries

DAY 1 – Symposium



Group photo of the speakers



**Opening remarks by
Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries**



**Ms. Gianna Braun,
4 per 1000 Initiative**



Panel discussion

DAY 2 – Field Tour



“Asagoi Farm” ↑

: raising midi tomatoes all year round by comprehensive environmental control; in glasshouse

“Aito Eco Plaza Nanohana-Kan” ⇨

: collecting used oil from households and refines to produce soap and biodiesel fuel



DAY 2 – Field Tour



“Seseraginosato”

: community group creating “Fish Cradle Paddy” to revive living things in paddy fields



DAY 3 – Workshop connect scientists to farmers



Group photo of the speakers



Dr. Paul Luu



Farmers' presentation



Discussion



Key messages

All participants highlighted **the extreme vulnerability of agriculture to climate change** and its variability and, the **urgency of accelerating action** before it is too late, as evidenced by the IPCC special report on 1.5°C.

Agriculture is a uniquely placed, lying at the **interface of food security, nutrition and other human needs**, meaning that only a **holistic approach** can tackle the **inter-linked challenges** underlying food and agriculture systems under climate change, including biodiversity loss, land degradation, ecosystem pollution and health impacts, and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This also leads to the recognition that adaptation and mitigation cannot be separated when concerning the agriculture sectors.

Key messages: agriculture

- **Multi-stakeholders exchanges**, bringing together farmers, governmental and non-state actors, such as civil society organizations, communities, researchers and academics, and the other private and public food systems' stakeholders, are fundamental for **inclusive decision-making** and the successful uptake of climate actions on the ground.
- **Farmers are at the center of addressing climate change and are key to scaling up proven solutions.** We need champion farmers to share good practices and testify as to what works.
- Consumers, governments and all stakeholders in this common challenge must **recognize the valuable role of farmers**, at the forefront of climate change and the caregivers of global food security and nutrition.

Key messages: soil and soil organic carbon

- **Healthy soils offer multiple-win** in terms of food security, mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and other ecosystem services.
- There is an **urgent need** to better **inform farmers of the importance of maintaining or increasing** when possible **soil carbon for healthy and fertile soils**, their livelihoods and addressing climate change. There is also an urgent need to support farmers, who like to do more.
- **Risk-responsive support mechanisms** must be put in place to support farmers to maintain healthy soils and address climate-related risks, including economic incentives and certification schemes, access to insurance, timely information and easy-to-implement measurement and monitoring systems.
- **Long term experiments** should be facilitated in order to allow sciences to provide results based on long enough series.

Report in a newspaper

- After the symposium, the activity of the “4 per 1000” Initiative was reported in a Japanese newspaper.

The Asahi Shimbun GLOBE (May 23rd, 2019)

““4 per 1000” can change the earth. The soil-related measures against global warming is attracting attention in the world.”

(「4パーミル」で地球は変えられる 土の力を使った温暖化対策、世界が注目)

<https://globe.asahi.com/article/12388872> (in Japanese)



Mr. Paul Luu



Symposium organized by MAFF, Japan

(Photos are cited by <https://globe.asahi.com/article/12388872>)

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Climate Change and Agriculture Business

November 5, Tokyo

MAFF Japan also organized a symposium for **scaling up and out climate-smart technologies and practices**, as part of the follow-up international workshop of G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists (April 2019, Tokyo).

Even though 4p1000 was not directly involved, the information here may be relevant to the Forum theme "Move from pilot project to large-scale change" .



← Website
of the symposium
(<http://www.maff.go.jp/j/kanbo/kanryo/seisaku/kikouhendou/symposium/cs.html>)

Panel discussion “Let’s discuss seriously for the future”



- **Farmers feel the crisis – plant diseases, extreme weather events, etc...**
- **Farmers are concerned with environment and climate change, but didn't know what was happening at global scale. Even if they intend to do good thing, they might burden the environment, because sometimes they don't have scientific knowledge.**
- **Farmers bear the operational risk for installing new equipment and machinery to introduce new practice.**
- **Private companies can demonstrate “good practices” to consumers.**