



## KEY MESSAGES

**AGRICULTURE IS THE SOLUTION! for Climate Change**



13-15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**MAFF**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Photos: Biwako visitors bureau (Public interest incorporated association), Hyogo Park of the Oriental White Stork

Environment Policy Office of MAFF as the organizer of this symposium is responsible for this report.

Held at Otsu-city, Shiga Prefecture in Japan and organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) with the support of the Shiga Prefecture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and the 4 per 1000 initiative, a series of events comprising an international symposium opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, H.E. Takamori Yoshikawa, a field tour and a workshop to connect scientists to farmers, welcomed a total of 697 participants from 21 countries, both developed and developing countries, as well as international institutions. 39 presentations were delivered along the 3 days with exchanges with the participants (<http://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/env/agsol.html>) .



Website of the symposium

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.

Several key messages were shared during the three days but the most prominent were:

- **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.



A full-day exchange focusing specifically on soil and soil organic carbon led to additional take-aways:

- 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.

