

KYUSEI NATURE FARMING AND EFFECTIVE MICRO-ORGANISMS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Sir Peter Elworthy, Right Honorable Jim Anderton, the Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, Dr.T Kawashima, Senior Managing Director, International Nature Farming Research Center, Atami, Japan, Ms.Liz Clay, World Board Member of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements, Mr.Segar Mason, the Chief Executive Officer, Bio-Gro, New Zealand, Dr.H L Xu, Mr. T Chamberlain, Distinguished Scientists, Dear Friends from all over the world,

We begin this 7th International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming in this beautiful hall of the Christchurch Polytechnic, in the presence of a distinguished gathering. This includes the Deputy Prime Minister of our host nation, New Zealand, some of its distinguished citizens, many eminent people from all over the world and especially our dear friends, who have attended many of our international conferences on Kyusei Nature Farming, held in all continents of this world. It is with humility and pleasure that I welcome you to this conference, as the person who developed the technology of Effective Microorganisms (EM) in the 1970's, which at present forms an integral part of Kyusei Nature Farming.

Looking back over the years, one feels nostalgic, as it was I who proposed to the sponsors of this conference, the International Nature Farming Research Center (INFRC), Atami, Japan, to hold these series of conferences in every continent. This suggestion made in the late 1980s was based on the success and interest that was being developed when the technology of EM was presented at international fora, especially that of the IFOAM Conferences. Hence the International Conferences on Kyusei Nature Farming moved from Thailand to Brazil, America, France, Thailand and South Africa. Today, we begin the 7th Conference in this region, thus encompassing all continents and realizing the original objective.

The first International Conference on Kyusei Nature Farming held in Thailand in 1989, was also a landmark in sustainable agriculture and environmental development. This is due to the establishment of a small network in Thailand, the Asia Pacific Natural Agriculture Network. This little network, sponsored initially by the sponsors of this conference, INFRC, and subsequently by the Sekai Kyusei Kyo of Thailand and the EM Research Organization of Okinawa, spearheaded the promotion of this technology all over the world. It is indeed amazing that this network, which began with 13 countries, developed to encompass over 24 countries in the Asia Pacific region and also established contacts in over 60 nations all over the globe. The leadership given by the network in organizing the International Conferences on Kyusei Nature Farming was also of significance, as the message of Kyusei Nature Farming was spread across the globe in a matter of 12 years.

The theme of this conference is Kyusei Nature Farming for the 21st Century. This is indeed appropriate at the present time, as the world faces significant dangers. Today, humankind is struggling to preserve the environment, while producing sufficient food. This is a battle that is being fought in many fronts. However, we have long known that in New Zealand, most arable farming systems are sustainable, principally due to the limited use of agrochemicals. This country is blessed with a good soil and a climate, which are key components for successful sustainable agriculture. However, recent trends indicate a growing demand for organic systems even in New Zealand. This does not mean that all agriculture needs to be organic. There is a growing niche for organic products both locally and for export and farmers and entrepreneurs have developed organic systems. Kyusei Nature Farming and EM offers all these enterprising people significant scope for improving their farming systems, by enhancing the productivity of the microbial activity with organisms from the country itself. The use of EM increases productivity in a holistic manner, as seen in several instances in New Zealand and in over 75 countries globally. The successes and scientific evidence of this will be presented at the conference over the next three days, while the field visits will exemplify it in a practical manner. This is primarily based on the enrichment of the microbial life of the ecosystems, by the use of EM, which is made from photosynthetic bacteria, lactic acid bacteria and yeasts in an acidic medium containing raw sugar. These microbes, selected from the locations of utilization provide a more conducive environment for crops and also animals. This is the principle of activity of EM within the scope of Kyusei Nature Farming.

Agriculture produces food and this in turn produces organic wastes, which are also a problem for humankind. Kyusei Nature Farming and EM offer scope to overcome this problem. The use of EM enhances microbial activity of the wastes, thus producing good composts for use as organic manures within a very short period of time. This phenomenon is well researched and proven, and many countries use this system to produce fertilizers from organic wastes for cropping. Animal wastes are also turned into manures, while EM controls odor problems. These aspects will also be evident to you all on the basis of scientific studies, practical experiences and also by demonstrations during the field visit. These features will highlight that Kyusei Nature Farming, which was advocated in the 1930's and the technology of Effective Microorganisms offers much scope for New Zealand, the Pacific region and the whole world to maintain and also increase agricultural production and environmental preservation.

The technology of EM has not remained dormant. Many new developments have taken place in this technology, which will be presented later today, in the keynote address. However, it is appropriate to mention that antioxidants, which have been identified as key ingredients for good health have been isolated from EM. Derivatives of EM are used in disinfection and sanitation of urban utilities. The technology has a wide scope, and hence Kyusei Nature Farming and the technology of EM hold significant promise for the future generations of humankind. It is a technology for the 21st century.

Distinguished guests, dear friends, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to this conference, which has the Deputy Prime Minister of this beautiful country as the Guest of Honor. As the Chairman of this conference, I thank you for being with us,

amidst a very busy schedule. However, it is an honor to us, and we hope that you sir, will support the use of the technologies presented at this conference and currently used in New Zealand on a limited scale at present, to maintain the pristine beauty of New Zealand, enhance its agriculture and overcome problems of waste management. This will enable the development of Kyusei Nature Farming and the technology of Effective Microorganisms in New Zealand and the Pacific region. This is the principal objective of this conference.

Thus, it is with happiness and hope that I invite all our guests and friends to enjoy the four days. Please listen, take notes, discuss, debate and even argue on the merits and demerits of what is being presented to you on a scientific basis and also with practical experiences, which are keys to successful adoption of any technology. I am sure that you will be educated in the process and return to your own countries or regions of New Zealand with new experiences on Kyusei Nature Farming and EM technology.

Please enjoy the conference. I wish you a happy, educative and memorable conference, which will present new strategies and developments to make your lives and that of the future generations happy, healthy and productive.

Thank you.