

Activity of Japanese Society of Grassland Science

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Background The Japanese Society of Grassland Science (JSGS) was founded in 1954 for the purposes of progressing grassland and forage crop sciences and fostering grassland agriculture and better management of grassland for animal production in Japan. From the first, the members of JSGS have included interdisciplinary scientists from forage crop science, forestry, animal science, agribusiness and many related fields. In the 50 years since its foundation, JSGS has made large contributions to the progress of both science and industry in Japan. The number of JSGS members is now declining slightly, but there are still about 950 including 800 individual members and 150 organisations or private companies. The profile of the current members is mainly scientists working in university or governmental and private research institutes.

Main activities Major activities of the JSGS are (a) to hold the annual meeting (usually in spring), (b) to publish the journals of JSGS, "Grassland Science" in English and "Japanese Journal of Grassland Science" in Japanese and (c) to confer Research Awards

Recent developments The internationalisation of research activity and the evolution of grassland science to include environmental science have led to changes in the approach of the Society. It is important that information and experiences are shared with scientists all over the world. To respond to this situation a "Japan-Korea-China Symposium on Grassland Agriculture and Animal Production" was held successfully on the 50th anniversary of JSGS in Hiroshima, with the help of both the Chinese and Korean Societies of Grassland Science. It was agreed that this trilateral symposium should be held regularly and the next will be in Lanzhou, China, in 2006.

Because Asian scientists in grassland science still did not have an international journal for our special field, JSGS decided to publish a new international journal in English. The journal covers all the fields of grassland science; cultivation and management of grassland, physiology, morphology, pathology, breeding and genetics of forage plants, forage conservation and nutritive value, animal behaviour in grassland, grassland environment and landscape, ecology, soil and soil organisms, farm machinery, economics and others related to grassland. The journal will be published quarterly, March, June, September and December. We hope that this journal will contribute to the progress of grassland research and grassland agriculture towards the establishment of sustainable agriculture in Japan, Asian countries and the world.