

**Address by H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan,  
at the Symposium “Contributing to Social Security and Jobs through  
Agriculture: 30 years of Sasakawa in Africa over Thirty Years”**

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[Provisional translation]

Chairman Yohei Sasakawa, I am sincerely honored to have been invited to speak here today

Today, as many African countries concentrate their efforts on promoting and developing agriculture, looking back we see that the initiative and the efforts demonstrated by the SAA, the Sasakawa Africa Association, include truly great examples.

I have heard that in Africa in years past, there was a widespread understanding that producing a single crop bound for export was what was considered ‘agriculture.’

The SAA has countered this by advocating from early on that it is in fact strengthening agriculture that brings stability to people’s lives.

I understand that the SAA’s work began with practical training, by expanding among farmers the practice of stringing a rope along a field and making a straight line to plant seeds.

This year the SAA commemorates its 30<sup>th</sup> year, with activities in 18 countries since it began. As I offer my sincere congratulations to you, I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Professor Ruth Oniang’o on behalf of the Japanese people for the efforts she has made leading the SAA over the years.

The founder and previous Chairman, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, is surely somewhere in Africa smiling in delight in the next life.

I imagine that Dr. Norman Borlaug, father of the Green Revolution, who would be 102 years old were he alive today, is also perhaps looking down on today’s gathering, patting each other on the back with the previous Chairman.

The tragic misery of the famine that struck Africa in the 1980's is something seared into my mind.

The previous Chairman, 87 at the time, and 72-year-old Dr. Borlaug, saw the horrible scene and sprang into action, impatient to go make a difference.

I am deeply impressed at the fresh, invigorated sensitivity that these two pioneering leaders showed in regarding the misfortunes of the world as their own.

Moreover, the current Chairman Sasakawa and Professor Oniang'o have taken over this work and enhanced the Association's activities time and again.

Making each individual farmer stronger, wiser, and self-reliant. The need to foster a single value chain stretching from planting the seeds to selling the goods in the market at the proper price. And the fact that it is at the same time necessary to bring in government to advance specialist education.

It has been the activities of the SAA that have consistently advocated for the importance of these and put them into practice.

I feel it is as if the SAA has successfully transitioned this year's TICAD motif, "Quality and Empowerment," into practice more than 20 years in advance. I am deeply in awe at this.

I have heard that, speaking about new technologies, Dr. Borlaug's last words were, "Take it to the farmer."

The SAA is staying faithful to those words through the work it continues to do even now in Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda. I have no doubt that its great efforts there towards "feeding the future" will culminate in still more fruits and make even more flowers bloom.

I will end my remarks by expressing once again my respect for all the efforts you have been making.

Thank you very much.