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## PREFACE

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agribusiness and Rural Development (IConARD) 2024 was held virtually on 7-8 August 2024. This conference focused on "Harmony in Nature: Bridging Environmental Science and Rural Development for Sustainable Futures".

In the journey towards progress, the fragile balance between humanity and nature often faces significant pressures, resulting in various environmental challenges. The concept of sustainable living emerges as a foundation of hope, urging efforts to reduce human dependence on natural resources at both individual and community levels. At its core, environmental science plays a pivotal role, allowing for a profound understanding of ecosystems, their processes, and the impact of human activities. However, the integration of agriculture within the context of rural development becomes a crucial element to achieving a broader harmony between human activities and nature.

Environmental science, as the cornerstone of sustainable living, cannot be separated from the strategic role of agriculture in rural sustainability. By comprehending complex relationships within ecosystems, environmental science provides guidance for making informed decisions, ensuring the sustainability of agricultural and broader ecological environments. The integration of sustainable agriculture is key to ensuring that farming practices enrich the environment rather than degrade it, and that rural communities derive sustainable benefits from wise agricultural practices.

Sustainable and integrated agriculture aligned with the principles of sustainable living becomes a crucial solution in achieving harmony with nature. In the context of rural development, a holistic approach involving environmentally friendly agriculture not only supports food security and rural economies but also positively contributes to local and global ecosystems. This panel discussion aims to bring together thinkers, experts, and practitioners from various fields to explore concrete strategies in combining environmental science, rural development, and agriculture to create a sustainable future where humans, nature, and agriculture can coexist harmoniously. IConARD 2024 aspires to be a beacon of hope, bringing together experts, practitioners, and thought leaders to collaboratively explore concrete strategies, share insights, and chart a path towards sustainable futures where humans, nature, and agriculture coexist harmoniously.

This conference has participated by many researchers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Russia, Pakistan, Taiwan, Netherland. Diversity could bring various opinions about this concern issue. To ensure the published papers are of high quality, the editorial board and reviewers of IConARD 2024 were experts in their related areas. The publications hope significantly to contribute to increasing the adaptation in global environment challenges.

We would like to deliver big gratitude to all participants, keynote speakers, committees, and other parties that helped with this conference.

Committee of IConARD 2024