

●特集／園芸学研究院の発足による研究力強化

Feature Article／Establishment of the New Research Organization

特集を組むにあたって～研究院・講座体制の始動～

Introduction: Establishment of the new research organization

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千葉大学園芸学部・大学院園芸学研究科では2021年4月に改組を行い、新たに「大学院園芸学研究院」が発足した。これは、学生が学ぶ教育機関と研究を行う教員組織を分ける「教教分離」の考え方に基づいたもので、個々の教員は学部・研究科で教育活動を行いつつ、研究院に設けられた5つの講座の何れかに所属し、新たな体制での研究活動を開始している。この「講座」は、旧来の学科やコースとは異なる枠組みで、将来の園芸学分野の発展に向けて必要とされる研究を見据えて、植物生命科学、園芸環境科学、食と緑の健康創成学、先端園芸工学、ランドスケープ・経済学の5つが設けられた。それぞれの講座は、様々な学科の教員から構成され、独自のミッションを設定し、分野横断・学際融合的な研究プロジェクトを推進することで、新分野を開拓するとともに園芸学研究院全体の研究力強化を目指している。本特集ではまず、これら5つの講座の概要や目標・将来展望に加えて、各講座の特徴的な研究トピックを紹介する。加えて、園芸学研究院では、改組初年度より、分野の異なる複数の教員が連携して独創的な研究課題を提案する「園芸フロンティア研究プロジェクト」の支援・推進を行っている。特集の後半では、現在進行中の研究プロジェクトの概要と、一部の課題については、関連する国内外の研究動向を含めたプロジェクトに関する総説記事を寄稿いただいた。これらを通じて、今後の社会課題解決と先鋭的な研究推進を志向した園芸学研究院の新たな取り組みについてご関心を賜れば幸甚である。

In April 2021, the Faculty of Horticulture at Chiba University established a new research organization, the Graduate School of Horticulture, comprising five specific

fields of horticultural science. The establishment of this new organization is based on the concept of the separation of the education system and the research organization, with individual faculty members continuing their educational activities in the faculty and graduate school, while belonging to one of the five divisions to start research under the new organization. The divisions are different from the conventional departments and courses, and were established in the following five areas: Plant Sciences, Environmental Science, Food and Health Science, Advanced Horticultural Engineering, and Landscape and Economics, with a view to research necessary for future advancements in the field of horticulture. Each of the divisions consists of faculty members from various departments, and each has defined its own mission to promote interdisciplinary research projects aiming to pioneer new fields and enhance overall research potential. In this special issue, each of the five divisions is introduced with an overview, goals, and future prospects, as well as the research topics that are characteristic of each division. In addition, since the first year of its establishment, it has supported and promoted the Frontier Research Project in Horticulture, in which several faculty members in different fields collaborate to propose original research topics. In the latter half of this special issue, an overview of the ongoing research projects and, for some of the topics, review articles on the projects, including related domestic and international research activities, have been provided. It would be very satisfying if our readers find these articles of interest in presenting the new challenges of the Graduate School of Horticulture as it strives to identify and address social problems while promoting cutting-edge research for the future.