

19th June, 1979

Dear Swamee,

I often think of you in new role and naturally wonder how you are coping. I have no doubt about the answer; my concern is only with the enormous strain of encompassing the whole Ministry. On the research side I am sure Dr Tautam will give you loyal support.

It has not been a good year for me. On May 14th I collapsed in Brisbane & spent a few days in hospital before returning to Canberra. A feared heart attack fortunately was disproved. The offender was my gall bladder which was full of little stones! I have had it removed and am now regathering strength for a return, hopefully, to a normal active life!

I am at home for two or three weeks & have begun to catch up with my reading of Indian material. I have made a resolution - with your permission - to see more of the research effort at first hand (especially in rice). I have found much of encouragement in recent ICAR "Research Highlights", your report for 1978/79. Me.

I continue to be worried by TAC: it will need to function as we always intended, as a principal advice on allocation of scarce resources. Evans & Cummings have clashed - but with encouragement from Baum & the two concerned

I have offered informally some advice which I hope will improve the effectiveness of the members as a group.

To-day I have begun to think about my address: I promise to have it written & to move up in Delhi in time!

Warmest good wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

John Crawford

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COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

D. M. S. Swaminathan,
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,
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Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi
INDIA
110001



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BY AIR MAIL

Dr. 8475/KFL h9

July 5, 1979.

My dear

I thank you very much for your letter dated 19th June, 1979. I am sorry to learn that you have not been well. I am glad the stones have been removed from the gall bladder. I hope you will take some more rest and will not plunge into hectic work. We are all looking forward to your visit in September. Dr. Gautam has finalised the programme for the ICAR Golden Jubilee Symposium from September 3 to 7, 1979. Your Address is scheduled for the 3rd in the Convention Hall of Ashoka Hotel.

The monsoon this year has been so far erratic. There were no rains in Assam and the North-Eastern region during May and part of June. From about June 9, monsoon has been active in Kerala and along the West Coast. There has also been reasonably good rainfall in several other parts of the country. During the past three or four days, however, monsoon activity has been somewhat weak. I hope it will revive soon.

We have held a series of discussions with State Governments on the production plans for this year. We are laying particular stress on increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds. I enclose for your information a copy of a letter I have written to State Governments, which summarises our approach to this problem.

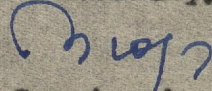
This letter will also give you the latest estimate of foodgrain production during 1978-79. The original estimate was about 127.5 million tonnes but the latest estimate places the production at 130.5 million tonnes. The gain in wheat production has been particularly spectacular with Uttar Pradesh making a large contribution to the additional wheat production. In the case of rice, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana have been responsible for the increase. In view of your interest in pulses, I shall be grateful if you kindly let me know whether in your view any additional steps should be taken.

(P.T.O.)

I have lost touch with TAC CGIAR.
I, however, entirely agree with you that the
system should be nurtured and developed carefully
so that it continues to play a pivotal role
in organising and stimulating relevant research.
I hope we can discuss this when you come here.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(M.S. Swaminathan)

Sir John Crawford,
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18/10/77

Back to me

Encl.- As above.