

DR. B. P. PAL

M. Sc. Ph. D. (Cantab) D.Sc., FLS, FRHS, FBS, FGS, FNI  
Director General, I.C.A.R., and  
Additional Secretary to the  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
(Department of Agriculture)



Telegram : AGRISEC  
Telephone : 382629

भारतीय कृषि अनुसन्धान परिषद्  
कृषि भवन, डा० राजेन्द्र प्रसाद रोड, नई दिल्ली ।  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
KRISHI SHAWAN, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD ROAD, NEW DELHI-1.

December 31, 1971

*My dear Dr Swaminathan,*

Since I will now be retiring from service in a matter of days, this letter is a formal act of leave-taking from my beloved I.A.R.I. where I spent the best years of my life. My sisters also used to regard it as their home and loved its greenery and its peaceful atmosphere. Although the Minister persuaded me to go the I.C.A.R. in 1965, you have generously allowed me to continue my links with the Institute and to work on my roses there. This has been a source of great solace to me. You have also by many, many acts of thoughtfulness and kindness made me feel that I was still part of this great Institute. I have deeply appreciated this.

The Institute has great achievements to its credit and many fine people working in it. You have expanded its activity manifold and taken it much further and much higher than when I left it. I have enjoyed meeting the scientists and other staff members of the Institute and am deeply grateful for the friendly cooperation they have invariably extended to me.

I have always regarded it as the great good fortune of Indian agriculture that you decided to make its improvement your chief vocation when you had so many choices, many of them monetarily more attractive, open to you. It is still more fortunate that you combine extraordinary ability with humility and an urge to ameliorate the lot of the millions of our countrymen who subsist by agriculture.

May I now wish your great Institute yet higher achievements in the service of agriculture? May I also thank you and express appreciation for the dedicated way in which you and your gifted and charming wife have provided leadership and a sense of purpose to the Institute?

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Even a single lamp dispels the deepest darkness". May you long continue to be such a lamp for the benefit of our motherland.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan,  
Director, I.A.R.I.,  
New Delhi-12.

*With affectionate regards,  
yours sincerely,  
B.P. Pal*