

M.S.Swaminathan

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I am sorry for the delay in thanking for your letter of the 28th June, 1976. I have been reading reports about severe drought in U.K. I do hope you will get some winter rains and that the position will ease. However I suppose such occasions also help to remind people that nature is not yet under their control. Many wasteful practices also tend to get curtailed in the wake of such calamities. It is difficult to believe that your beautiful lawns are now brown and wilting.

I entirely agree with you that it is our own responsibility to identify the major research gaps and rectify them. However, the World Bank insists on sending several missions - pre-appraisal, appraisal and post-appraisal before a project fructifies. We only wanted to take the opportunity to have the privilege of having you again with us though for a short period. I, however, fully understand and respect your views. I shall send you the document we prepared so that if you have any comments or suggestions to offer we can make suitable provisions.

The monsoon this year has been abundant in most parts of India except in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In fact, in several parts of north India we have water-logging with a consequent adverse impact on sorghum, pearl millet, cotton and pulses. The sugarcane crop is good. The rice crop is also by and large good. As you know, we have now a grain reserve of about 17 million tonnes and it is going to be a problem of storage space for the rice and other grains which will have to be purchased from next month onwards.

We are also engaged in an exercise of integrated rural development on the lines suggested by the Science Congress. I am sending you separately a few papers which explain our approach.

With my best regards to you and Lady Hutchinson,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Sir Joseph Hutchinson, F.R.S.,  
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(M.S.Swaminathan)