



# THIRTY FOURTH CONVOCATION

JULY 26, 1997

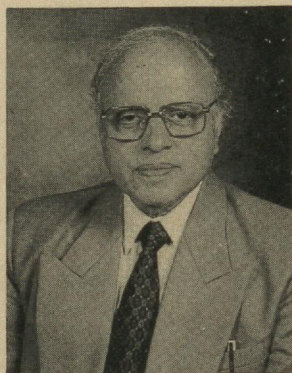
CITATION

Presented to

**Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN**

on the occasion of the  
Conferment of Doctor of Science (honoris causa)

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
MADRAS**



**Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN**  
Chairman  
M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation  
Chennai

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

## Citation

### **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**

Born on August 7, 1925 in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan obtained his B.Sc. Agriculture degree from Coimbatore Agriculture College, Madras University in 1947. He received his Ph.D degree in Genetics from Cambridge University in 1952. Dr.M.S. Swaminathan is one of the world's leading agricultural scientists. He played a catalytic role in India's Green Revolution between 1960 and 1982. He served as Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) from April 1982 to January 1988.

During the decade prior to assuming his post with IRRI, Dr. Swaminathan was at the forefront of one of the most remarkable agricultural accomplishments in recent history, taking India from having the largest food deficit in the world to producing enough grain to feed all its people. He has served as Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (1972-79), and Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (1979-80). He was Member in-charge of Science, Agriculture and Rural

Development in India's Planning Commission and Chairman, Science Advisory Committee to the Cabinet from 1980 to 1982.

Dr. Swaminathan has received over 34 honorary doctorates from various Universities/ institutions spanning three continents. In addition to being a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and the Royal Society of London, Dr. Swaminathan is also a Fellow of Science Academies in Sweden, Italy, United States, Russia and China. He is a Founder Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences. He was President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) during 1984-90, World Wide Fund for Nature, India (1989-96) and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (1991-96). He is currently President of the National Foundation for India.

Dr. Swaminathan has worked on a wide range of problems in basic and applied plant genetics and agricultural research and development over a period of 45 years. At IRRI, he bestowed top priority to research relating to sustainable rice production as well as intra-generational and inter-generational equity. He is the Founder Chairman of the Iwokrama International Rain Forest Research Centre in Guyana, which is the world's largest project in the area of sustainable management of Tropical Rain forests. Recently he has helped develop a transparent and implementable method of recognising and rewarding the intellectual property contributions of tribal and rural families in the conservation

and selection of plant genetic resources. Over 60 students have worked for their Ph.D degree under his guidance.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan served as Chairman of the U.N. Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development during 1981-84 and was Independent Chairman of the FAO council during 1981-85. In 1982, he organised as the Founder-Chairman (1982-85) a Society for the Promotion of Wasteland Development as a professional non-governmental organization committed to the ecological restoration of degraded land in different parts of India. He served as Chairman of the Advisory Panel on Food Security, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment to the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED).

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has published over 200 papers in international journals and several books, including "Building a National Food Security System", "Science and Integrated Rural Development" and "Towards an Ever-green Revolution". He has also co-edited books on "Global Aspects of Food Production" and "Plants and Society".

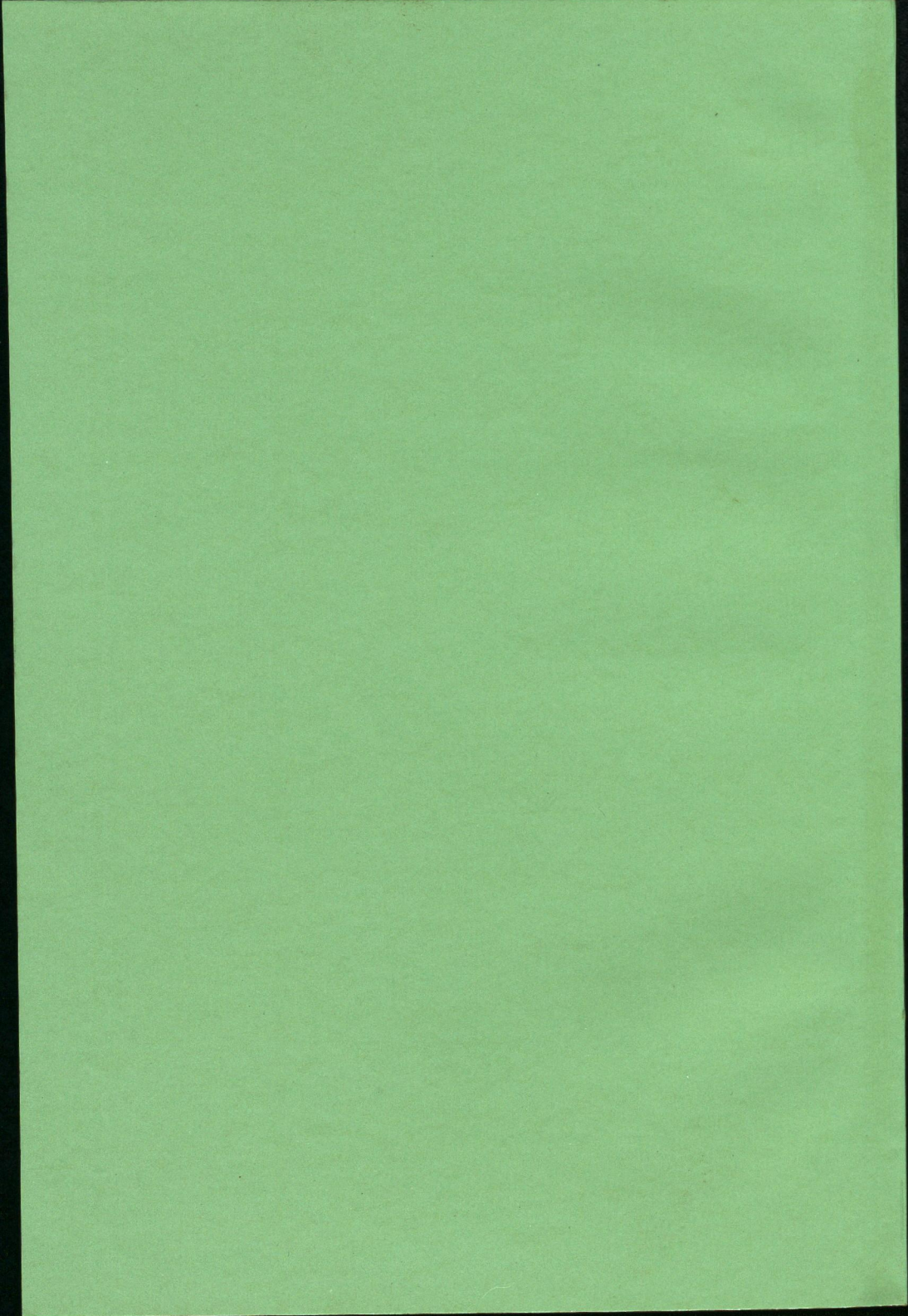
Among his many distinguished awards are the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership (1971), the first award for serving the cause of Women in Development (1985), Padma Shri (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972) and Padma Vibhushan (1989). In 1986, he received the Albert Einstein World Award on Science. On 6th October 1987, he became the first laureate of the World Food Prize, regarded

widely as the equivalent of a Nobel Prize in Agriculture. While conferring the UNEP - Sasakawa Environment Prize in 1995, the United Nations Environment Programme described him as "the father of the economic ecology movement". UNESCO designated Dr. Swaminathan in 1996 as UNESCO-Cousteau Professor in Ecotechnology for Asia. Dr. Swaminathan is currently heading a Research Foundation in Chennai for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development.

On the occasion of his receiving the first World Food Prize at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, in October, 1987, Mr Javier Perez de-Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations wrote, "Dr. Swaminathan is a living legend, his contributions to Agricultural Science have made an indelible mark on food production in India and elsewhere in the developing world. By any standards, he will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of rare distinction".

The IIT, Madras considers itself privileged to confer the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) on Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.

26th July 1997



IIT, Madras, July 26, 1977

I feel highly honoured by  
my being chosen as an honorary  
alumnus of this great institution.

I thank the Board of Governors,  
the Director, Faculty and all the  
academic authorities of <sup>IIT, Chennai,</sup> ~~this great~~  
an institution I greatly admire and respect,  
~~Institution~~, for giving me this  
privilege.

IIT, ~~Madras~~ Chennai and  
the other IIT's belong to the  
Category described as Jawahar Lal  
Nehru as "the temples of independent  
India". As we celebrate the  
50th Anniversary of our independence,  
IIT's give us justifiable  
pride in our accomplishments  
in the areas of technological education  
as well as in the development  
and dissemination of socially relevant

and economically viable technologies.

Celebration of past successes has however

to be coupled with a determination

to ~~meet successfully~~ future challenges and opportunities.

For example, all over the world,

there is increasing recognition of

that good ecology is good business.

While our industrialised are trying

to reach the ISO 9000 standards

in terms of ~~environmental~~ impact

on environment, the industrialised

nations are moving towards ISO 14000

standards, which prescribe ~~higher~~

more effective environmental management

and auditing systems. <sup>Thus,</sup> we have

to move forward as fast as stay

where we are', to quote Alice in

the Looking Glass

I am confident that  
 given continued political support  
 and professional dedication and  
 inventiveness, we can foster  
 a green productivity movement in  
 our country. In such work  
 we can draw inspiration from  
 a couplet in the immortal Kural

" If one with a concentration of  
 his soul, mind and all the  
 senses,

would fervently aspire for great  
 goals,

he will surely accomplish them."

I thank you once again for this honour.

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Human Resource development - 2  
weekly

Note to Mr. Bonmai  
on agriculture  
,  
Food security