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1084
13th May, 1994

my dear Swami

The Foundation that you established in Madras is a landmark in mankind's efforts to develop a new paradigm that would be based on equity and sustainability. There is a grand vision as well as practical, demonstrative, down to earth action in the reality of diverse ecological settings in India. I was fascinated with what I saw and inspired by the spirit you radiate all around. The facilities at the Foundation are carefully planned and technologies are wisely selected. The result is a unique institution under an inspiring leader.

I have been looking forward to this day. I send you and Meena my most sincere greetings and good wishes for what both of you are accomplishing. The work on coastal econ-systems of direct relevance to IDRC is progressing beautifully. But, of course, the entire philosophy of the Foundation is so much in tune with that of the IDRC that I am wondering in what other ways one could attempt to bring about a wider communion of effort between the IDRC and the Foundation. I am wondering if the new Panchayati Raj initiative could provide opportunities for developing local information systems which, in turn, could lead to local priority setting, policy formulation and programming with communities intimately involved in the whole process. A cumulative capacity building in local communities in an effort to match local resources to local needs with technology playing a catalytic role would seem eminently feasible in the framework you have established with such vision and devotion.

Once again with my admiration and good wishes I wish to pay you both my humble tribute.

Yours sincerely,

Rama

V. RAMALINGASWAMI

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May 18, 1994

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My dear

Mina and I are extremely grateful to you for your encouraging fax of May 13. I thank you for your generous sentiments. We do wish the Centre to be known both for its professional excellence and social relevance. With your guidance and encouragement, we shall continuously strive to achieve this goal.

I thank you for your suggestion concerning our participation with IDRC on the building of the capacity of the Panchayati Raj Members particularly women in beginning a new era of rural transformation. I shall discuss with Vijay Pande your suggestion and see how we can proceed further.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



M.S. Swaminathan

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