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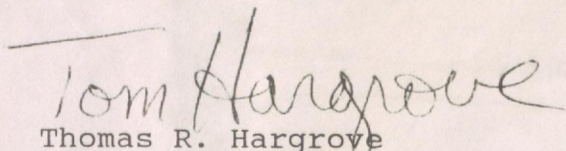
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MEMORANDUM

01 December 1987

To : All Concerned
From : The Communication and Publications Department
Subject : Awards to Dr. M. S. Swaminathan

Several persons have recently asked for information on the awards that President Corazon C. Aquino and the National Academy of Science and Technology of the Philippines recently conferred on Dr. Swaminathan. Attached is a single-spaced copy of the text of our press release, which gives details.



Thomas R. Hargrove
Editor and Head
Communication and Publications
Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President Aquino, NAST Confer
Honors on IRRI Director General

Manila, Philippines--President Corazon C. Aquino presented the Golden Heart Presidential Award to Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) on 10 November in a special ceremony at Malacañang Palace.

Swaminathan, a native of India, is the first foreigner to be conferred the prestigious award by the Aquino administration.

Among the achievements President Aquino cited were Swaminathan's role in strengthening IRRI as a source of knowledge and expertise to further agricultural science; his support in the establishment of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); the initiation of Technology Transfer Workshops for the exchange of ideas and information between the Department of Agriculture and IRRI; and the expansion of IRRI's capacity for "upstream research" to bring the fruits of recent advances in science and technology to Asian rice farmers.

Swaminathan, on accepting the award, cited President Aquino's words during her 1986 World Food Day address at IRRI: "Where hunger rules, peace cannot prevail."

Present at the ceremony were Carlos G. Dominguez, Philippine Secretary of Agriculture; Dr. Jose V. Abueva, President, University of the Philippines System, and Mrs. Abueva; Dr. Raul P. de Guzman, Chancellor, University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB), and Mrs. de Guzman; Dr. Santiago Obien, Director, PhilRice; Mrs. Gloria M. Angara, representing Sen. Edgardo J. Angara; Ambassador Krishna Raghunath from India, and Mrs. Raghunath; Dr. M. Narasimham, Vice President, Asian Development Bank (ADB); and scientists from IRRI and Philippine agricultural institutions.

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On 6 November, the National Academy of Science and Technology of the Philippines (NAST) held a special convocation to honor Swaminathan as the first laureate of the World Food Prize. Patterned after the Nobel Prize, the World Food Prize was established this year by the General Foods Fund to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to global food security.

The convocation, held at headquarters of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) in Los Baños, was opened by Dr. Pablo C. Campos, President, NAST. Keynote speakers included Undersecretary of Agriculture Dante Barbosa; Dr. Abueva; Antonio V. Arizabal, Secretary of Science and Technology; Dr. Ramon V. Valmayor, Executive Director, PCARRD; Dr. Domingo M. Lantican, Vice Chancellor, UPLB; and Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali, National Scientist of the Philippines.

Speakers noted that Swaminathan had converted his cash award of US\$200,000 to a special fund for several projects designed to link small farmers and agricultural scientists. One project will be the production of mushroom culture spawn to enable women from landless-labor families in Pangasinan, Philippines, to grow mushrooms on rice straw compost.

After the Golden Heart ceremonies, Swaminathan presented the President samples of milled rice of two advanced IRRI experimental lines, and a card of appreciation printed on paper that was hand-crafted from rice straw. The paper is manufactured as a cottage industry by housewives and out-of-school youth in Bo. San Antonio, Los Baños. The industry was stimulated by "Prosperity Through Rice," an IRRI-UPLB-ADB project to find uses for rice byproducts. The Forest Products Research and Development Institute in Los Baños trained the workers in papermaking. The unit, established by Ms. Fe Frialde, employs 12 persons and produces 500 sheets of "art" paper per day. The paper is sold locally and exported to Japan and the USA.

Swaminathan, who has been IRRI's Director General since 1982, will retire in early 1988 to concentrate his efforts on issues of environmental protection and sustainable agriculture, with the help of nongovernmental organizations. He will begin a series of international lecture engagements as World Food Prize laureate.

Swaminathan will chair the next General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), to be held in February 1988 in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the invitation of President Oscar Arias Sanchez, the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

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