

**Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources
&
NATIONAL BUREAU OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
Pusa Campus, New Delhi**

CITATION

Prof. M S SWAMINATHAN

PADMA VIBHUSHAN, PROFESSOR M S SWAMINATHAN HAS BEEN ACCLAIMED BY TIME MAGAZINE AS ONE OF THE TWENTY MOST INFLUENTIAL ASIANS OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND ONE OF THE ONLY THREE FROM INDIA, THE OTHER TWO BEING MAHATMA GANDHI AND RABINDRANATH TAGORE. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME AS "THE FATHER OF ECONOMIC ECOLOGY" AND BY JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS "A LIVING LEGEND WHO WILL GO INTO THE ANNALS OF HISTORY AS A WORLD SCIENTIST OF RARE DISTINCTION". HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE UN SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SET UP IN 1980 TO TAKE FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE VIENNA PLAN OF ACTION. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE FAO COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

A PLANT GENETICIST BY TRAINING, PROFESSOR SWAMINATHAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL RENAISSANCE OF INDIA HAVE LED TO HIS BEING WIDELY REFERRED TO AS THE SCIENTIFIC LEADER OF THE FARM REVOLUTION MOVEMENT. HIS ADVOCACY OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE LEADING TO AN EVER-GREEN REVOLUTION MAKES HIM AN ACKNOWLEDGED WORLD LEADER IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY. THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERRED ON HIM THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROMOTING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND TECHNOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND FOR HIS PIONEERING ROLE IN MAINSTREAMING GENDER CONSIDERATIONS IN AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT. PROFESSOR SWAMINATHAN WAS AWARDED THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN 1971, THE ALBERT EINSTEIN WORLD SCIENCE AWARD IN 1986, AND THE FIRST WORLD FOOD PRIZE IN 1987.

PROFESSOR SWAMINATHAN IS A FELLOW OF MANY OF THE LEADING SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES OF INDIA AND THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, THE US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY. HE HAS RECEIVED 38 HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES FROM UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD. HE CURRENTLY HOLDS THE UNESCO CHAIR IN ECOTECHNOLOGY AT THE M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION IN CHENNAI (MADRAS), INDIA.

**NBPGR, New Delhi
8 September, 1999**

Dr. M S Swaminathan and Genetic Resources Conservation

- 1949-55** Collection, conservation and classification of potato and other tuber-bearing Solanum species
Assisting the University of Wisconsin and the USDA in establishing an Inter-regional Potato Introduction Station at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
- 1955-72** Built up the germplasm collections in wheat and rice
Helped to collect over 7000 rice strains from the N E region of India (Assam Rice Collection), a veritable mine of valuable genes
- 1970-80** Vice-Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee to the CGIAR
Instrumental in establishment of an International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) now IPGRI
Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Established National Bureaux of Plant, Animal and Fish Genetic Resources in India
- 1982-88** Organised the International Rice Germplasm Centre (IRGC) with an International Advisory Board at the International Rice Research Institute
Launched special expeditions to collect wild rices from "hot spot" locations
- 1981-85** Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
Played a significant role in getting a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources established in November 1983
Developed the concept of Farmers' Rights and the text of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources
- 1984-90** President of IUCN
Involved in discussions relating to the development of the draft on Convention on Biological Diversity
In the year of his election at Madrid a resolution was passed that IUCN should help in preparing a draft Report
Chaired the IUCN General Assembly at San Jose where the draft was discussed
- 1988-91** Chaired the Keystone International Dialogue on Plant Genetic Resources
This was a landmark in getting the commercial sector agree to sharing benefits with the primary conservers
- 1988-96** President of WWF-India
Organised the Indira Gandhi Conservation Monitoring Centre, to monitor and chronicle India's biodiversity wealth
Community Conservation Corps of young professionals to prevent genetic erosion
- 1990 onwards** Promoted the organisation of a Community Biodiversity Conservation Programme to revitalise the *in situ* on-farm conservation traditions of rural and tribal families.
Establishment a Technical Resource Centre for the implementation of the equity provisions of CBD at MSSRF.
- 1992-98** Chaired various Committees to the Government of India to prepare Draft Legislations on Plant Variety Protection and Farmers Rights and for implementing the equity provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- 1994-99** Chairman of the Genetic Resources Policy Committee of the CGIAR
Played a key role in the development of policies for the management of *the ex situ* collections of IARCs
Chair of the Commission on Genetic Diversity of the World Humanity Action Trust
Chairman Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC)
Convened a meeting on to include Minor or Underutilised crops in the programmes of the IARCs