

सुरेश कुमार सिन्हा
S.K. SINHA
Professor of Plant Physiology

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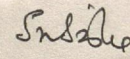
No. WTC-PE-91- 497
23 August 1991

My Dear Dr. Swaminathan,

I have once again received a letter from Dr. Paintal. I am enclosing a copy of the same. I would like to discuss with you whenever you are in Delhi before replying to his letter once again. Therefore, kindly let me know when you are likely to be in Delhi.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(S.K. Sinha)

Dr.M.S. Swaminathan
11, Ratna Nagar
Teynempet
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NO.DG/12/91
Dated. 9.8.91

Dear Dr.Sinha,

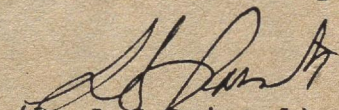
Thank you for your reply, dated August 5, 1991, to my letter of 31st July. I am indeed very impressed with what you have written in your letter and what is mentioned in the book that you have enclosed. It will take me a long time to get the information that I requested in my above mentioned letter from the book. Since you are very familiar with the subject I would like to have the following information regarding Dr.Swaminathan's discoveries from you :

1. Discoveries of Genetically superior strains of wheat.
2. Discoveries of Genetically superior strains of rice.
3. Discoveries of Genetically superior strains of coarse grains.

Please enclose alongwith each item the specific references where the discoveries were published. It will be a pleasure to discuss the matter with you when we meet next time.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Dr.A.S.Paintal)
Director General

Prof.S.K.Sinha
Prof. of Eminence (Plant Physiology)
Water Technology Centre,
Indian Agricultural Research Institute,
NEW DELHI - 110 012

सुरेश कुमार सिन्हा
S.K. SINHA
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WATER TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
Indian Agricultural Research Institute
NEW DELHI-110 012 INDIA
No. WTC/PE/91/489/2
5 July 1991

Dear Dr. Paintal,

I thank you very much for your kind letter asking me to provide some information about Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. I am glad that you have asked a very important question about him. Very few people in this country have attempted to know his basic work in genetics and cytogenetics. Some of us in 1980 brought out a small book containing his researches on wheat, rice, potato, coarse grains etc. I enclose a copy of this publication for your use. A few points are worth mentioning, the references to which you will find in each section.

1. No plant scientist in India has published as many papers in 'Nature' and 'Science' as he did.
2. Way back when genetists in this Country hardly knew about DNA, he used DNA for tracking the ancestry of *Triticum* (Wheat).
3. His work on *Triticum* species is considered classical because he showed that chromosome pairing in wheat is regulated by a specific gene on a particular chromosome.
4. Dr. Swaminathan was the first person to provide evidence for producing hybrid rice. In fact hybrid rice is a major cause of success in rice production in China. Appropriate reference is given in the Section on rice.
5. His work on cytogenetics of Solanacenes species is considered very important because it opened the way for interspecific hybridization. The review published in *Advances in Genetics* in 1961 remains an outstanding work.
6. He promoted basic research on genetics, mutation (substrate effects), tissue culture and in almost all crops.
7. Dr. Swaminathan made two very important contributions to agriculture (i) inspired a generation of young scientists who today constitute the senior group of scientists in agriculture (ii) emphasized and demonstrated the importance of basic research in agriculture.
8. Development of new varieties of wheat and rice which made us self sufficient in food could have never been accepted in this country without the change in their quality. He provided leadership for this.

In medical sciences, a patient would come to a doctor to seek cure of his ailment, but in agriculture farmers always looked towards skies either for God or rains. That today, farmers look towards agricultural research Institutes and universities besides skies is a measure of the impact of science in agriculture. Dr. Swaminathan deserves credit for his vigorous campaign of science base for agriculture which brought this change.

I can write many more things, but I must confess that I am a geneticist. Therefore I have marked the references in the book by a highlighter. This should help you in choosing the references.

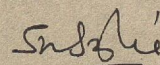
I also wish to state that while many of us are admirers of Dr. Swaminathan, but we are his critics also for some policies he initiated with good intentions and faith. My own experience is that he is prepared to listen to others and if convinced prepared to revise his opinion. This is very important for the progress of science.

I hope I have answered some of your questions. In the end I may mention that a big campaign against him in 1975-1976 by the New Scientist and others was orchestrated by interested individuals of British and Pakistan origin who wanted him not to become the Director General of FAO. I was at that time at FAO Rome for two months, so I have some first hand knowledge.

I would be most happy to provide any other information if I can.

With my best regards,

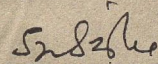
Yours sincerely,



(S.K. Sinha)

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cc: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, 11, Ratna Nagar, Teynempet, Madras-600018



(S.K. Sinha)