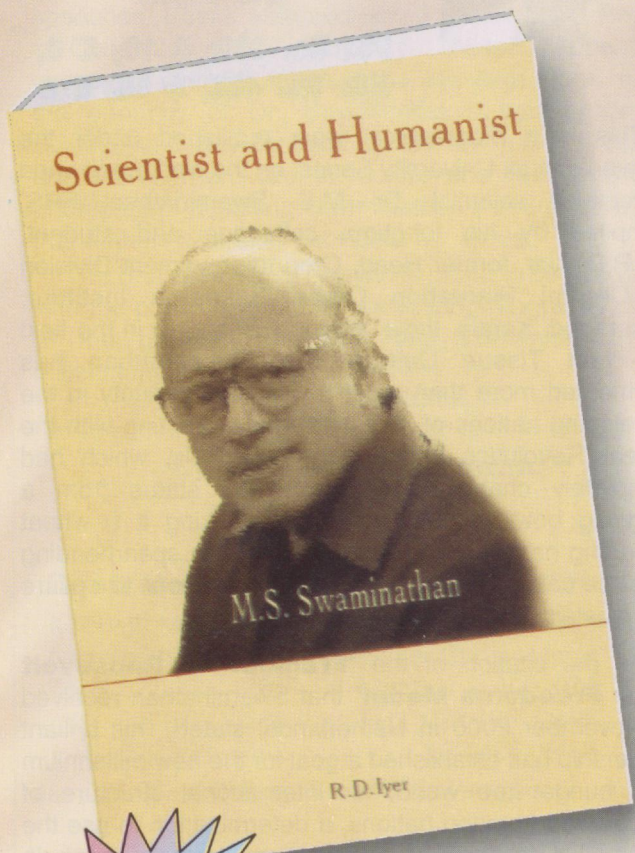


# "SCIENTIST AND HUMANIST - M. S. SWAMINATHAN"

R. D. IYER



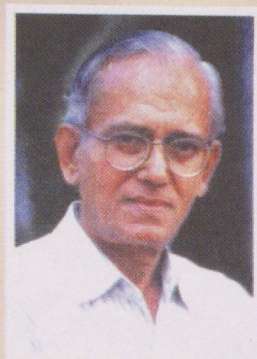
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(245 pages)



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By

**R. D. IYER**

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**PB: Rs. 300; \$ 10, £ 6,**

**HB: Rs. 400, \$ 15, £ 8**

This is a Biographical work published under the Bhavan's Book University Series, on the world-renowned agricultural scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, FRS, compiled by his longtime colleague and student, Dr. R.D. Iyer, former Head, Crop Improvement Division of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod, Kerala, India, who is well-known in the field of Plant Tissue Culture. Dr. Swaminathan has contributed more than most to the food security in the developing nations of Asia and Africa. Starting with the Wheat Revolution in India in the 1960s, which had completely changed our agricultural status from a 'begging bowl to a bread-basket' making it a wheat exporting nation, Swaminathan has been spearheading what he calls the '**Evergreen Revolution**' to ensure the sustainability of agriculture.

As the citation of the '**Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal**' that Swaminathan received in November 2000 in Netherlands, stated, "his brilliant leadership has established a goal for the new millennium – a hunger-free world, an international structure of co-operation among nations, a determination to use the miraculous technology of our times to help those in need". In his Message to the Book, India's President K.R. Narayanan says, "Professor Swaminathan has been relentlessly focusing attention on ecological conservation and on gender and social equity". Former President of India R. Venkataraman and current President of the Bhavan, writes in his Foreword, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan belongs to a rare group which

is brilliant at school as well as in later life. He is one of the brilliant starters winning several gold medals for excellence in studies and who more than fulfilled his early promise. His career has been one of continuous success in every sphere of activity...Dr. Iyer deserves compliments for a complete and comprehensive survey of the life and achievements of one of the most eminent scientists that India has produced. I am sure this volume will help younger generations to emulate Dr. Swaminathan as a scientist and as a role model of fine human virtues”.

In his brief Introduction recalling his first meeting and early association with his Guru and mentor, the author mentions that **relevance and excellence** in research and his method of **‘learning by doing’** were Swaminathan’s watchwords for success in science. The next Chapter gives a vivid picture of Swaminathan’s early life and joint-family background, his surgeon father’s influence on his thinking, the early impact of Gandhian philosophy of non-violence and concern for the poor and downtrodden, and his mother’s message of love and tolerance.

The next three chapters deal with Swaminathan’s outstanding contributions as a Scientist in the field of Potato, Wheat and Rice Improvement, resulting in a quantum jump in wheat production ushering in an era of **Green Revolution**, and his role in Asia’s capacity building in rice production. The following six chapters



project Swaminathan as the conservationist, his efforts to save the world's Mangrove wetlands, his role as the President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and in the Environmental Protection in India. Finally, the author has given a summary of Swaminathan's 50 years' contribution to conservation of Plant Genetic Resources and their sustainable and equitable use.

The last three chapters dwell on Swaminathan as the Humanist, his Antyodaya approach towards reaching the unreached, Swaminathan as the Institution Builder and his role in the establishment of a chain of Institutions throughout the world, culminating in his dream-come-true '**M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation**' in Chennai, now 12 years old, which he calls, "an adventure in fostering a new social contract between science and society".

The final chapter is a thought-provoking journey into "The Man and his Philosophy of Life", his inherent strengths and shortcomings, and the secret of his success as a scientist, teacher *par excellence*, administrator and institution builder, and a great humanist, which have made him a world citizen and a 'living legend'.

There are 9 Appendices at the end of the Book, listing all the 24 national and international awards and recognition received by Swaminathan, Honorary Doctorates from 43 Universities, recognitions from 32 world scientific bodies, honorary positions held by him

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in 19 world organizations, 15 positions held in organizations devoted to nature conservation and sustainable development, 28 national committees, and 12 currently held positions including the latest prestigious Chair of 'Pugwash Conference of Science and World Affairs', and a list of nearly 100 post-graduates guided by him in diverse fields of agriculture. Finally, there is an extensive Bibliography of his writings and speeches, Books authored/edited by him, and Reports of Committees chaired by him. These 9 Appendices occupying over 80 pages of the 245-page Book, reflect the enormity of Dr. Swaminathan's contributions to Science and Development during the last half century and more. There are 32 colour and black-and-white photographs depicting Swaminathan's eventful life, and the author has also provided an Index.

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is proud to be associated with the publication of this scintillating Biography of one of the greatest scientists and humanists of the millennium.

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