

# THE NATIONAL TONNAGE CLUB OF FARMERS

President :

Shri C. SUBRAMANIAM  
Union Minister for  
Food and Agriculture

F-35, South Extension Part I  
NEW DELHI-3

Hon. Gen. Secretary :

S. B. PANDYA  
Pandya Farm,  
Dohad, Gujarat

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 196

Dear friend,

I understand from Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Head of the Division of Botany, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, that you are interested in growing the high yielding dwarf Mexican wheat during the coming rabi season. I am sure you would be very happy to learn that we have recently started a National Tonnage Club of Farmers for promoting the rapid exploitation of the results obtained by our scientists. I enclose a copy of the constitution of the Tonnage Club and also an application form for joining the Club along with a letter of our President Shri C. Subramaniam Union Minister for Food and Agriculture. The Prime Minister of India has kindly consented to open a Convention of wheat and other crops' Farmers belonging to this Tonnage Club sometime towards the end of this month at the I.A.R.I., New Delhi. At this meeting, we will discuss all the methods and package of practice which should be adopted to get the maximum return from these varieties. I am sure that you would like to attend this meeting and discuss with the scientists of the I.A.R.I, as well as with your fellow-farmers, the procedures which should be followed in growing these new varieties. Also you can take delivery of seeds when you come to Delhi. I, hence, appeal to you to join this Club and attend the meeting of the Convention, so that, at this grave moment in our national history, we do our very best to enhance production. You will soon be informed about the exact date and time when the Prime Minister will meet us.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
S. B. Pandya  
Hon. Gen. Secretary

NATIONAL TONNAGE CLUB OF INDIA  
3, West Patel Nagar,  
Delhi-8

Dear Shri Subramaniam,

We, the Members of the National Tonnage Club of Farmers, are exceedingly proud and happy that we have this opportunity to express to you our sense of gratitude for all that you have done to establish this Club and make it grow on a sound foundation. Your tenure as the Food and Agriculture Minister of India will always be remembered in history as the period when India shifted from a static agriculture based on tradition and custom to a scientific agriculture based on research and technology. The new strategy of agriculture which you initiated soon after you assumed charge of the agriculture portfolio has now started paying dividends. This strategy has brought to our country worldwide appreciation and skeptics of India's ability to become self-sufficient in food are now discussing problems which we may have to face soon for excess of production. While for ages, India's difficulties on the agricultural front were due to the emigration of the intelligent and educated persons from villages to the cities, your policy of introducing science into agriculture has started a reverse movement. A new class of farmers, who are determined to exploit our immense natural resources for the betterment of our economy, has been born. You have shown that the rate of growth in agricultural productivity can be greatly enhanced through the release of catalytic forces like high yielding varieties and have thus proved traditional economists, planners and administrators to be completely wrong. The wisdom of your demonstration that the key to India's future lies in agrarian advance leading to rural <sup>Necessity</sup> possibility is now apparent to everyone. You were the first in free India to consider agricultural production problems in their totality. You thus created the Prices Commission since you rightly believed that only a remunerative pricing policy can provide the foundation upon which scientific agriculture can be erected. In order to create large buffer stocks and to eliminate the exploitation of farmers by middlemen, you created the Food Corporation of India. You completely changed the magnitude of operations of the National Seeds Corporation.

You were the first to appreciate that inputs are necessary <sup>for</sup> output and you hence proceeded systematically to accelerate the pace of production of seeds, fertilizers, machinery and farm tools, irrigation facilities and all other inputs. To cite one example, our scientists introduced the Mexican Dwarf varieties of wheat in 1963-64. During 1966-67, we had a million acres under these varieties, an achievement probably without a parallel in the world. This is because of the bold and imaginative way in which you made large scale seed imports even in 1965-66.

Fertilizer availability is another example. When you became Minister for Agriculture, the Planners thought that even 1 million tonne of Nitrogen will be too much for our country. Within 2 years, you proved them wrong and created a fertilizer hunger in the country. You re-organized the entire scientific structure relating to agriculture and demolished the dividing walls between institutions belonging to Centre and the State Governments and also between scientific disciplines. Since India's future depends upon the work done by our agricultural scientists, your contributions in revitalising our scientific organisations would in the long run occupy the same place in our history as the contributions of Sardar Patel in unifying India.

In our view, it is fortunate that your period in office synchronised with the worst period of drought in living memory; otherwise, you might not have received the necessary support in implementing your ideas. It is a great tribute to your dynamism and humanism that in spite of this severe crisis, you did not permit conditions of starvation to develop in the country. When prices of commodities rose, you spearheaded the consumer price resistance movement through the organization of the Super Bazars. These are living monuments of your extra-ordinary intellect, speed of decision and action and scientific temper. For evolving policies, you believed in getting knowledge from all who are interested in Indian agriculture. Thus, you constituted ~~various~~ Panels of Scientists, farmers, administrators and others to advise you on problems relating to increasing food production. It is because of this consultative machinery that programmes such as the "High Yielding Varieties Programme" were born.

During the last few months you have rendered significant service to our country through your lectures abroad. Most agricultural leaders in the world now look upon you for guidance in evolving strategies of agricultural development suitable for the developing nations. We are, therefore, very proud that we had you as our founder President and we shall look forward to your continued inspiration and guidance.

Yours sincerely,

(S.B.Pandya)

Shri C. Subramaniam,  
River View,  
Adyar,  
Madras-25.