

I have known Prof. M.S. Swaminathan as an eminent agricultural scientist and science administrator over a long period of time through his reputation and publication. I came to know him some what closely and personally only after his retirement has Director, General Rice Research Institute in Philippines in 1988 at the time of his retirement, I was a Vice Chancellor of Anna University, Chennai and knowing that he retired as Director General. Anna University offered him a visiting professor assignment, he has find enough to accept the offer and was with us for some time immediately after retirement. He latter I learn more to I.I.T. Chennai and settle down as the founder Chairman of the M.S. Swaminathan in such foundation, Chennai. One may look at Prof. Swaminathan as a scientist as science administrator and disseminator of science as a promoter of science and scientific activity and as an individual.

I am not an agricultural scientist my field is engineering and water resources. Therefore which not possible for me to speak of him with a deep understanding of his contributions, but I am aware that is acclaimed as a plant, gentries of International reputation. He has planned an extremely leading role over a long period of time both at the National and International levels in every area associated with advance research in agriculture, agricultural renounces, sustainable agriculture and ever green revolution. His contributions by way of research and participation in international committees and commission have made him a world leader. He has perhaps the unique and enviable honour of being acclaimed by TIME magazine has one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th Century and among them is one of the 3 from India, the other tow being the tolerant poet Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi.

Indians no one of them more popularing as the scientific leader of the Green Revolution movement.

Green Revolution even after nearly 40 years is an event really green even today in the memory of India. It represents on of the applications of science that influenced the lifes of millions of agriculturists and ensure food security to a nation that has the second largest population in the world. Bharath Ratna C. Subramaniam is known as the father of the Green revolution, when he thought of

this great project. He constituted 3 panels, one consisting of agricultural scientist a second one consisting of administrators and a third one comprising economist. Prof. Swaminathan was a member of the panel of agricultural scientist and ultimately emerged as the scientific leader of the Green revolution. He was referred to Bharata Ratna C. Subramaniam as C.S. here after.

The strategic for bringing about the Green revolution was the use of high yielding Mexican Wheat and rice. C.S. called for meeting of the members of the three panels for the discussion on the subject. He made a suggestion that the new variety produced in increase of 25 to 30 percent in the yield it may not be appealing and convincing to the farmer. He suggested if the farmers ought to be convinced and accept the project the increase in the yield must be of the order of 200 percent to 300 percent. During the discussion Prof. Swaminathan who was present as the Director of the Agricultural Research Institute suggested the establishment of 1000 demonstration fields of roughly two hectares each in the country as a whole and try in the yield of new seeds.

The pilot project suggested was accepted and was given effect two. It proved extremely successful and the farmers in whose fields the pilot forms the established as well as farmers from the neighboring villages highly impressed and this provided a really turning point in the green revolution associated in the implementation of the green revolution initiated by seeds.

Knowledge of Power

Knowledge of Power only when it is useful and applicable in a given situation Prof. Swaminathan was a great believer in the application of knowledge and he has to credit the initiation of a number of programmes for transferring the results of laboratory to the fields. The motto is to land was part of is unending machine.

Whatever be the outstanding contributions in Science and Technology the benefits accrued to the society only form the using and the case of agricultural research. The users of the research results in the field or the agriculturists as a matter of fact the real heors of the green revolution were the farmers of India.

Prof. Swaminathan knew that Indian agriculture must fitness a major change or for that matter a real revolution and get modernized by making use of all the recent practices in agriculture whether it will be the use of seeds of the use fertilizers or the method of cultivation and the method of protection. These requires that the ancient farming community of India must be educated. Prof. Swaminathan was responsible in promoting farmer training and education.

In the India context human play a great rule in agriculture at all levels. Therefore improvement of their knowledge at skill is really important. It is worth mentioning that for his contribution to promoting knowledge and skills, and technological empowerment of women. The international association of women and development conferred on him the first international award for significant contribution in this field. When he took over as a chairman of the National Commission of farmers, his main suggestion was the establishment of 50,000 centres for farm to farm education.

Among the scientist the international presents of Prof. Swaminathan heading commissions preparing reports for old bodies guiding and counseling them in the field of sustainable food security, ecology are unique.

I must make special reference to interest in encouraging the members of younger generation in the field of research and agricultural developments. He has to it credit 68 candidates who have completed that opportunity. Even now in the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation the young staff members working have been winners of significant national and international awards as well as research dealings. I have not come across one more pleasant and agreeable than Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. Another feature of his personality is the gracious acknowledgement of the melt in others and expressing profuse thanks for any modest service rendered.

I am sure that many persons who may be interview may give an account of the awards and distinctions conferred on him. It may not be an exaggeration to say and I repeat that it is not exaggeration to say that every award worthwhile for an agriculture scientist in the world has been won by him. Similarly he is a member of the academy of merely as many countries as may have science

academics that have world recognition. It may sound and unbelievable if one say that he has honorary Doctorates in 58 universities. Among the numerous awards it may perhaps be worth mentioning the Magsaysay award for community leadership. Albert Einstein world science Award and the first world food price, he has not been the recipient of a noble prize since there is no noble award for agriculture. However it is acknowledged that the world food price is equivalent to a noble prize.

Before Conclusion I may mention that I have also played a humble role in the choice of location for the M.S. Swaminathan Foundation. As I mentioned earlier he was with us in Anna University as visiting professor after his retirement. During a conversation he was mentioning to me that he has invitations for many states to establish the research centre and he was thinking in terms of choosing a location for the foundation he had in mind. His preference was Chennai, if land was available. I informed him of the availability of Government land in Tharamani and suggested to him that he might approach the Government in this regard. We went together and saw the site. Prof. Swaminathan was impressed with the location. My contribution entered there. He followed up the proposal with a then Governor Dr. P.C. Alexander ultimately he succeeded in getting the necessary land and we have today one of the most flourishing and protective research laboratories in the country at Tharamani, Chennai.

Personally I attach great importance to a state or a city attracting men and women of eminent. A city is known by the reputation of the institutions who lived there and who may have lived there. All of us have reasonable knowledge of Greek civilization. Athens is a better small city. We remember it today because merely two and half million years back men like Socrates, Plato lived there. Certainly Prof. Swaminathan's institution and his own presence in Chennai add to the importance of Chennai.