



**TRUST FOR ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
(TAAS)  
IARI, New Delhi, India**

**Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD**

for

**LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE**

*Presented to*

**Dr. M.C. Saxena**

**CITATION**

Dr Mohan C. Saxena is an eminent agronomist and crop physiologist, whose work at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), on food legumes has enormously benefitted the resource poor farmers in West Asia, North Africa, Central Asia (CWANA) and South Asia, particularly Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

His work on managing drought, common in this region, resulted in the “Winter Sowing” technology for chickpea and lentils in the lowland Mediterranean areas of the West Asia and North Africa region, resulting in 50-60% increase in crop productivity and water-use efficiency. This research was recognized through King Baudoin Award of the CGIAR for ICARDA and ICRISAT. He had served as leader of Legume Program, then as Director of Germplasm Improvement Program and also as Assistant Director General (ADG) at ICARDA for almost two decades. His support to Indian legume program, especially kabuli chickpea and lentil led to much greater benefits to resource poor farmers of India.

Dr Saxena did Ph.D. in Agronomy at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi (1962), and Doctor of Science in Plant Nutrition from the University of Hohenheim, Germany (1965). After serving briefly at IARI and the Bhaba Atomic Research Center, he joined the G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar and undertook research on agronomy of warm and cool season pulses, particularly soybean. His work on soybean greatly helped in popularizing Soybean Production Technology in India.

Dr Saxena’s research contributions and leadership have been widely recognized. A major Laboratory at ICARDA is named after him for his accomplishments. He has been awarded Gold Medals by Indian Society of Agronomy and the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development and Honorary Doctorates from three Universities. After his retirement from ICARDA, he has been appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Arid Land Research Center of the Tottori University, Japan. The Crop Science Society of America has recently given him a Lifetime Achievement Award by conferring an Honorary Membership of the Society.

In recognition of his important contributions, TAAS has great pleasure in awarding Dr. M.C. Saxena the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture on this day, Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.

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