

Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)
Avenue II, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)
Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110012

**Dr SK Vasal Award for Excellence
in Crop Hybrid Research**

Background

Dr SK Vasal Award for Excellence in Crop Hybrid Research has been instituted by TAAS to honor the enormous contributions of Dr Surinder K Vasal, a world renowned maize breeder and a recipient of World Food Prize for his outstanding work, especially the development of quality protein maize and other hybrids. The award is instituted through an endowment established at TAAS (www.taas.in) through a contribution by Dr Vasal.

Contributions of Dr SK Vasal

Dr SK Vasal did his Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He worked with the Rockefeller Foundation in Thailand in close collaboration with the National Corn and Sorghum Research Center of Kasetsart University. He was also the Head of CIMMYT's Asian Regional Maize Program in Thailand and coordinated the Tropical Asian Maize Network (TAMNET). Dr Vasal joined the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Mexico in 1970 and held positions of Germplasm Coordinator, Head of Maize Research and Coordinator of Asian Regional Maize Program. In recognition of his outstanding performance, CIMMYT elevated him as Distinguished Scientist, the first to hold such position. Quality protein maize (QPM) germplasm developed by Dr Vasal is now being used worldwide for developing QPM cultivars. A large number of maize varieties/hybrids evolved using the germplasm developed by him are grown commercially in several developing countries of Asia, Central and South America, and Africa.

Dr Vasal is a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and India's National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is the recipient of World Food Prize (2000), Chinese Friendship Award (2001), and Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture (2008) of TAAS.

Objective of the Award

The objective of the Dr SK Vasal Award for Excellence in Crop Hybrid Research is to recognize the contributions of eminent scientists (both men and women) who have made outstanding contributions in developing promising hybrids and designing new innovative strategies for hybrid development in crops. It is hoped that the award will motivate scientists for crop hybrid research and development having significant potential of enhancing crop productivity so important for nation's food security.

Eligibility

- The Award is to be given annually,
- The age limit is 55 years on the award announcement date.

Description of the Award

- The Award consists of a cash prize of Rs. one lakh, a citation and the plaque.

Procedure for application

- Application must be submitted in the prescribed form (attached) through proper channel, duly recommended by the Head of Institution.
- A hard copy and a soft copy of the application along with recommendation of head of the institution be submitted by the due date.
- Application will be valid only for the year for which applied.
- Application be sent to:

The Secretary

Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)

Avenue II, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110012

Phone: +91-11-25843243; +91-8130111237

Email: taasiari@gmail.com

Selection Procedure

- Selection of the Awardee will be made by a committee of experts constituted by the Board of Trustees.
- The recommendations of the Selection Committee, once approved by the Board of Trustees, shall be final.