



**TRUST FOR ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
(TAAS)**

IARI, New Delhi, India

**Dr M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD
for
LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE**

Presented to
Dr Gurdev Singh Khush

Citation

Dr Gurdev Singh Khush, a world renowned plant breeder, has made enormous contributions to the development of more than 300 high yielding rice varieties that played significant role towards achieving 'Green Revolution'. A worthy son of a farmer, Dr. Khush graduated from the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1955 and received Ph. D. degree from the University of California, Davis, in 1960. He joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, in 1967 as plant breeder and was appointed Head, Department of Plant Breeding in 1972. In 1986, he was promoted as Principal Plant Breeder and Head, Division of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biochemistry. He provided excellent leadership for the global rice improvement program benefiting millions of resource poor rice growers in the world. A semi-dwarf rice variety IR36, developed by him was one of the most widely grown rice varieties in the world during 1980s. IR64 developed during 1980s is the most widely planted rice variety in the world.

Dr. Khush is one of the most decorated agricultural scientists in the world. He received honorary Doctorate degrees from nine universities, including University of Cambridge, England. He is one of the five Indian scientists who have been elected to the membership of the Royal Society as well as US National Academy of Sciences. For his monumental contributions to rice improvement he received Japan Prize (1987), the World Food Prize (1996), the Wolf Prize from Israel (2000) and the China International Scientific and Technological Cooperation Award (2001). He was honoured by the Government of India with the prestigious "Padma Shri" Award in 2000.

In India, Dr. Khush has been actively involved in the development of plant breeding and agricultural biotechnology. He has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee (Overseas), of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, for over a decade. He worked closely with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for enhancing human resource development for improving rice productivity in India. He retired from IRRI in 2002 and joined the University of California, Davis, as Adjunct Professor.

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences salutes this great son of India and takes pride in honouring Dr. Khush with the prestigious Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture, on this ninth day of October, 2006