



Progress Through Science

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

Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD

for

LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE

Presented to

Dr. Sanjay Rajaram

Citation

Dr. Sanjay Rajaram is one of the most distinguished wheat breeders known for his valuable contributions globally. He led CIMMYT's wheat breeding program for over two decades. Under his leadership, the CIMMYT program made tremendous impact on global wheat production.

As wheat breeder, Dr. Rajaram contributed towards the development of as many as 480 wheat varieties that have been released in 51 countries, and are grown on an estimated 58 million hectares worldwide. Twenty-five of his varieties have so far been released in India. For this contribution of his he has been honoured with a number of national and international honors and awards.

Using a novel approach of exploiting winter and spring wheat gene pools, together with shuttle breeding and mega environment testing, Dr. Rajaram and his team developed outstanding cultivars with very high yield potential. Applying the concept of slow rusting, he developed wheat varieties with durable resistance to leaf rust, which invariably remained effective for more than 20 years. Dr Rajaram and his team also successfully incorporated blight resistance into modern wheat varieties.

Dr Rajaram graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Agriculture from the University of Gorakhpur. He obtained his Masters in Genetics and Plant Breeding from IARI, and proceeded to do his PhD in Plant Breeding from the University of Sydney, Australia. Dr. Rajaram has authored/co-authored more than 400 research publications, including 110 papers in refereed journals, and mentored 700 young scientists from the developing world. He also guided 22 Masters and PhD students. During his long career, he has served as Director of Wheat Research at CIMMYT, Director of ICARDA's Biodiversity and Integrated Gene Management Program, and consultant to a number of governments and international organizations. In 2009, he led a study in Egypt, the report of which is being used by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture to plan a major expansion of wheat production program.

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences takes pride in honouring Dr. Sanjay Rajaram with the Fifth Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture on this day, Saturday, the 18th December, 2010.

**TRUSTEES OF TAAS
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