

DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD **for Leadership in Agriculture**

presented to

Dr. William D. Dar

Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad

B.P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, New Delhi

on June 24, 2013

A Brief Report



Progress Through Science

TRUST FOR ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

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GENESIS

The 88th Session of the Indian Science Congress was held on the campus of famous Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in January 2001, under the General Presidentship of Dr. R. S. Paroda.

This was the first Congress of the New Millennium and the theme was "Food, Nutrition and Environmental Security". During the inauguration, Hon'ble Ex-Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee released an important Vision Statement as under:

"By 2020, India will be free of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and become an environmentally safe country. This, we believe, will be possible to achieve through accelerated social and economic development by harnessing the advances in science, and blending them with our indigenous knowledge, wisdom and unique socio-cultural ethos. We believe India can banish poverty and emerge as a developed nation by promoting growth through efficient and sustainable use of our human, natural and other resources". The Vision Statement concluded stating: "Hunger free India is an idea whose time has come. Let us launch a science-based crusade for elimination of hidden hunger and malnutrition".

Also, the Prime Minister exhorted the scientists by stating: "Our goal to make India a leading nation in the world in the new century hinges critically on how successfully we take science to the people and create a stronger scientific temper in our society".

In response to the above, and considering the fact that the Congress should not be seen as an end in itself, a movement for harnessing, in particular, the agricultural sciences for the welfare of the people, the National Organizing Committee of the Congress decided to form a Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). The Trust was established on October 17, 2002 with its Headquarters at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

GOAL

An accelerated movement for harnessing agricultural science for the welfare of people.

MISSION

To promote growth and advancement of agriculture through scientific interactions and partnerships with stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

- To act as think tank on key policy issues relating to agricultural research for development (AR4D).
- Organizing seminars and special lectures on emerging issues and new developments in agriculture.
- To institute national awards for the outstanding contributions to Indian agriculture by the scientists of Indian and other origin abroad.
- Facilitating partnerships with non-resident agricultural scientists visiting India for short period.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Foundation Day Lectures.
- Special lectures.
- Brainstorming sessions/symposia/seminars/workshops on important themes.
- Strategy Papers on key policy matters.
- Recognition and promotion of farmers' innovations.
- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture.

TRUST FOR ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (TAAS)

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- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture.
 - First Award was presented to Nobel laureate, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug by Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 15th March 2005.
 - Second Award was presented to Dr. Gurdev S. Khush by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 9th October 2006.
 - Third Award was presented to Dr. Surinder K. Vasal by Prof. M.G.K. Menon on 3rd May 2008.
 - Fourth Award was given to Prof. Rattan Lal by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission on 11th August, 2003.
 - Fifth Award was presented to Dr. Sanjay Rajaram by former Hon'ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 18th December, 2010.
 - Sixth Award was presented to Dr. M.C. Saxena by Dr. Balram Jakhar former Union Minister of Agriculture and H.E. Governor of Madhya Pradesh, on 25th January, 2012.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture

The 7th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for leadership in agriculture was given to Dr. William D. Dar, Director General, International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on 24th June, 2013.

The Chief Guest of the function was Dr. K. Kasturirangan, whereas Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, Chaired the function. Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, Dr. N.N.



Singh, Secretary TAAS, Dr. P.L. Gautam, Vice-Chairman, TAAS, Dr. H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI and Mr. Raju Barwale from Barwale Foundation were present on the dais. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan could not come because he was abroad.

The program started with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by welcome address by Dr. H.S. Gupta, who also read the message of Dr. Swaminathan, which he sent on the occasion, and reads as:

“I am happy that the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) has chosen recognition of the work of outstanding scientists as one of the methods of advancing the cause of scientific excellence and social relevance in agricultural research. I am happy that a series of awards starting with the recognition to the monumental contributions of Dr. Norman E Borlaug have been given over the years to highlight the role of science in improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of cropping and farming systems. I am particularly happy that this year the award is going to Dr. William D. Dar, Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). Dr. Dar is a pioneer in imparting a human face to scientific research and economic development. What we need is the kind of leadership

that Dr. Dar is providing to ensure that science serves the cause of sustainable food security as well as human wellbeing and happiness. I wish the award ceremony great success. I express my gratitude to Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS for his untiring efforts to harness the best in science for achieving the goal of food for all and forever”.

Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS then gave a brief account of the genesis of TAAS and indicated that this Award was part of the mandate of TAAS. He elaborated that TAAS acts as a Think Tank, brings scientists and policy makers on a common platform, and provides a neutral platform for discussion on critical policy issues. He enumerated briefly some of the activities organized by TAAS which enabled policy reorientation at the national level, provided such inputs, e.g. biosafety regulatory authority of India (BRAI) bill, which is before the Parliament now, Public Private Partnership for revitalizing Indian seed sector, outscaling of farmer led innovations, household nutrition security through popularization of soybean as a food crop, inclusive of maize in national food security mission, role of women and youth in agriculture, are some examples where TAAS has made important contributions. Today, presentation of this Award to Dr. William D. Dar is an example of recognition of his yeoman service to society with human face. He offered his hearty congratulations to Dr. Dar for being recipient of this prestigious award.

Mr. Raju Barwale offered his remarks and congratulated Dr. Dar on behalf of Barwale Foundation, which has been sponsoring this award from the beginning.

Chairman of the function Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General, ICAR also lauded the achievements of Dr. Dar and congratulated him for this unique achievement.

Dr. N.N. Singh read out the Citation before presentation of the Award.

The Award trophy was presented to Dr. Dar by the Chief Guest Dr. K. Kasturirangan. After receiving the Award Dr. William Dar said that he felt deeply honored to receive this Award which was a major milestone in his career. He then delivered his lecture.

CITATION

Dr. William D. Dar, Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, has made outstanding contributions towards food security and agricultural sustainability in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. His work has created great impact on the lives of resource poor farmers. Dr. Dar has also actively promoted Public-Private-Farmer partnership linking strongly the end users with the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) as well as International Agricultural Research Centers (IARCs). Under his leadership, effective research collaboration has been established in areas like germplasm exchange, biotechnology, crop improvement, water conservation, capacity building, and policy reorientation.

Dr. Dar has had a distinguished career as an educator, agricultural scientist and able research administrator. Being a great promoter of regional cooperation, Dr. Dar also served as Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI).

Prior to joining ICRISAT, Dr. Dar had served as Advisor to the President of the Philippines; Secretary, Department of Agriculture of the Philippines; Executive Director of the Philippine Council of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD); Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Department of Agriculture; and the Vice President (R&D) of Benguet State University, Philippines.

In recognition of his significant contributions, Dr. Dar has been honoured with a number of awards and degrees of Doctorate of Science. He also received the Life-time Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of pulses research from the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD).

Dr. Dar is a champion of the poor. He successfully led ICRISAT into renaissance and excellence with a motto of "Science with a Human Face". His transformational leadership has turned ICRISAT into a forward looking institute, financially strong and producing scientific breakthroughs as public goods for greater developmental impact. His passion is to help alleviate the socioeconomic conditions of the poor living in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In view of his outstanding contributions, the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) has great pleasure in awarding him the prestigious Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture.

TITLE OF THE LECTURE

Enhancing Smallholder Farmer Participation in Markets: The IMOD Way

Dr. Dar said that in the early 1970s mass famines were thought to be inevitable in the developing world. Food production was falling well below the needs of the ever increasing populations. Therefore, increasing food production was CGIAR's top priority. With the Green Revolution in rice and wheat, production of food was so rapid that the conditions of famine were averted. But the Green Revolution varieties were not suited for cultivation in dry areas as they were irrigation and fertilizer intensive. Therefore, the condition of farmers in these areas remained bad. To add to the woes further, in 1990s the policies of economic liberalization brought major economic upheaval to the developing world. Agriculture slipped to lower priority as marketing was deregulated. Poor farmers were left on their own. They suffered from hunger not only because they were not growing enough food but because they were unable to buy the food. In order to become food secure they needed both increased food production and increased incomes.



In 2008 the World Bank produced a comprehensive report based on analysis of new trends in agriculture "Agriculture for Development" which stressed that production is mainly by small farmers.

The state regulates the competition and supports greater inclusion of small holders. In this vision agriculture assumes a prominent role in the development agenda. Implementing this vision, objective number one became "Improve access to markets and establish efficient value chains". In order to escape hunger and poverty in dry land small holders needed to have better access to markets. ICRISAT decided to make it the centre piece of their strategy i.e. the IMOD-Inclusive Market Oriented Development Way.

Dr. Dar went on to elaborate how incomes of these poor farmers increased by adopting innovative farm practices, developed by ICRISAT like, micro fertilization, crop diversification and watershed management etc. combined with risk management by government and non govt. organizations and easy market accessibility.

Dr. Kasturirangan, while making his remarks, said, “Such awards are very important as they, besides, recognizing important achievements, encourage scientists to work for the society. He indicated that often while allocating funds for research criticism is made, as to the outcome of research often does not match investments. He quoted an example of development of a rice variety which has covered major part of rice growing areas. This itself would account for massive economic returns. Similarly, researches in other areas would have resulted in massive economic gains. He suggested that a pragmatic assessment of the economic gains coming out of specific research and investment made should be brought out to highlight the economic impact of the researches made by the scientists.”

Dr. Kasturirangan congratulated Dr. William Dar for the prestigious Award presented to him. He stressed that the benchmark set by this Award is very high as indicated by the stature of the earlier



Awardees. He praised the research outcomes of the scientists and said that Awards like this will go a long way to inspire young people to excell in science. He stressed the need to improve the quality of

education by providing better facilities at SAUs. He also emphasized on the need to ensure synergies for achieving our common goals.

At the end, he read a brief quote on his behalf in favour of Dr. Dar as:

“Today Dr. William D. Dar joins a select group of extraordinary minds who have influenced, in a major way, the developments in agricultural science and through the same the global food security. Named after one of the legendary figures of Indian agriculture,



Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the father of India’s ‘Green Revolution’, this award is India’s version of world’s Food Prize. Needless to emphasize, the earlier awardees of this recognition are a list of who’s who among the top researchers who, besides making seminal contributions to this subject, have also helped India in meeting the challenges of realizing food self-sufficiency and giving it a unique global leadership in agriculture and associated endeavors. It is thus natural that Dr. Dar has been selected, by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), as the awardee for this year recognizing his multidimensional and distinguished contributions as an eminent educationist, agriculturist, scientist, administrator and above all a fine humanitarian. His leadership to ICRISAT has been transformational and today this institution easily enjoys a reputation that places it among the top few centers of excellence recognized globally. I join everyone in this country, the scientific community and the agricultural scientists in particular, in extending my hearties congratulations to Dr. William D. Dar for this well deserved recognition”.

The Function ended by vote of thanks by Dr. P.L. Gautam, Vice-Chairman, TAAS.

The Award Function was followed by a Brainstorming Session on “Linking Farmers to Markets”. Proceedings of this session are likely to be published soon.

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Recent TAAS Publication

- Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology - Second Foundation Day Lecture, delivered by Dr. Gurdev S. Khush, Adjunct Professor, University of California, Davis, USA, October 17, 2005.
- Farmer-Led Innovations for Increased Productivity, Value Addition and Income Generation - Brainstorming Session, October 17, 2005 - Highlights & Recommendations
- Strategy for Increasing Productivity Growth Rate in Agriculture" - Strategy Paper by Dr. R.S. Paroda, August, 2006.
- Brainstorming Session on "Models of Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural Biotechnology", April 7, 2007 - Highlights & Recommendations.
- National Symposium on Quality Protein Maize for Human Nutritional Security and Development of Poultry Sector in India and Presentation of the Third Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture, May 3, 2008 – Proceedings and Highlights.
- Overcoming the World Food and Agriculture Crisis through Policy Change, Institutional Innovation and Science– Fourth Foundation Day Lecture, delivered by Dr. Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, March 6, 2009
- Brainstorming Workshop on “Emerging Challenges before Indian Agriculture - The Way Forward”, March 6, 2009 - Proceedings & Recommendations.
- Brainstorming Workshop on 'Strategy for Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources' 10th – 12th April, 2009 – Ranchi Declaration.
- Brainstorming Workshop on “Climate Change, Soil Quality and Food Security”, August 11, 2009 – Proceedings & Recommendations.
- Millions Fed: Proven Successes in Agricultural Development, January 19, 2010 (Translation in Hindi jointly published by IFPRI, APAARI and TAAS)
- National Seminar on “Quality Seed for Food Security through Public-Private Partnership”, April 13-14, 2010 – Proceedings & Recommendations
- TAAS Foundation Day Lecture on “Climate Change and Food Security: From Science to Sustainable Agriculture” by Dr. Mahendra M. Shah, May 7, 2010
- NSAI Foundation Day Lecture on “Revitalizing Indian Seed Sector for Accelerated Agricultural Growth”, October 30, 2010
- Brainstorming Session on Prospects of Producing 100 million tons of Wheat by 2015 and presentation of Fifth Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for leadership in Agriculture - Proceeding & Highlights December 18, 2010
- National Dialogue on Building Leadership in Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, August 27 - 28, 2010 - Proceedings & Recommendations
- Stakeholders' Interface on GM Food Crops, May 19, 2011 - Recommendations
- TAAS Foundation Day Lecture on “Harnessing Knowledge for India's Agricultural Development” by Dr. Uma Lele, August 12, 2011
- The Sixth Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award Lecture on "Challenges and Opportunities for Food Legumen Research and Development" by Dr. M.C. Saxena, January 25, 2012
- Proceedings and Recommendations of Farmers' Led-Innovation. December 23-24, Hisar, Haryana, 2011
- Proceedings and Recommendations of Global Conference on Women in Agriculture. 13-15 March, 2012 New Delhi; India.
- The Seventh Foundation Day Lecture on "Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security in Asia: The Role of Agricultural Innovation" by Dr. Shenggen Fan, DG, IFPRI. January 11, 2013