



## Trust For Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)

### Dr. M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD

for

### Leadership in Agriculture

Presented to

**Dr. Uma Lele**, Former Senior Advisor, The World Bank

**Dr. Uma Lele** is a highly accomplished agricultural economist known for her work on Food and Agricultural Development. She has over four decades of rich experience in research, operations, policy analysis and evaluation of development assistance. She has served in many capacities for different international organizations such as the World Bank, FAO, CGIAR, IFAD, UNICEF, UNDP, Rockefeller Foundation and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her critical evaluation of the World Bank's Forestry Policy had led the Bank to revise its strategy to lay greater focus on poverty reduction besides conservation and use. Her famous Meta evaluation of the CGIAR led to the rethinking by the World Bank and other donors of CGIAR's role in meeting emerging new challenges wherein two of the original pillars of the CGIAR had been weakened over time: the rise of genomics and of intellectual property rights, mainly due to the increasing role of the private sector in agricultural research. Her other work which has received considerable recognition has focused on the substantial geo-climatic and institutional diversity, requiring development interventions suited to particular circumstances, and the need for capacity building with a focus on 'learning by doing' approach. A consistent underlying theme of her international work has been the divergence in the assumptions determining public interventions and the reality on the ground.



Since her retirement from the World Bank, she has been contributing extensively towards issues related to food, agriculture and nutritional security. For India, her early work on foodgrains marketing in India had revealed that failures in commodity markets were the results of poor infrastructure and public policy restricting cross border trade. Through comparative analysis of structural transformation, she has shown how Indian agriculture has been falling behind neighboring Asian and other large Latin American countries who started with similar or worse initial conditions. She conducted an independent external review of work of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation which formed part of the foundation's future strategy. The GCARD Road Map in 2010 was also an outcome of a technical report prepared by a team under her leadership.

Uma Lele is an ardent champion of capacity development, especially in developing countries. She had always been a strong supporter of women's empowerment and was actively involved in organizing the First Global Conference for Women in Agriculture (GCWA) held in New Delhi during 2012. To promote the cause of human resource development, she has set up a 'Mentorship Award' with the American Applied Economic Association and another 'Best Research Award on Gender in Development' with International Association of Agricultural Economists.

Her work has been widely recognized through numerous awards and recognitions, especially for her innovative and analytical thinking. The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences has great pleasure in presenting the **9th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award** for Leadership in Agriculture to Dr. Uma Lele.

October 30, 2017

TRUSTEES OF TAAS  
Avenue – II, IARI, New Delhi-110012