



## Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)

### 13<sup>th</sup> Dr. M S Swaminathan Award Conferred on Dr Surinder (Suri) M Sehgal

Dr Surinder (Suri) Sehgal, a great visionary and founder of SM Sehgal Foundation (India) and Sehgal Foundation (USA) has received the 13<sup>th</sup> prestigious Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture for 2022 in the Award Ceremony organized by TAAS on 19 August 2023. Dr SK Vasal, Former



Distinguished Scientist & Maize Breeder at CIMMYT, and World Food Prize Laureate was the Chief Guest.



Dr. Suri Sehgal is a global leader in the development and spread of the hybrid seed industry worldwide and helped build the Indian seed sector through the establishment of Proagro Group of seed companies (now Bayer) and Hytech Seed India based in Hyderabad. The work initiated by SM Sehgal Foundation (SMSF) in just four villages in Mewat region of Haryana, has now reached to more than 4.2 million people in 2,040 villages in twelve states of India.

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), a vibrant neutral Think Tank instituted this award in 2004 in honour of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, a doyen of Indian agriculture. The event was graced by over 100 participants including several stalwarts and eminent experts from India and abroad.



## Glimpse of Award Function











## Award Function Video

### Video Clips from DD Kisan and Krishi Jagran

Media Coverage:

#### **International Media**

Iowa's Dr. Suri Sehgal receives the prestigious Dr. M S Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture	<b>IndiaWest</b> <a href="https://indiawest.com/iowas-dr-suri-sehgal-receives-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture/">https://indiawest.com/iowas-dr-suri-sehgal-receives-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture/</a>
Suri Sehgal gets Swaminathan Award for leadership in Agriculture	<b>American Bazaar</b> <a href="https://www.americanbazaaronline.com/2023/08/22/suri-sehgal-gets-swaminathan-agriculture-award-454655/">https://www.americanbazaaronline.com/2023/08/22/suri-sehgal-gets-swaminathan-agriculture-award-454655/</a>
Indian American philanthropist Dr. Suri Sehgal receives the prestigious Dr. M S Swaminathan Award for leadership in agriculture	<b>NRI Pulse</b> <a href="https://nrpulse.com/suri-sehgal-receives-prestigious-m-s-swaminathan-award/">https://nrpulse.com/suri-sehgal-receives-prestigious-m-s-swaminathan-award/</a>
Suri Sehgal receives M S Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture	<b>New India Aboard</b> <a href="https://www.newindiaabroad.com/news/suri-sehgal-receives-m-s-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture">https://www.newindiaabroad.com/news/suri-sehgal-receives-m-s-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture</a> <a href="https://www.newindiaabroadhindi.com/indian-american-philanthropist-dr-suri-sehgal-receives-prestigious-dr-m-s-swaminathan/">https://www.newindiaabroadhindi.com/indian-american-philanthropist-dr-suri-sehgal-receives-prestigious-dr-m-s-swaminathan/</a>

#### **National Media**

##### **Krish Jagran**

<https://krishijagran.com/news/dr-surinder-sehgal-is-awarded-the-dr-m-s-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture-for-2022/>

##### **India CSR**

<https://indiacsr.in/dr-suri-sehgal-ms-swaminathan-award-2022/>

##### **MyCSRIndia.com**

<https://mycsrindia.com/dr-suri-sehgal-dr-ms-swaminathan-award/?noamp=available>

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**GubbaNews**

<https://www.gubbanews.com/dr-suri-sehgal-receives-the-prestigious-dr-m-s-swaminathan-award-for-leadership-in-agriculture/>

**NewslookUp**

<https://newslookup.com/contrib/agriculture/article23763-Dr--Suri-Sehgal-receives-prestigious-Dr--M-S-Swaminathan-Award-for-Leadership-in-Agriculture>

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## **TRUST FOR ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

Pusa Campus, New Delhi, India

### ***Dr MS Swaminathan Award***

*for*

### ***Leadership in Agriculture***

*Presented to*

**Dr Surinder (Suri) M Sehgal**

### **Citation**

Dr Surinder (Suri) M Sehgal is a visionary, institution builder, agricultural entrepreneur, humanitarian, and a founder and trustee of SM Sehgal Foundation (India) and Sehgal Foundation (USA). Throughout his life, Dr Suri has made outstanding contributions to help alleviate poverty in rural India and increase agricultural productivity in a sustainable way for millions of small farmers living on arid, rain-dependent land, who were largely bypassed by the Green Revolution. A crop scientist par excellence and a leader in hybrid seed industry development, he is a principal elder among the distinguished lineage of experts in world agriculture. His vision to empower the rural poor in India is not based on a charitable giving, but is rather focused on partnering with or working alongside those who take an active part in their own development.



With a PhD in Plant Genetics from Harvard University and a Business Management Diploma from Harvard Business School, he embarked on his career first as a scientist, and then as a global leader in the development and spread of the hybrid seed industry worldwide. With the divestment of Proagro group of companies in 1998, headquartered in New Delhi, and MirHytech in Egypt later, he and his wife Edda established Sehgal Foundation, a nonprofit foundation based in Iowa, USA, and SM Sehgal Foundation, a public charitable trust based in Gurugram (Haryana), India. With the Gandhian ideal that one's wealth is not one's own but to be shared, they decided to work in a holistic way with an integrated sustainable model of village development, believing that every person in the 640,000+ rural communities across India deserves a secure, prosperous, and dignified life.

When SM Sehgal Foundation began interventions in Mewat (now Nuh) district of Haryana, a community with some of the lowest socioeconomic indices in the country and listed as "aspirational" by NITI Aayog in 1999, Dr Suri felt that if development interventions succeeded in Mewat (which they did), they could be replicated elsewhere (and they have been). The work launched two and-half decades back under his mentorship in four villages now reaches over 4.2 million people in 1,900+ villages in 12 states.

With support from donors and partners, SM Sehgal Foundation works together with rural communities to create sustainable programs to manage water resources, increase agricultural productivity, strengthen local participation in village governance, transform lives one school at a time, empower women and girls, and continue outreach for further development. The interventions have improved availability, access, and quality of water; improved farms practices and farmer income; promoted local participation in government programs with increased women's participation; empowered village youth, especially adolescent girls, on digital and life skills awareness; transformed school environments; and continues to expand their reach to empower rural India.

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) has great pleasure in presenting the prestigious Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture for 2022 to Dr Surinder (Suri) M Sehgal for his lifetime outstanding contributions.

19 August, 2023

TRUSTEES OF TAAS  
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