

Dear Dr R.S.Paroda,

Greetings from Rotary Club of Madras East, R I Dist 3232, Chennai, India.

I am writing to you as the Chairperson of the Dr M S Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection, 2020.

Rotary Club of Madras East is pleased to confer "**The Dr M S Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection, 2020**" on you, **Dr R.S.Paroda**, for your enormous contributions in the field of plant breeding and genetic resource management and your leadership in establishing over 20 institutions in the field of crops, horticulture, livestock, natural resource management, fisheries, agricultural engineering, and social science sectors.

The Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection has been instituted by the Rotary Club of Madras East in the name of our Honorary Member and India's most acclaimed Agricultural Scientist, Dr M S Swaminathan. The Award is given around the Birthday of Dr Swaminathan which is on Aug 7.

Rotary Club of Madras East (www.rcme.org) is among the most active clubs in the Rotary District 3232 and is the second largest in Chennai, comprising of 165 members drawn from the professional and business world. We are involved in a number of noteworthy projects in the areas of poverty alleviation, social upliftment, education and health for underprivileged strata of society including slum dwellers, corporation school children and indigent farmers. For these impactful activities, the Club has been recognized by the State, the Rotary District as well as Rotary International. During last year, we have had the privilege of having our projects being inaugurated by eminent personalities including Rotary International President (2018-19), Barry Rassin and the Indian Minister for Defence, Nirmala Sitharaman.

The club has conducted various programs under the active guidance and participation of Dr M S Swaminathan. These pertain to sustainable development, empowering rural women, food security, environment protection and renewable energy. The Club has also been privileged to recognise various noteworthy individuals and organisations with this eponymous award for the past 25 years since the institution of the award in 1995.

The Dr M S Swaminathan Award for Environmental Protection is presented to either an individual, Company or Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) which has contributed, either directly or indirectly, to heightening environmental protection and awareness, in any part of the world.

The past recipients of this Award include personages who have contributed significantly through their work, such as **Dr Ismail Seragaldin**, former Vice-President of Sustainable Development at the World Bank, **Dr Jeffrey Sachs**, former Head, Earth Institute, Columbia University, **Dr. Sartaj Aziz**, former Foreign Minister and Principal Advisor to Prime Minister of Pakistan, **Dr Bruce Alberts**, former President, National Academy of Sciences, USA, **Dr David Bergvinson**, former Director General, ICRISAT and **Ambassador Kenneth Quinn**, President, The World Food Prize Foundation.

Some of the Corporates and other institutions who have been recipient of this award include **Tata Steel Ltd, ITC Ltd and Jain Irrigation.**

The Award comprises of a Citation cum plaque which is usually presented by a person of eminence at a grand award ceremony at Chennai in the presence of Dr M S Swaminathan and all our Rotary Members. However due to the current restrictions due to COVID 19, this program will be held online.

The Award Ceremony is planned to be held on the evening of Saturday, Aug 8, 2020 depending on your convenience and availability.

It will be our pleasure and honour if you confirm your acceptance of this award.

We look forward to hearing from you to enable us to proceed with the other aspects of planning the event.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Suresh Krishnamurthy
Chairperson, Awards Committee
Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection
Rotary Club of Madras East