

## **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan**



Prof. Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan was born in 1925, native of Mankombu, Alappuzha District, Kerala, India. He took his Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology at Maharaja's College in Trivandrum, (now known as University College, Thiruvananthapuram). Later Swaminathan decided to pursue a career in agricultural sciences and enrolled in Madras Agricultural College (now the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University) where he graduated as valedictorian with another Bachelor of Science degree, this time in Agricultural Science. He obtained his MSc in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi with high distinction. He was a UNESCO fellow at the Wageningen Agricultural University, Institute of Genetics in the Netherlands. Here he succeeded in standardizing procedures for transferring genes from a wide range of wild species of *Solanum* to the cultivated potato, *Solanum tuberosum*. In 1950, he moved to study at the Plant Breeding Institute of the University of Cambridge School of Agriculture. He took his Ph.D degree for his thesis, "Species Differentiation, and the Nature of Polyploidy in certain species of the genus *Solanum* – section *Tuberarium*." He has published 254 research papers and authored many books.

Prof. Swaminathan's contributions to the agricultural renaissance of India have led to his being widely referred to as the scientific leader of the green revolution movement. He has been called the Father of Green Revolution in India for his role in introducing and further developing high yielding varieties of Wheat in India. His advocacy of sustainable agriculture leading to an ever-green revolution makes him an acknowledged world leader in the field of sustainable food security. He served as Chairman of UN Science Advisory Committee in 1980 for follow-up action on the Vienna Plan of action; Independent Chairman, FAO Council; President, IUCN ; President, World Wide Fund for Nature (India) from 1989-96; President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; President, Natural Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Chairman, National Commission on Farmers. He is the founder of the M.S Swaminathan Foundation.

He has also served as Director of IARI, Director General, ICAR and Secretary to the Govt. of India; Department of Agricultural research and Education; Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Acting Deputy Chairman and later Member (Science and Agriculture), Planning Commission; Director General, IRRI Philippines; Member of Parliament of India (Rajyasabha-2007-13); Chairman, High Level Panel of Experts for the World Committee on Food Security. He was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award; Albert Einstein World Science Award; First World Food Prize in 1987; Volvo, Tyler and UNEP Sasakawa Prize for Environment; Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace; The Mahatma Gandhi Prize of UNESCO and Lal Bahadur Sastri National Award; Padma Shri in 1967; Padma Bhushan in 1972; Padma Vibhushan in 1989; Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration and Greatest Global Living Legend Award of NDTV. He is a fellow of Royal Society of London and US National Academy of Sciences. He has received 73 Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Universities around the world. He currently holds the UNESCO Chair in Eco technology at MSSRF, Chennai.