



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

# BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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**A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook**

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## Condolence Message

The Breakthrough Science society condoles the sad demise of the eminent scientist and agronomist Dr M S Swaminathan at his residence in Chennai on Sept 28.

Dr. Swaminathan played a key role in introducing improved farming methods and high-yielding wheat and rice varieties developed by the Nobel-winning agricultural scientist Dr. Norman Borlaug. This greatly increased agricultural productivity, which, to a large extent, eliminated the necessity of importing food grains. Even though the problems of monoculture and overdependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides became apparent in later years, the importance of the Green Revolution in ensuring food security cannot be underrated.

As an institution builder, he played a pivotal role in developing the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, creating the Nuclear Research Laboratory at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and developing several Institutions in other countries, including the International Rice Research Institute in Philipines (of which he was the first Asian Director).

In recent times, when the farmers were facing financial problems, he advocated fixing the minimum support price at 150% of the comprehensive cost of production. The governments did not heed this recommendation, which became a major demand of the year-long farmers' movement in 2020-2021.

He stood for promoting scientific temper and supported the India March for Science movement. He was particularly vocal against the spread of unscientific ideas and pseudoscience in the country.

The country and the international science community have lost one of its leading scientists.

Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay  
President

Soumitro Banerjee  
General Secretary