



GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION

Evergreen Revolution - The Pathway to Biohappiness

On the Occasion of the Birth Centenary of Professor M.S. Swaminathan
New Delhi, India | August 7-9, 2025

Preamble

As we commemorate the centenary of Professor M.S. Swaminathan—father of India’s Green Revolution and a global champion of sustainable development—we unite in a moment of profound reflection and renewed resolve. The International Conference on *Evergreen Revolution - The Pathway to Biohappiness*, held in New Delhi, brought together over a thousand delegates from across the world—scientists, policymakers, farmers, youth, civil society leaders, and international organisations.

This historic gathering reaffirms that Professor Swaminathan’s vision—of a world where science serves the vulnerable (pro-poor, nature and women), where ecological balance and food security coexist in harmony and where innovation uplifts human dignity, equity and well-being—remains more relevant than ever.

In the face of unprecedented global challenges, climate crises, biodiversity loss, pandemics, growing demands on the world’s natural resources, and growing inequality, we call for a transformative shift: a new contract between people and nature, grounded in the principles of an **Evergreen Revolution** and inspired by the ethos of **Biohappiness**.

The Vision: Biohappiness for All

Biohappiness is the joy and well-being that emerges when biodiversity is conserved and wisely used for human development, livelihoods, and health. It represents a future where:

- Every human being is nourished and healthy,
- Every farmer is empowered and respected,
- Every ecosystem thrives and regenerates.

This vision builds on Professor Swaminathan’s lifelong efforts to harmonize **ecology, economics, and equity in the face of the climate crisis and financing gap** and calls for resilient systems that deliver productivity and sustainability, innovation and inclusion, integrity and resilience and science and solidarity. It is based on principles of social justice, dignity, and the right to food, land, and livelihoods for all.

Global Call to Action- Ten Priorities

1. Rethinking Food and Farming

Transition to an integrated vision that promotes a food systems-based approach that

- **Prioritizes Biodiversity**, with a special focus on neglected and underutilized species (NUS) and varieties of crops such as millets, grain legumes, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits, local and domesticated breeds of livestock, fish and other aquatic resources
- **Promotes nutrition-sensitive, regenerative and agroecological farming** practices to ensure food and nutrition security that build resilience through improving soil health, sequestering carbon, restoring ecosystems, balancing water use and strengthening the positive climate-health-agriculture-livelihood nexus.
- **Ensures** the availability of sufficient and diverse foods for a healthy life to all people throughout the course of their lives.
- Climate preparedness including early warning systems to be strengthen to ensure both immediate responses and longer term adaptations

2. Strengthening Farmer-Managed Seed Systems

We recognise that localised farmer-managed seed systems have an essential contribution to building climate-resilient, biodiverse and just agri-food systems. To achieve this, we need to,

- Protect farmers' rights and gendered knowledge systems around seed diversity and their use,
- Mainstream traditional varieties, landraces, by developing standard operating protocols to ensure quality and seed rolling plans,
- Invest in co-developing crop-improvement strategies of traditional varieties/landraces with farmers and ensuring access to crop genetic resources and institutions.

3. Technology and Innovation with Equity

We call for ethical, inclusive innovation that

- Harnesses **AI, digital tools, and advanced breeding tools** to enhance climate resilience and promote livelihoods and nutrition, in particular of small-holder farmers, without ecological harm.
- Supports **open-source science** and participatory research and technology development that advances gender equality and social inclusion.
- Ensures equitable access to technology, services and infrastructure for **smallholders and young entrepreneurs**.
- Develops farmer-first innovation ecosystems where new technologies become enablers of trust, transparency and transformation.
- Ensures costs of appropriate technology deployment are affordable and supported by public finance
- Bridge the gap between rapid advances in science and technology with policy frameworks while ensuring flexibility for local adaptations.

4. Democratising Knowledge Management Systems

We call on the scientific community to

- Enhance the alignment of research priorities with **real-world challenges and farmers' needs**, including climate risks, malnutrition, biodiversity loss, food loss and waste, and social and economic inequity.
- Support **interdisciplinary and farmer-led research**, bridging traditional knowledge with scientific rigour.
- Facilitate **participatory learning**, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and youth mentorship.
- Institute Transdisciplinary Chairs in Biodiversity and Biohappiness in Agriculture, Animal Science, Veterinary, Fishery and Food Science Universities and research institutes, to seed long-term innovations.

- Promote **open-access platforms** for knowledge management, dissemination and upscaling.
- Co-create solutions with civil society organisations, farmer collectives, and grassroots knowledge networks.

5. Policy and Governance Pathways for Transformative Change

Governments should aim to

- Adopt the Evergreen Revolution principle in agricultural and rural development policies by integrating agriculture, nutrition, health, biodiversity, climate, livelihood, and equity goals through **cross-sectoral policy coherence**.
- **Adaptation is not possible without strong political leadership and action based on scientific and field evidence at different scales, from local to global.**
- Promote diversification in agriculture and integrated resource planning to include a cross-section of sectors, such as livestock, agroforestry, and fisheries, to ensure better risk management and improved ecological health diversified diets for improved nutrition outcomes.
- Scale policies that **incentivize context specific, climate resilient sustainable farming practices, strengthen policies that ensure farmer's rights, fair process, access to credit, insurance, infrastructure and appropriate social protection.**
- Decentralise program design and monitoring, engaging farmers in co-development and **shared governance, leveraging the strength of grassroot institutes and farmer collectives based on principles of fairness, transparency and capacity strengthening.**
- **Existing schemes to include women and community focussed initiatives like nutrition garden, seed banks, composting yards, agritourism and so on.**
- Prioritise **public investment in agricultural research, rural infrastructure, extension service, and inter-departmental coordination.**
- Prioritise **public investment in agricultural research, rural infrastructure, extension services, and adopt convergence and inter- departmental coordination.**

6. Advancing Social Equity and Gender Justice

All stakeholders

- Recognise and value the contribution of women to agriculture, food production, and biodiversity conservation by guaranteeing entitlement including land rights, access to credit, better wages, frontier technologies, knowledge, skills, and equity in access to markets and income opportunities for farmers
- Recognise and value women's contributions to food security and nutrition by creating an enabling social environment, including the provision of essential services such as childcare, health, water and sanitation, and nurturing women leaders/champions.
- Create inclusive platforms for **youth** to research, innovation, and agri-enterprises to create livelihoods rooted in dignity through initiatives such as NAAS-YUVA.
- Empower small holders through inclusive innovations ethical consumption and resilience building initiatives
- Recognise **farmers and tribal communities** as stewards of knowledge and biodiversity, and centre their voices in decision-making through formalized local national and international mechanisms.
- Strengthen entrepreneurial skill development programs for youth including focus on digital and frontier technology integration, access to subsidized finance and rural innovation hubs for climate resilient development.

7. Responsible Private-Sector Engagements

Private sector organisations must

- Invest in **inclusive value chains**, fair markets, in particular, local territorial markets, timely, adequate and fair credit ethical sourcing and green practices.
- Strengthen innovative social finance and labour market policies to improve youth employability and livelihood outcomes.
- Develop technologies that are **accessible, affordable, and context-specific with backward and forward linkages** for their adoption.



- Collaborate with public institutions to scale **climate-resilient innovations** and social enterprises.
- Adopt nature-positive business principles that prioritise planetary health.

8. Rethinking Global Development

We call on international development and funding partners to

- Promote the integration of the **Biohappiness framework** into global food systems and climate finance mechanisms.
- Support **South-South collaboration** and knowledge transfer among countries with shared agroecological and socio-cultural challenges emphasizing solidarity, equity and sustainability.
- Champion **biodiversity-based development** as a pathway to the SDGs, NDCs and LDN commitments and beyond
- Translate the vision of biohappiness to action through synergy between science policy and practice.
- Build trust based global scientific partnership to address climate change, pandemics, inequalities and other interconnected global challenges.

9. Research & Communication

- Misinformation on science needs to be corrected with public awareness through effective communication strategies
- Invest in foresight tools and training to ensure public investments align with scientific insights.
- Elevate grassroots voices, especially women, youth and small holder farmers.
- Facilitate technology transfer from leading research institutions like IITs to farmers ensuring real world issues.



10. Mainstreaming One Health Approach and Pandemic Preparedness

Local, National and International One Health Missions must strive to,

- Reframe agri-food system policies to address threats from pests and diseases in crops, animals, aquatic life and forests that affect human health, threaten livelihoods and endanger planetary health.
- Promote community-based systems of surveillance, diagnostic infrastructure and services to meet the challenges posed by recurring epidemics and pandemics.
- Shift focus from treatment of metabolic diseases to prevention via nutrition awareness and access to healthy diets.

Global Call for Action on Biohappiness 2025

We, the participants of the MSS100 International Conference, declare the following

1. We reaffirm our commitment to **zero hunger, zero poverty, and zero biodiversity loss.**
2. We declare **Biohappiness** as a new framework for development—rooted in biodiversity, equity, and ecological well-being. It blends traditional and ecological wisdom with modern science and redefines leadership as stewardship.
3. We call for a **Decade of Action on Forgotten Foods**, promoting neglected species for nutrition, livelihoods and resilience, including wild plants and aquatic foods, to ensure dietary diversity rooted in diverse cultural, social and agro-ecological contexts.
4. We are committed to advancing gender and social justice within agri- food systems and commit to enabling **youth and women as the engines of transformation.**
5. We urge the adoption of **data-driven, science-based, people-centered strategies** to address the climate-health-agriculture-livelihoods-equity nexus.
6. We commit to **harmonising and scaling relevant indigenous practices**, traditional ecological knowledge, and farmer innovations.



7. We call for the creation of a **Global Coalition on Biohappiness**, linking policy, research, and action across countries.
8. We will work to mainstream **nature-positive, community-led, and future-ready food systems** into all national agendas for human health and well-being.
9. We commit to the adoption of the One Health Approach at different scales to protect planetary health. We commit to strengthening public-private engagements for win-win solutions that foster sustainable development.

A Call to Humanity and Future Generations

Let This Be Our Moment of Change

Let this Call to Action ignite a global movement—towards social justice, sustainability, and collective prosperity.

We, the farmers, scientists, civil society, government, international and business organisations honour **Professor M.S. Swaminathan** not only by remembering his legacy but by renewing our pledge to carry it forward— boldly, inclusively, and urgently.

***“If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right”
— Prof. M.S. Swaminathan***

Let every nation, every village, every individual including every child, be a part of this revolution—a revolution that brings food, income, dignity, and joy not just to the fortunate few, but to all.

Endorsed by

- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)
- National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India
- Partner Organisations, Farmer Networks, International Agencies,
Youth and Women's Collectives

Readers of the Global Call to Action on Biohappiness are requested to send their comments/ inputs to the email: mss100ac@mssrf.res.in, on or before 31 August 2025.