

MSSRF Hosts Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary Tribute with Chief Guest Hon. Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin

On 27th September, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) hosted the Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary Tribute as part of a series of celebratory events marking the centenary year of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan. Approaching his death anniversary on September 28th, this Centenary Tribute hosted at MSSRF, Chennai paid homage to the visionary scientist whose work transformed Indian agriculture and continues to inspire sustainable development globally.

Key Events:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** delivered a special tribute address in the presence of our Guest of Honour, **Thiru. M.R.K. Panneerselvam**, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Thiru. R.S. Rajakannappan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Khadi, delivered a presidential address and released **MSSRF's Annual Report (2024-25)**. He also released the **MSS100 Conference Proceedings**, which unpacks discussions, delivers insights, and highlights The Global Call to Action that emerged from the M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference 2025, hosted in Delhi in August 2025. A Tamil book on the life and legacy of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, **Tamil Nadu Science Forum's Velaan Vingnani** was also released by him at the event.

Tmt. Mariamma Thomas, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Postal Circle released **MSS100 Commemorative Postcards**, which feature elegant line drawings of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan alongside visual interpretations of the core principles and concepts he lived and worked by.

Dr. R. Rengalakshmi, Executive Director of Area Operations, MSSRF presented the Annual Report 2024-2025, with unique insights into the Foundation's work across core programme areas.

Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, released **Biohappiness in Practice: Stories from the Field**, which documents 60 farmers' case studies that were uncovered at the M.S. Swaminathan International Centenary Conference 2025. He also released **Impact Report: 15 Years of Fish for All Research and Training Centre** in Tamil.

Tmt. Jayashree Muralidharan, IAS, Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, felicitated 3 MSSRF-supported FCPs, namely **NAFPCL**, **RESAPCOL** and **Kolab FPCL**. She also released MSSRF's latest **Nutrition Literacy Module** in Tamil.

Thiru. N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Publishing Group, and **Dr. Nalini Krishnan**, Executive Member, REACH Executive Committee, shared their own heartfelt tributes to Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, reflecting on their personal and professional relationships with the visionary scientist and leader.

Dr. Oliver King, Director of Biodiversity, MSSRF delivered the Vote of Thanks, followed by Vignesh Ishwar & Team's musical performance.

Media Bites:

"India will never forget the name of agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan. Only a few people in history have lived in a way that has impacted millions of people. M.S. Swaminathan is one of them. He lived a very simple life. I had the opportunity to meet M.S. Swaminathan many times. He made the Green Revolution happen to feed the people of India when most were starving. He was a guardian of food security and served as a voice for the voiceless. He worked towards poverty eradication as his goal and is globally known as the Father of India's Green Revolution. Agricultural students and scientists should strive to fulfill the duties and dreams of M.S. Swaminathan." - Hon. Chief Minister Thiru. M.K. Stalin

"Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the Republic of India. It is a pleasure that his daughter Dr. Soumya Swaminathan is currently managing this foundation. Honorable Chief Minister Mr. K. Stalin is taking many initiatives for the development of the country. The most important reason for his participation in this event is that MSSRF is playing a very important role in the progress of the country." - Thiru. R.S. Rajakannappan, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and Khadi

"We're delighted that Dr. Soumya and MSSRF conceived this brilliant idea of releasing six commemorative postcards for Dr. Swaminathan's birth centenary – including one seed-implanted postcard. This is perhaps the first instance of a postcard with a seed in it." - Tmt. Mariamma Thomas

"M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and the Tamil Nadu government have collaborated on various initiatives for farmers, and this partnership continues to this day. During natural disasters, mangrove forests have protected coastal villages. For example, when the tsunami struck, Pichavaram did not suffer major damage because of these natural barriers." - Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS

"When I think of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, three things immediately come to mind. First, he was a pioneering agricultural researcher who developed genetic crop varieties. Second, he was a charismatic administrator who provided leadership to numerous institutions. Third, he was a deeply humanitarian person." - Thiru. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS

"I have held immense respect for Dr. M.S. Swaminathan since my childhood. I knew of him even as a young boy because India was facing famine at that time, and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan responded to this crisis through the Green Revolution, contributing invaluable solutions not just to our country but to the entire world. He has brought tremendous pride to Tamil Nadu. Today we celebrate many names as heroes, but the true hero is Dr. M.S. Swaminathan himself." - Tmt. Jayashree Muralidharan, IAS

"It is fitting that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who promised Dr. Swaminathan, "I will be there on your 100th birthday," has kept his promise." - Thiru. N. Ram

"Prof. M.S. Swaminathan really believed in international cooperation, solidarity, overcoming national boundaries and narrow loyalties – that made him the man he was." - Thiru. N. Ram

"In conceiving and enacting India's Green Revolution, Prof. M.S. Swaminathan was an undisputed scientific leader and driving force. He succeeded brilliantly." - Thiru. N. Ram

"Of Prof. Swaminathan, one can say without a trace of extravagance or sentimentality that he was a truly great man. A man of science and humanity who lived by his values, accomplished a great deal, saw gaps when they were there, faced criticism in a resilient way and changed lives for the better on a scale that few of us can imagine." - Thiru. N. Ram

"Prof. M.S. Swaminathan exemplifies how science cannot be contained within its own community. Research has meaning only when its results reach and benefit the people it's meant to impact." - Dr. Nalini Krishnan