

Dear Dr. Bhavani,

The news about the passing away of (L) M.S.Swaminathan, though deeply saddened as I sit and mourn the loss of my most revered mentor, I also feel a sense of happiness and gratefulness to God that I have also lived in an era where such a giant as the Professor also lived and I had the honour to meet him and share his thoughts and views. Such figures rarely come in the course of history and form a milestone in the history of the nation, indeed, of the world.

I take it as a true blessing that I had the opportunity to meet this towering icon several times and was totally struck by his humility and humanity as he spoke with me as a friend while I was totally enamored by his sheer presence. He was a true Gandhian to the core.

The nation has lost one of its greatest sons who has contributed immeasurably to the welfare of the farming community and who has been an idol for countless scientists and common people alike. He has been, and will remain, an inspiration to all who have come in contact with him and have read his writings and heard his talks/speeches/seminars etc.

His passing away has left a huge void and the vacuum created would never be filled.

Legends never die! and I believe his legacy will live on with the MSSRF and the dedicated and passionate people who have had the honour and privilege to work side by side with him and imbibed his values.

I, for one, deeply mourn his passing away and feel the loss and pray for the eternal peace of his soul.

My heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family and the family of MSSRF.

From Dr.Rangad, retired Director of Horticulture, Meghalaya. He was assigned on duty to Prof when we visited Shillong during the NCF.