

Fw: Condolence Message: Kind Attention: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Swami-MSSRF <swami@mssrf.res.in>

Wed 10/4/2023 1:00 PM

To: Founder-MSSRF <founder@mssrf.res.in>

From: G. G. Sohani <ggsohani@baif.org.in>

Sent: 28 September 2023 17:05

To: Soumya Swaminathan - MSSRF; Chairpersonpa-MSSRF; Swami-MSSRF

Subject: Condolence Message: Kind Attention: Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

Dear Dr. Soumya,

I received the news of the demise of Dr. Swaminathan with a feeling of gloom.

Dr. Swaminathan, universally acclaimed as the Father of the Green Revolution, towered over all other agricultural scientists. His scientific approach towards agriculture, his expertise in precision agriculture, and his effective use of innovative technologies transformed the agricultural landscape of our country. His clear understanding of the bottlenecks in Indian agricultural productivity and herculean efforts to revolutionize the agricultural pattern in our country are legendary. At the same time, he was humble, soft-spoken and always approachable.

On the request of BAIF Founder Dr. Manibhai Desai -- a freedom fighter and close associate of Mahatma Gandhi -- Dr. Swaminathan readily agreed to be part of the Board of Trustees of BAIF soon after he stepped down as the DG of IRRI. He has been instrumental in guiding the shaping of BAIF to be a unique institution for the application of S&T for grassroots impact and with a national and international standing.

In spite of his nonagenarian status, Dr. Swaminathan was always active and enthusiastic. I had the privilege and good fortune of interacting closely with Dr. Swaminathan while he was the Vice Chairman of BAIF from 1988 to 2021, receiving his expert guidance in agricultural technologies for ensuring rural prosperity, and his wise counsel in institution-building, while I was the President of BAIF from 2009 to 2021.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences. The sad demise of Dr. Swaminathan is an irreparable loss to BAIF, as well as to the larger scientific and agricultural fraternity.

In grief

Girish Sohani

Principal Adviser and Trustee of BAIF

With good wishes

Girish G. Sohani

Principal Advisor and Trustee

BAIF Development Research Foundation

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