

PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, BAIF



Dr. Swaminathan joined the BAIF Board of Trustees in August 1988.

Father of the Green Revolution as he is appropriately known as, for his phenomenal contribution to the Indian economy, Prof. Swaminathan, a renowned plant breeder and Scientist par excellence, headed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and the Planning Commission of the Government of India and the International Rice Research Institute at Manila in Philippines and served on several prestigious International Committees and Boards. His innovative approach to promote bio-villages, conservation of endangered species, protection of the coastal eco-system through conservation and establishment of mangroves, shallow water fishery, precision farming, pulse villages, agri-clinics, agri-business consortiums, access to knowledge and information centres for every village, have evolved as widely replicable models. Demystification of complex technologies for easy adaptation by illiterate farmers, to ensure food security and prosperity has been his gift to the developing countries all over the world. His excellent human engineering skills have strengthened his creative mission of creating a hunger free world. He has taken science to the doorsteps of the rural poor.

Acclaimed as one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th Century and one of the only three from India, apart from Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, by TIME Magazine, he has also been described as the “Father of Economic Ecology” and “as a living legend who will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of rare distinction” by Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations. A Fellow of the Royal Society of London, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Prof. Swaminathan is a recipient of a large number of honorary doctorate degrees from leading universities in the world. The International Association of Women and Development bestowed upon him the First International Award for promoting empowerment of women in agriculture and in mainstreaming gender considerations in agricultural and rural development. He was a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leader (1971), the Albert Einstein World Science Award (1986), the first World Food Prize (1987), Volvo and Tyler Prize for Environment, the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development (2000), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms medal and the Mahatma Gandhi Prize instituted by UNESCO (2000).

He is the UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology at the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai; President of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a Member of the Rajya Sabha and President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs. He served on the UN Science Advisory Committee as the Chairman, FAO Council as an independent Chairman, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources as the President and Chairman of the National Commission on Farmers, Government of India.

BAIF is fortunate to have the support of Prof. Swaminathan in establishing linkages with leading scientific institutions engaged in agricultural development.