

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU AT
THE PRESENTATION OF YERARIGNAR AWARD TO DR.M.S.SWAMINATHAN AT ANNA
AUDITORIUM, MADRAS VETERINARY COLLEGE, CHENNAI ON 10.12.2017 AT 11 A.M.**

Shri. M.Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India
Prof M.S.Swaminathan, Dr.K.Ramasamy, Dr.S.Ayyappan, Dr.S.Thilakar
Dr.S.Felix, Dr.M.Muthamil Selvan, Distinguished Invitees, Friends from Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to participate in the function in which Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri. M.Venkaiah Naidu Ji, a multifaceted personality is participating as Chief Guest and conferring the 'Yerarignar' award on Prof M.S.Swaminathan.

It is apt that the Hon'ble Vice President is himself an agriculturalist and a farmer and he is going to present the award for the 'Pioneer of Green Revolution' in India. I feel that this function is a special one because I was also a farmer and the dignitaries on the dais are also in one way or other connected with the farming community.

Dr.M.S.Swaminathan is an agricultural legend who is known for his innovation and research in the field of agriculture.

The Indian economy is basically agrarian. In spite of economic development and industrialization, agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "India lives in villages and agriculture is the soul of Indian economy". Nearly two-thirds of its population depends directly on agriculture for their livelihood.

Agriculture contributes about 26 percent of the Gross domestic product. Agriculture meets food requirements of the people and produces several raw materials for industries. It plays a major role in fostering the economic growth of a country. Most of the macro economic factors that affect Indian economy have their deep roots in agriculture and allied activities. Most importantly agriculture is the largest provider of employment in the country.

India is self-sustained in food production now, but before 60 years it was not so. The agricultural scenario was different those days. Farmers grew traditional long duration crops that gave moderate to poor yields. Therefore many parts of India faced severe famines. We owe a lot to Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, the Agricultural Scientist who uplifted Indian Agriculture to its present level of self sufficiency.

Dr. M.S.Swaminathan who hails from a patriotic family witnessed the great famine of Bengal, which made him devote his entire life to eradicate hunger from India. This inner urge in him made him devote his field of specialization to agriculture.

A plant Geneticist by training, Dr. Swaminathan has made a stellar contribution to the agricultural renaissance of India, and is widely regarded as the scientific leader of India's Green Revolution movement. The credit goes to him for developing high yielding varieties of food grains. His advocacy of sustainable

agriculture leading to an evergreen revolution makes him even today an acknowledged world leader in the field of sustainable food security.

We owe a lot to Dr.M.S.Swaminathan for his efforts and contributions. He has devoted his entire life for the well being of the human society, it is because of him that several farmers attained economic well being. The newly developed high yielding varieties have increased returns tremendously for the farmers and India is one of the leading rice exporting nations of the world. Conferring him with the "Yerarignar" award is apt and befitting one for his dedication to fight hunger and for bringing about a green revolution.

Today it is worrying to note that there is a continuing decrease in the contribution of agriculture to GDP and youth are leaving the villages for the greener pastures in the urban areas. Adopting suitable, sustainable and modern technologies in cultivation is the need of the hour.

The nation needs yet another green revolution today. The young Researchers and Scientists should not only draw inspiration from great personalities like Dr.M.S.Swaminathan but they should also seek their guidance and advice to attain excellence.

I appeal to the younger generation scientists and students to take the lead in the field of agriculture. They should rise up to the occasion to bring about a second green revolution in India.

I convey my warm felicitations to Dr.M.S.Swaminathan and wish him a long, happy and healthy life in his distinguished service in the field of agriculture.

My Greetings to you all.

Jai Hind. Jai Tamil Nadu.

Nandri Vanakkam.
