



M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Harnessing Science for
Sustainable Development

THE JOURNEY OF MSSRF



It all begins with a small step - An idea, a movement, a better world.

It was one such step that gave birth to the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation – MSSRF – when Professor Swaminathan received the First World Food Prize in 1987.

MSSRF has a vision – a vision of harnessing science and technology for sustainable development through a pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-women and pro-sustainability approach. The Foundation also believes in combining modern science with action research to influence policy issues.

MSSRF applies science and technology to address problems faced by rural populations creating change in their lives in the spheres of natural resource management, agriculture, food and nutrition. In working towards this, MSSRF has worked closely in partnership with communities, knowledge-based institutions, besides public and private sector organizations.



The work that MSSRF does is organized across



Coastal Systems Research

Coastal Systems Research for attention to coastal forestry, agro-forestry, coastal agriculture, capture and culture fisheries and marine biodiversity,



Biodiversity

Biodiversity to halt genetic erosion and move to an era of bio-happiness while integrating agro-biodiversity with poverty alleviation and malnutrition,



Biotechnology

Biotechnology to equip crop plants to overcome abiotic stress, mainly salinity and drought with strategic and applied research,

specific programme areas: These are



Ecotechnology

Ecotechnology blending traditional wisdom for enhancing natural resources, increasing profitability of small farms and improving non-farm income through value addition



Food Security

Food Security promoting community-based interventions towards nutrition security for marginalized sections, related to availability, access and absorption of food



Information, Education and Communication

Information, Education and Communication, to bridge the digital divide between knowledge holders and knowledge seekers through inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches



The Foundation has the cross-cutting themes – Gender, Climate Change and strengthening grassroots Institutions in all initiatives in keeping with MSSRF's core philosophy. The Hindu Media Resource Centre serves as a link between development, media and society, for knowledge sharing and discourse on scientific issues.

THROUGH THE YEARS, THE MSSRF'S WORK HAS MADE AN IMPACT ACROSS:

Touching the lives of 200,000 individuals

- 8 Indian States
- 4 Regional Centres
- 25 Field Centres
- 33 districts
- 452 revenue villages
- 849 hamlets
- 180,000 Households

This resulted in

- Enhanced capacities of 107 Grass-roots institutions and 998 Self-Help Groups
- 162,000 hectares of land resources managed effectively
- 4,500 hectares of mangrove restored
- 4,000 Nutrition Gardens established

IMPACTING LIVELIHOOD OF MORE THAN 100,000 FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK EACH DAY

MSSRF has also helped create a knowledge base of

- 71 Doctoral Theses
- 1,670 Publications
- 3 International Patents

Facilitating 100,000 trainee days a year of capacity and skill training

FOUNDATION IMPACT



The Foundation influence spreads across Government, Educational Institutions and Researchers across 18 Countries, National, Bilateral and International Organizations bringing several Institutional Awards including the Blue Planet Prize, Stockholm Challenge Award, Equator Initiative Award, Water for Earth Award, mbillionth Award, National Water Award and several other prestigious awards.

Registered in 1988 as a non-profit Trust, MSSRF is recognised in India for Income Tax exemptions and to receive funds from sources abroad. Guided by a Board of Trustees, comprising eminent experts and professionals, MSSRF has been supported by many National and International Governments and Organisations through the years.

From the beginning, MSSRF has focused on participatory research with farming and fishing families and policy research for synergy between grassroot experience and public policy. Mahatma Gandhi's advice that "Windows and doors should be open to fresh ideas while the feet should be firmly on the ground", has guided the institution's philosophy.

MSSRF has worked jointly and in the lead on various international partnerships such as the Alleviating Poverty and Malnutrition project, the LANSa consortium, Rice Biopark, Afghan Scientists training and Genetic Garden, Clima-Adapt, Community Biodiversity Management, Promotion of Underutilized Crops and Mangrove Research and Capacity Building.

The Foundation continues in its path - towards becoming a global leader in humanistic science and scientific humanism.



M S SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

3rd Cross Street, Institutional Area, Taramani

Chennai 600 113, India

Tel: +91 (44) 22541229, +91 (44) 22541698

web: www.mssrf.org