

IARI library dedicated in the name of Professor M. S. Swaminathan

One of the most befitting recognition and great tribute accorded to M. S. Swaminathan is to have dedicated the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi Library in his name on 29 April 2016. A large community of agricultural scientists, students, and in fact, the entire nation is pleased to refer to the famous IARI Library as Professor M. S. Swaminathan Library (Figure 1 a). His name will remain in the annals of Indian agriculture for a long time to come. The renaming of the IARI Library in his name only strengthens this view. This dedication also reflects the gratitude of the past

and present Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and IARI community to a great son of India, who grew up to be the Father of India's Green Revolution in the 1960s, and later as the sole architect of the global Evergreen Revolution.

The IARI Library was an integral part of the Agricultural Institute at Pusa (Pusa Institute) in Bihar. It was established in 1905. A devastating earthquake destroyed most of the Pusa Institute, and the entire establishment was shifted to New Delhi and re-established. The library of the Institute was inaugurated in 1936 by

Lord Linlithgow, then the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. It was named the Linlithgow Library. After independence, it was called as the IARI Library.

The IARI Library has in fact the *de facto* status of the National Agricultural Library of India. It is acknowledged as one of the top 10 agro-biological libraries in the world. It is reported to house a total of 600,000 publications, including 350,000 journal volumes. It has a collection of over 100,000 books/monographs, 45,000 bulletins, 30,000 news clippings, 30,000 reports, 15,000 postgraduate theses and several thousands of pamphlets, newspapers, etc. It also has 10,500 serial files. Its collection gets enriched annually at the rate about 9000–10,000 documents. Acquisition is through subscriptions, donations and exchanges.

On being congratulated on the occasion of the notable dedication, M. S. Swaminathan wrote: 'I started my professional career as a post-graduate student of IARI in 1947 and then I used to spend a lot of time in the library. Therefore, I was particularly moved when the authorities of IARI decided to dedicate the library to me'.

On 17 July 1968, the Government of India had released the wheat revolution commemoration stamp (Figure 1 b). A picture of the IARI Library forms an imposing backdrop to the wheat stalks and the histogram comparing Indian wheat production in 1951 and 1968. It was Swaminathan's idea to put the picture of the IARI Library on the stamp in order to symbolize the knowledge power provided by it, to trigger the wheat revolution. By appropriately dedicating the IARI Library in his name, one can say that the knowledge power and the architect of India's Green Revolution as also the Evergreen Revolution are elegantly integrated.



Figure 1. a, IARI Library dedicated to Professor M. S. Swaminathan in April 2016. b, Wheat Revolution Commemoration Stamp released in 1968.

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