

M. S. Swaminathan

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Imagine a country where farmers work hard but still cannot grow enough food for everyone. In the 1960s, India faced this serious challenge. Food production was low, and the country depended on imports from other nations to feed its population. At this crucial time, one scientist played a major role in changing India's agricultural future - **M. S. Swaminathan**.

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Dr. Swaminathan was born in 1925 in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu. As a young student, he witnessed the devastating Bengal Famine of 1943, during which millions of people died due to hunger. This event deeply affected him and made him realise that increasing food production was one of the most important challenges for the country. Instead of becoming a doctor like his father, he chose to study **agricultural science and plant genetics** so he could help farmers grow more food.

In the 1960s, Swaminathan worked with farmers, researchers, and international scientists, including the renowned agronomist Norman Borlaug. Together, they introduced **high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice**, along with better irrigation, fertilisers, and improved farming techniques. These new methods helped farmers produce much larger harvests from the same land.

The impact was remarkable. Wheat production increased dramatically, especially in states like Punjab and Haryana. This transformation became known as the **Green Revolution**, and it helped India move from food shortages to becoming largely self-sufficient in food production.

Dr Swaminathan also believed that agriculture must protect nature while supporting farmers' livelihoods. To continue this mission, he founded the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai. The foundation works on sustainable farming, biodiversity conservation, and improving rural livelihoods.

Dr. Swaminathan's work shows how science can solve real-world problems. His dedication helped feed millions of people and reminds students that innovation and compassion can truly change the world.

