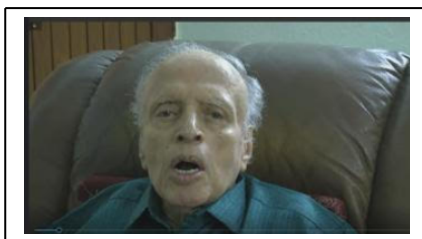


Prof M S Swaminathan
Founder Trustee



**Prof MS Swaminathan's message to the participants of the
South Asian Forum on Agricultural Meteorology (SAFOAM) Workshop**

13th June 2021

I am happy that nine countries of South Asia have come together today to study the linkages between the monsoon productivity and profitability. I am happy that modern technology like remote sensing will be used here. We used remote sensing for the first time at the influence of late Dr Vikram Sarabhai on coconut root wilt and that was a great success in mapping the intensity of disease occurrence in Kerala.

The climate advice today is a sophisticated and requisite for the farmers. The length of the rainfall, the intensity of rainfall, length of sunlight, all of them are important for farmers. Therefore, sharing information from a common background which is going to be done here is an important advance in enabling the farmers. Empowerment of farmers depends upon the provision of information, the right information at the right time on one hand and on the other hand all have the access to climate forecasting through the advisory group on climate and agrometeorology. The agrometeorology is an emerging science. For long time, we heard meteorology, but now we get agrometeorology. Climate has a profound influence on agriculture in all the countries represented here. Climate is very important, because it influence the market and now hence the market surplus and market arrival can be mapped.

In all these nine countries, the monsoon and the market are closely linked and therefore we have common information to share. Through sharing information, all of them can benefit and this kind of interaction is very important. Therefore, I congratulate the organisers. This is a timely meeting and I hope the aftermath of this meeting will be felt in this years' production. It is very important initiative because we all have seen the problem like corona and many diseases and pests. Today with the help of modern technologies we can anticipate the disease prevalent, disease outbreak, and they all can be anticipated. Therefore, it is important that these nine countries they can join together and if all of them share the information, then control will be possible. Because the monsoon and the market, they are linked together and this can be done only if they work together and one method is remote sensing.

I congratulate the organisers and wish the meeting very great success.