

REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary degree of humane letters to Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan at Fall Commencement 2005.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Dr. Swaminathan for his outstanding leadership and contributions to alleviating world hunger and bringing stability to large parts of the world.

Details on Dr. Swaminathan's Accomplishments:

- Dr. Swaminathan was the chief architect of the Green Revolution that brought self-sufficiency to help India meet its food needs.
- As Director General of the International Rice Institute in the Philippines, he was instrumental in the development of many rice varieties, which, combined with his extensive work in wheat breeding, helped increase food supplies for billions of people around the world.
- In 1988, Dr. Swaminathan established the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in India to harness science and technology for environmentally sustainable and socially equitable development throughout the world.
- In 1992, he attended the World Food Conference hosted by ISU and, since that time, has taken a personal interest in ISU's programs in food and agriculture. He has hosted many ISU students and faculty members at the Swaminathan Research Foundation and has provided valuable advice and counsel to ISU's food production programs. He delivered the first Norman Borlaug Lecture at ISU in 2003.
- As a world leader in the conservation and preservation of the environment to protect food production resources, he has served as president of the International Union of Conservation for Nature, been a key adviser to the United Nations, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and other international organizations.
- Dr. Swaminathan was educated in India and received his doctorate in plant genetics from Cambridge University.

Honors:

- Dr. Swaminathan received the Global Environmental leadership Award, United Nation's Saskawa Environmental Prize, Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, and Volvo Environment Prize. In 1987, he became the first recipient of the World Food Prize.
- *Time* magazine named him one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century; according to former United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, "by any standards, Dr. Swaminathan will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of rare distinction."
- Dr. Swaminathan is a member of the Royal Society, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the Russian, Italian, and Chinese Academies.