



BORLAUG AWARD

SURAJIT K DE DATTA

Born on 1st August 1936 in Shwebo, Burma, he took his B.S. Agriculture degree from the Banaras Hindu University in 1956 and later the Master of Science degree from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry. He was awarded the Ph. D. degree in Soil Science by the University of Hawaii in 1962. Presently, he is the Director of International Research and Development and Professor of Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in USA.

Dr. Datta has devoted his entire life to research on fertiliser use efficiency. For over 25 years he led the agronomic programmes of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines. He demonstrated the yield potential of IR-8, one of the early semi-dwarf rice varieties developed by IRRI. Had this not occurred, the high yielding ability of such strains might not have become so well-known. Dr. Datta developed numerous techniques for reducing fertiliser losses particularly during the monsoon season in tropical Asia. He demonstrated the utility of urea supergranules and his book on rice is still the most authoritative treatise.

COROMANDEL FERTILISERS LIMITED

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