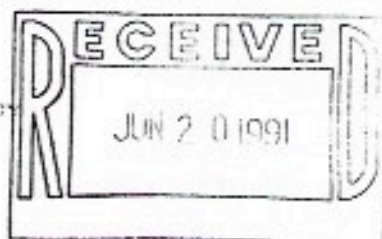


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WALTER P. FALCON  
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5 June 1991

Dr. S.K. DeDatta  
IRRI

Dear S.K.,

Today is one of those happy-sad occasions, and I only wish I were in Los Banos so that I could convey my thoughts to you personally. Unfortunately, this letter will have to serve as a poor substitute.

My thoughts are indeed personal, although I am confident that they represent the feelings of all Board of Trustee Members—current and past—who have had the great privilege to know and work with you at IRRI.

Your new Directorship at VPI represents a marvelous challenge and opportunity. It is one that you richly deserve in both personal and professional terms. And certainly American agriculture institutions need technical assistance at this time!! I am very happy that you will soon be a colleague on this side of the Pacific.

But I am sad as well. There are only a very few people whose names are truly synonymous with IRRI. Yours is one of them, and I know that IRRI will be fundamentally different without you. Your stature, wisdom, energy, vision, high standards, and caring concerns are known throughout the world.

I believe that IRRI has been good to you and your family. I also know that you and your many accomplishments have been extraordinarily good for IRRI. Excellence—DeDatta—IRRI: the words group together naturally, and they do so in a manner in which you can take great and justifiable pride.

Good luck at VPI, and thanks again for your immense and long-lasting contributions. Please visit us often in Los Banos, and please bring your family with you when you can.

Cordially,

Handwritten signature of Walter P. Falcon.

Walter P. Falcon  
Director and Chairman,  
IRRI Board of Trustees