

"288" is the number of the row where the third plant, "3" was growing – which would go on and become Miracle Rice.

2nd chance SK misses IR8 history.

His second chance was when Robert F Chandler Jr wrote his memoir titled **An Adventure In Applied Science** subtitled *A History Of The International Rice Research Institute* published by IRRI in 1992, 252 pages in pdf; the story happened when Mr Chandler was Director General of IRRI. In his book, Mr Chandler failed to acknowledge properly the contribution of SK to the whole Miracle Rice adventure of IRRI. As a writer and editor, I will attribute this to the failure of the IRRI Editor in knowing proper history at that time.

(Interestingly, as editor I too missed my chance to become part of IRRI history when IRRI decided *not* to recruit me as *Assistant Editor* sometime in 1979-1980, after I passed the IRRI applicants' aptitude test and the Chief Editor's editing quiz that he prepared personally to challenge me – it was a *good* exam but with 5 years field experience, I was *better*. In vain. They decided to downgrade the vacant position and hire an *Editorial Assistant* instead, a girl. I believe this was not racial prejudice; I believe only that IRRI was afraid of an activist who could write and edit, and I was all three.)

3rd chance SK misses IR8 history.

I will interject here SK's missed third chance at making IR8 history – when Hank Beachell and Gurdev Singh Kush won jointly the 1996 World Food Prize (worldfoodprize.org [https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/laureates/19871999_laureates/1996_beachell_and_khush/]). As a plant breeder, Mr Kush came to IRRI only in 1967, when IR8 was already Miracle Rice, breeding his own Miracle Rices IR20, IR 36 and IR50 (Sanchari Pal, inexact date 2017, *The Better India*, thebetterindia.com [<https://www.thebetterindia.com/76041/ir8-miracle-rice-irri-india-famine-gurdev-khush/>]). If you ask me now, with what I know, SK should have won that 1996 World Food Prize along with Mr Beachell and Mr Kush. Plant breeders are helpless without agronomists testing in the field what their theories promise. They can only guess with the science that they know. Remember, the plant breeders did 7 crosses for years before they came up with the 8th cross that produced Miracle Rice. The agronomist field-tested all those previous promising crosses that failed. Plant breeding is guess work; field testing is guess what? The breeder promises; the agronomist delivers. Eureka!

About missing history, about being ignored, I'll close this one saying, "SK, it happens to the best!" @

03 September 2017. Total word count excluding this line 1212

Posted 4 hours ago by [Frank A Hilario](#)



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