DE DATTA, SURAJIT KUMAR (S. K. De Datta)

BIO-SUMMARY AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (Jan 1964 thru August 2011)

Dr. De Datta, named in 2003 as the Associate Provost/ Associate Vice President for International Affairs at Virginia Tech, has also served as the Director of the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED) and Professor of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences since 1991. He has more than 47 years of experience in international programs throughout the world. His career has included extensive research, research administration, program development, administration, and the guidance of graduate students and postdoctoral students. As Adjunct Professor from the Universities in the U. S. A., U.K., Wales, Germany, India, and Philippines (UPLB, and CLSU) he has supervised and graduated 77 M.S. and Ph.D. students from 23 countries for their thesis research. At IRRI, he led strategic and applied research, technology generation in rice culture, international research in agricultural sciences, and training and technology transfer. While establishing his record as a researcher and teacher, Dr. De Datta played an essential administrative role as the Department Head of Agronomy at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for 25 years,

He has published over 366 research papers, several books and book chapters (including 6 monograph chapters in Advances in Agronomy (Academic Press) and Advances in Soil Science (Springer -Verlag). Most notable is his book titled " Principles and Practices for Rice Production" , 641 p. published in 1981 by John Wiley, New York. The book was also translated in to Spanish. He was the first to identify the record yield potential of the first modern semi dwarf breeding line IR8-288-3 that IRRI released as IR8 in mid 1966. De Datta introduced IR8 to President Marcos in mid 1966. Quite excited with IRRI visit and seeing the exciting results about IR8-288-3 (IR 8) presented by Dr. De Datta, President Marcos promised the nation self sufficiency in rice within 4 years which he fulfilled. IR8 indeed revolutionized rice production in tropical Asia by reducing Food Insecurity in rice, which was looming at that time in tropical Asia. For his contribution to the Green Revolution in rice and for global food security, Dr. De Datta has received several national and international awards, including the Presidential Citation from the Philippines and the Borlaug Award from the Vice President (who later became President) of India. Other milestone research results of Dr. De Datta include developing technology and promoting direct seeded flooded rice technology in tropical Asia as an alternative to the labor-intensive transplanted rice. He identified also 2,4-D as a grass herbicide in transplanted lowland rice when it is applied pre-emergence to the weed. These research results are published in Internationally Refereed Journal papers. For his outstanding research contributions particularly for his historical contribution (identification of IR8 as the first high yielding modern semi dwarf rice) to the Green Revolution in rice in Asia he was honored as a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Soil Science Society of America(SSSA) , the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) , and the Indian Academy of Agriculture Sciences, among others. He received also International Service awards from all three Societies i.e. ASA, CSSA and SSSA. In 1991 he received Agronomic Research Award from the ASA. His Alma mater for the undergraduate education, the College of Agriculture at the Benaras Hindu University in India and for his Ph.D degree from the College of Tropical Agriculture at the University of Hawaii, U.S.A., honored him as outstanding alumni of these Colleges of Agriculture in the respective Universities. During his tenure at IRRI, as a consultant to EMBRAPA he wrote the position paper suggesting that the National Rice and Bean Research Institute be established in Goiania, Brazil, which was accepted. He also wrote the white paper for DG IRRI for establishing PHILRICE in Nueva Ecija, Central Luzon, Philippines. Furthermore, he encouraged DDG IRRI for establishing Bangladesh Rice Research Institute(BRRI) with a grant received from the Ford Foundation Bangladesh. For 20 years i.e. from June 1991 thru August 1, 2011), he has served as the Administrative Principal Investigator (PI) of many donor-funded projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Russia, and CIS countries. The total net worth of these donor-funded ,primarily USAID –funded, projects won thru competitive process, was $150 million. From June 1991 thru July 31, 2011 he has served as the Principal Investigator (PI) and administrator for numerous projects in all regions of the world. Currently, Dr. De Data serves as an Emeritus Professor of Crop Soil, and Environmental Sciences (CSES) and Adjunct Senior Faculty of the Center for the International