

that I set up a seed multiplication cooperative in Bruny, Les Cayes with the USAID funding to spread its cultivation. Another IRRI variety that I named Colette also proved successful with the farmers and spread in the Les Cayes area where I tested it and proved its merits.

Behind all the success, it was Dr. De Datta who was always ready to help me wherever in the world I worked, so I was very thankful on behalf of my farmers.

Biography (an extract from Wikipedia):

Dr. Surajit Kumar De Datta is an Indian American agronomist who is best known for his high yielding variety of rice IR8 that contributed significantly to the Green Revolution across Asia". He worked 27 years at the International Rice Research Institute in Philippines helping Southeast Asia get self-sufficiency in rice production. His 641 pages-book on rice production, *Principles and Practices of Rice Production*, published by John Wiley, New York, is considered an authoritative opus in the field of rice cultivation. He has also written two books namely, "Availability of Phosphorus and Utilization of Phosphate Fertilizers in Some Great Soil Groups of Hawaii" in 1963 and "Availability of Phosphorus to Sugar Cane in Hawaii as Influenced by Various Phosphorus Fertilizers and Methods of Application" in 1965. Dr. De Datta's research in rice production at IRRI contributed to the green revolution that helped Southeast Asia gain agricultural self-sufficiency.

A Green revolution pioneer:

After serving IRRI, Philippines for over 27 years where he was the Principal scientist and Agronomist, Dr. De Datta joined Virginia Tech where he served both as Associate Vice President of International Affairs and Director of the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIREED)