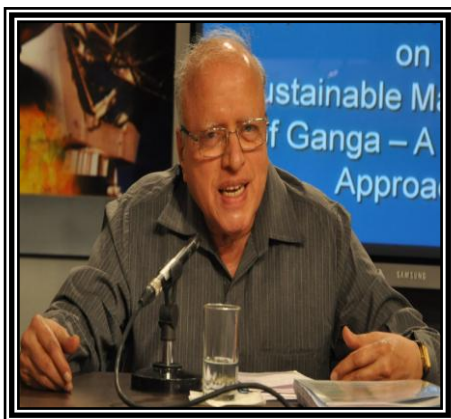


Honorary Chair



Prof. M.S. Swaminathan

Professor M S Swaminathan as the Honorary Chair for Sustainable Development, IGNOU is equipped to guide the development and promotion of Sustainability Science in the country.

He has been acclaimed as one of the twenty most influential Asians of the 20th century and one of the only three from India, the other two being Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore.

He has been described by the United Nations Environment Programme as "**the Father of Economic Ecology**" and by Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations, as "**a living legend who will go into the annals of history as a world scientist of rare distinction**".

He was Chairman of the UN Science Advisory Committee set up in 1980 to take follow-up action on the Vienna Plan of Action.

He has also served as Independent President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs Chairman of the FAO Council.

He is a Fellow of all the leading Science Academies of India and of the Royal Society of London, the US Natural Science Academy and the Russian and Chinese Science Academies.

He holds the UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai (Madras), India and is a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).