

## **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026**

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The **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026** was presented to **P. Pechiyammal of Ramanathapuram** and **Govindhammal of Villupuram** for their grassroots contributions to **marine conservation** and **sustainable agriculture**, highlighting how community-led initiatives can protect the environment while strengthening local livelihoods.

### **About Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection**

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026** recognises grassroots efforts that contribute to environmental protection, sustainable development and community welfare, reflecting Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's emphasis on linking ecological sustainability with livelihoods.

- **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection** honours individuals who make meaningful contributions to environmental protection through practical and community-based initiatives.
- The initiative has increasingly focused on recognising grassroots environmental workers who address local ecological challenges.

- The 2026 recognition was supported by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Rotary Club of Madras East and CavinKare.

## Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026 Awardees

The **Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026** recognised two women for their community-led efforts in marine conservation and sustainable agriculture.

- **P. Pechiyammal:** A leader of the Neithal **Self Help Group** in Vedhalai, Ramanathapuram, she pioneered community-based ghost gear recovery along the Gulf of Mannar coastline by mobilising fishing communities to collect discarded fishing nets, nylon ropes and plastic waste.
- **Govindhammal:** Former Director of the Nallavur Farmer Producer Company Limited in Villupuram, she promoted sustainable agriculture and helped small farmers access better seeds and markets through collective action.

## Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection Significance

The Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026 **highlights the importance of grassroots participation in environmental protection.** The recognition of P. Pechiyammal and Govindhammal shows how local initiatives can address challenges such as marine plastic pollution and unsustainable agricultural practices while also supporting livelihoods. It also highlights the important role of women in community-based conservation and reinforces the need to balance development with biodiversity protection and ecological sustainability.

## About Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

**Dr. Monkombu Sambasivan Swaminathan (1925-2023)** was an **eminent Indian agricultural scientist** whose work played a central role in transforming Indian agriculture and strengthening food security.

- He was a leading figure in India's **Green Revolution**, particularly through the promotion of high-yielding varieties and modern agricultural practices.
- He served as **Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and contributed to strengthening agricultural research and policy.
- He **chaired the National Commission on Farmers**, which examined issues concerning farmers, agricultural development and rural livelihoods.
- He founded the **M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** to promote sustainable development through science and technology.
- He **received the World Food Prize in 1987** for his contribution to agricultural transformation and food security.
- He was **awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2024**, recognising his contribution to Indian agriculture and national development.
- His later work strongly emphasised sustainable agriculture, ecological security and the integration of food security with environmental protection.