



36th Convocation

Monday, 17th August 2015

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore

CITATION



Dr. K. Ramasamy
Vice Chancellor

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE
(*Honoris Causa*)

Conferred on Dr. Susan R. McCouch

CITATION

His Excellency the Governor and Chancellor,

I consider it a great privilege to present Dr. Susan Rutherford McCouch, Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics and of Plant Biology, for the award of the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*).

Dr. McCouch is an eminent Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Plant Biology, Biological Statistics and Computational Biology, serving as a faculty at the Cornell University, from where she received her Ph.D. Dr. McCouch has also spent a period of five years with the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. It is indeed an amazing transformation that from a graduation in Hispanic Literature and History, Dr. McCouch moved to a post graduation in Plant Pathology and then to a Ph. D in Plant Breeding and Genetics.

With a strong focus on rice, her research includes publication of the first molecular map of the rice genome in 1988, early studies on identification of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) associated with disease resistance, drought tolerance, maturity and yield, development of the essential repertoire of simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers widely used as a genomic resource in rice genetics and breeding, cloning of genes underlying critical traits for rice improvement and studies on the evolutionary history of rice in both Africa and Asia. She is currently working on dissecting out the genetics of complex traits and understanding the genetic basis of transgressive variation in rice using genome wide association mapping.

Having trained scores of young scientists throughout the world, Dr. McCouch has been aptly honoured with numerous teaching and faculty awards including Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities in 2012 and is recently elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

To promote an interest in science and biology and enriching the biology curriculum in local area high schools in New York, Dr. Susan McCouch is also teaching hands-on laboratories in plant molecular biology in the Homer, Groton and Cortland high schools.

The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University feels proud to place on record the contributions of Dr. Susan Rutherford McCouch towards rice research for over two decades. On the recommendation of the Academic Council, Board of Management of this University and with the approval of the Chancellor, I deem it an honour to recommend Dr. Susan Rutherford McCouch, for the award of the Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*), to which, I pray she may be admitted.



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