



Norman E. Borlaug Award

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Why in News?

Indian agriculture scientist **Dr. Swati Nayak**, affectionately known as "**Bihana Didi**" or "**Seed Lady**" by local communities in Odisha, has been honored with the [Norman E. Borlaug Award for 2023](#).

- She became the third Indian to receive this prestigious award after **Aditi Mukherji (2012)** and **Mahalingam Govindaraj (2022)**, recognizing her remarkable contributions to agriculture, particularly in the realm of drought-tolerant rice varieties.

What is Norman E. Borlaug Award?

- The award is endowed by the **Rockefeller Foundation**, the award is presented every **October in Des Moines, Iowa, US** by the [World Food Prize Foundation](#) to honor individuals under the age of 40 who have achieved remarkable, science-based accomplishments in **international agriculture and food production**.
- The award is named after **Norman E. Borlaug**, the **father of the [Green Revolution](#)** and the **1970 Nobel Peace Prize laureate**.
- The award diploma incorporates the **image of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug at work in the fields of Mexico** and a **cash prize of USD 10,000**.

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What are the Contributions of Swati Nayak?

- Dr. Swati Nayak Introduced [drought-tolerant Shahabhagi Dhan rice variety](#) in Odisha. It brought about a major change in rainfed areas. The variety became an integral element of **every farmer family's diet and crop rotation**.
 - Many climate-resilient rice varieties have been successfully deployed in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal through her diligent strategy, partnerships, and unique positioning models.
- She is recognised for her innovative approach to **engaging smallholder farmers** in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to equitable access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.
- Pioneered a comprehensive blueprint for the **first-ever dedicated Indian government initiative for women farmers**, benefitting four million women farmers.

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