

5D (23) Sandy

Good People, Good Deeds

In the annals of human history, few figures have embodied the essence of “good people, good deeds” as profoundly as Yuan Longping called “Father of Hybrid Rice”. Over six decades ago, he dedicated his life to helping people get rid of hunger. With his unwavering perseverance, scientific rigor, and selfless devotion, he not only transformed China’s agricultural landscape but made extraordinary contribution to the whole world.

Born in 1930 amid continuous wars, he witnessed the agony of food shortage at first, which planted a seed of a renowned dream of resting under giant rice crops in his heart. After graduating from Southwest Agricultural College in 1953, he volunteered to teach at the distant Agricultural School in Hunan Province, where he encountered farmers struggling to feed their families with rare harvests. In light of this experience, he embarked on the seemingly impossible quest for hybrid rice.

In 1961, when he discovered a rare wild hybrid rice plant with exceptional yield potential, he clung to this glimmer of hope, defying the numerous skepticism. For years, he trekked through rice fields under the scorching sun and pouring rain. By 1973, he successfully developed the three-line hybrid rice system, a breakthrough that increased yields by 20% compared to conventional rice. This was not merely a scientific discovery but a compassionate act that laid the foundation for ending hunger in China.

His deeds extended beyond scientific innovation to a lifelong commitment to sharing benefits with the world. Yuan firmly believed that food security is a common human right, not a privilege. When Pakistan expressed eagerness to import hybrid rice seeds in 1999, he insisted on a five-year collaboration instead of a hasty two-year contract, emphasising the need for careful adaption and training to ensure success.

Nowadays, hybrid rice cultivated with his technology covers over 12 million acres in Pakistan, elevating the country to the world’s fourth-largest rice exporter. His dream became a reality through deeds rooted in empathy and solidarity eventually.

Yuan Longping’s legacy is a testament to the power of good people good deeds. His life teaches us that true goodness lies in translating compassion into action, that great deeds stem from humble beginnings, and that the most enduring achievements are those that benefit humanity. In respect of his contributions, we are reminded that every act of kindness, no matter how small it is, can ripple outward and create lasting change. Although he has left us, his spirit continues to inspire countless individuals make the world a better place.