

# CIMMYT AND ETHIOPIA:

Helping farmers achieve higher yields and incomes



## Ethiopian Agriculture

- Smallholder farms account for **96%** of the total area of crops cultivated.
- **72.7%** of the Ethiopian workforce is in agriculture.
- **61.3%** of crops in Ethiopia are grain crops.
- Low literacy – **41%** of women and **57.3%** of men – hampers agricultural innovation.
- Ethiopia's rain-dependent agriculture system is particularly vulnerable to shifts in climate and weather, and **less than 3%** of households have access to irrigation.



## Maize and wheat for improved livelihoods

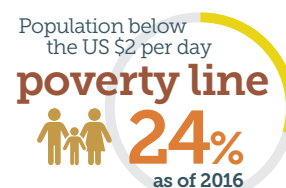
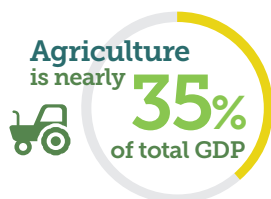
In 2017, Ethiopia produced over 8 million tons of maize. In the same year, the country produced over 4 million tons of wheat, making it the largest wheat producer in sub-Saharan Africa. Demand for wheat still outstrips supply, and the country remains a net importer of the crop. Many farmers in Ethiopia – especially single women – live on the edge of food insecurity and poverty. With increased urbanization, demand for wheat and maize is increasing. In addition to being adversely affected by climate change, Ethiopian farmers often plant the same wheat varieties year after year, which makes their crops more susceptible to disease. In the face of these challenges, Ethiopia is aiming for self-sufficiency in wheat production by 2022. For this

to be achieved, farmers need access to improved crop varieties, knowledge and tools to better manage their crop, and supportive agricultural research systems.

## CIMMYT's presence

CIMMYT has maintained a presence in Ethiopia for over 30 years and is committed to long-term agricultural development in the country. Since 2000, CIMMYT has contributed to a three-fold increase in maize production and a two-fold increase in wheat production in Ethiopia. CIMMYT also works with partners to 'fast track' variety testing and release to deliver new maize and wheat varieties to farmers faster. These are major steps towards the nation's goal of improving food security by becoming self-sufficient in wheat production.





Averaged 2017 data from World Bank and CIA Factbook

World Bank, 2017, Ethiopia Overview



## CIMMYT's focus

- Helping farmers adapt to climate change by recommending maize and wheat varieties, land preparation techniques, crop protection practices, and crop nutrient management strategies.
- Helping develop Ethiopia's seed sector to improve the quality, access to, and affordability of high-yielding maize and wheat varieties so that farmers can grow more and earn more.
- Developing solutions for the challenges that women, youth, and other disadvantaged groups face in farming and nutrition.
- Helping local machinery manufacturers design, develop, and deliver efficient machinery to small-scale farmers.
- Responding to government agricultural priorities through the development of targeted maize and wheat varieties and the promotion of intensive and sustainable crop production systems.

## Partnerships

- CIMMYT consults and works with everyone involved in Ethiopia's agricultural system from farmers in remote areas to the Ministry of

Agriculture, and works to provide hands-on training and technical support directly to partners.

- CIMMYT helps Ethiopian research institutes improve innovative research methods using state-of-the-art technologies and reaching farmers with new technology.

## Impact

- Maize and wheat breeding capacity has been vastly increased through short- and long-term training opportunities offered to Ethiopian scientists by CIMMYT.
- Since 2000, CIMMYT has contributed to a three-fold increase in maize production and a two-fold increase in wheat production in Ethiopia.
- Coordination among Ethiopian institutions and the national capacity for maize and wheat research has improved, along with the ability to reach women and young people, as a result of CIMMYT's support.

## Contact

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**25.4%** Female headed households in 2016

**4.6** MILLION Metric tons of wheat production in 2017

**8.4** MILLION Metric tons of maize production in 2017

**65%** Total land area suitable for farming

**15.7** MILLION in 2017 Total number of smallholder farmers



**61.3%** Percentage of crops that are grain crops

Fisher et al., 2015, Drought tolerant maize for farmer adaptation to drought in sub-Saharan Africa: Determinants of adoption in Eastern and Southern Africa.

