CIMMYT’s partnership with the Indian government, spanning over five decades, is one of the longest and most productive in the world. The collaboration started with the visit of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug in 1963 in order to usher in the Green Revolution in active partnership with the Government of India.

Established in 2001, the CIMMYT-India office currently has 16 international and 128 national staff spread across Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana and Karnataka. In 2011, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and CIMMYT launched a new collaborative initiative, the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA).

Today, India and the world face new challenges in agricultural development, food and nutritional security. The partnership between India and CIMMYT that launched the Green Revolution 50 years ago is evident in their joint search for innovation in agricultural development, namely, improved wheat and maize varieties and suitable farming techniques.

50 years of turning research into impact

In 2016, CIMMYT celebrated its 50th anniversary. For 50 years, CIMMYT has been working on the front lines of agricultural research-for-development, advocating for smallholder farmers and connecting National Agricultural Research Systems to the knowledge, experience, and resources they need. The world has changed immeasurably during this time, and CIMMYT is changing with it, but its core mission is more relevant than ever – maize and wheat science for improved livelihoods.

Maize and wheat science for improved livelihoods

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, widely known by its Spanish acronym CIMMYT, works with hundreds of partners throughout the developing world to improve livelihoods and foster more productive, sustainable maize and wheat farming systems. Through collaborative research, partnerships, and training, CIMMYT helps to build and strengthen a new generation of national agricultural research and extension services in maize and wheat growing nations.

Headquartered in Mexico, CIMMYT is a member of the CGIAR Consortium and is the global leader in publicly-funded maize and wheat research and related farming systems. CIMMYT’s germplasm bank is home to humanity’s largest collection of maize and wheat varieties made freely available to scientists, researchers and farmers around the world. CIMMYT receives support from national governments, foundations, development banks and other public and private agencies.
Country Profile

CIMMYT contributions to Indian agriculture

- More than 125 varieties from CIMMYT germplasm released.
- In more than 200 varieties developed, where CIMMYT lines were used as a parent or grand parent.
- Two biofortified wheat varieties, rich in grain Zinc also released in 2017, the first release of such varieties.
- Provitamin-A enriched maize hybrids released.
- Climate-resilient maize hybrids developed and shared.
- Conservation agriculture practices like zero tillage, direct-seeded rice, precision land leveling, residue management, systems optimization and diversification, precision input management, scale-appropriate mechanization and climate-smart agriculture are widely adopted.

CIMMYT and INDIA: A fruitful relationship

Since 1969, more than 300 Indian visiting scientists and nearly 75 trainees have been hosted at CIMMYT. Between 1969 and 2017, more than 2,000 Indian scientists improved their knowledge and skills through training at CIMMYT. At present, more than two dozen international scientists from India work at CIMMYT offices around the world – and more than 100 additional Indian scientists collaborate with CIMMYT throughout the year.

Impact through partnership

Four years after Dr. Borlaug's first visit in 1963, CIMMYT's partnership with the Indian government helped the country double its wheat harvest to 20 million tons and achieve self-sufficiency in wheat. By optimizing the use of research resources and accelerating the uptake of innovations for improving crop varieties and farming practices, CIMMYT's work in the country has continued to build upon this legacy of success, with 2017 being the year India harvested a record 98.5 million tons of wheat. Likewise, to meet the rapidly rising demand for maize, CIMMYT's efforts in developing maize technologies, including germplasm, have increased significantly in the last decade.