

CIMMYT TRAINING



CIMMYT

INVESTING

IN KNOWLEDGE FOR RESEARCHERS



The **GOAL** of CIMMYT Training

The researchers who attend CIMMYT courses play a critical part in meeting their countries' national food security and resource conservation goals. They work on behalf of the world's poorest and most marginal farmers. CIMMYT empowers researchers to help these people and, in so doing, to help their countries towards a more food-secure, sustainable future.

WHY is CIMMYT Training Different?

CIMMYT training activities are highly specialized. They develop and sharpen researchers' skills in conducting efficient research that responds to the challenging circumstances of developing countries. Most courses offered by universities and other academic institutions in industrialized nations lack this practical, focused approach.

CIMMYT offers a global perspective. Because CIMMYT works throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the researchers who attend CIMMYT courses benefit from the mass of information and data assembled and handled in a global research program.

Because course participants are drawn from many nations, they have an opportunity to exchange information, experiences, and strategies that may prove useful in other settings.

This same kind of exchange occurs between participants and the CIMMYT researchers who lead the courses. Course leaders and their CIMMYT colleagues—many of them internationally recognized scientists—work with course participants on new applications of cutting-edge research methods.

CIMMYT creates an international community of knowledge. Human resource development at CIMMYT connects researchers to a broad, interactive scientific community. Course participants and CIMMYT staff form a community of "best practices" for research that continues to function informally long after the course work ends. Alumni of CIMMYT courses have often become a significant force for agricultural change in their countries.



WHAT Courses Are Offered?

Course listings are sent to CIMMYT regional staff and national agricultural research programs in developing countries and posted on our website, www.cimmyt.cgiar.org. To participate in CIMMYT courses, researchers *must be nominated* by CIMMYT staff working in our outreach offices, and the nomination *must be endorsed* by the institute that employs them (see “Who Can Participate in CIMMYT Courses?”).

Our training activities fall into four broad categories:

- **General courses for entry-level professional staff in national research programs.** Offered in Mexico, CIMMYT’s host country, these courses provide a solid foundation in practical agricultural research that complements academic course work. They feature hands-on field or lab work that emphasizes teamwork and integrating disciplines in agricultural research. **Examples:** Maize and wheat improvement courses; wheat chemistry and industrial use quality course.
- **Specialized courses.** Offered in Mexico and other locations, these courses enable researchers to broaden their expertise by studying special subjects of high priority for their organizations and CIMMYT. **Examples:** Applied biotechnology courses in molecular marker techniques and genetic engineering; GIS; crop and soils modeling; breeding maize for drought and low nitrogen conditions; and workshops and conferences on special
- **Advanced training for mid-career or senior professionals.** In Mexico or elsewhere as appropriate, CIMMYT provides opportunities for in-depth studies in maize and wheat improvement, as well as in specialized topics of interest to the researcher, the researcher’s host institution, and CIMMYT. **Examples:** An individual research program undertaken for an extended period on a special topic (i.e., as a member of our Visiting Scientist program); and advanced maize and wheat improvement courses.
- **In-country and regional courses for entry-level as well as senior professionals; training for farm families.** These courses frequently are offered in concert with national research programs. More people can take advantage of these regional/local training opportunities, and the course content is more relevant to local conditions. **Examples:** Maize and wheat crop management courses (East Africa); maize management research courses (various venues); crop management research and technology transfer, INTA-Argentina and CIMMYT; international winter wheat improvement (various venues); economics and policy research (East Africa); Asian Maize Biotechnology Network (AMBIONET) (various courses in Mexico and Asia); family courses in wheat production (Bangladesh); biotechnology transfer to national programs (Kenya and Zimbabwe); and maize seed production (various venues).



WHO Can Participate in CIMMYT Courses?

Endorsement by CIMMYT staff (primarily from our outreach offices) is the primary prerequisite for attending CIMMYT courses.

Permission from the researcher's employing institution is also required. *Researchers are kindly requested not to nominate themselves for courses or apply directly to CIMMYT's Training Service Office.*

The basic criteria for selecting course participants are 1) demonstrated commitment to solving the agricultural problems of resource-poor farmers and 2) the potential for success in this endeavor.

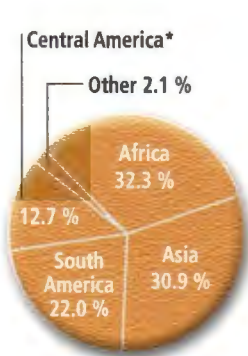
Participants' expenses are paid either by CIMMYT, through special grants, or by the participant's research institute. CIMMYT is constantly seeking additional funds to enable promising researchers to attend our courses. Researchers from the private sector may attend CIMMYT courses, provided that they cover all expenses and that space is available.

Candidates for CIMMYT courses must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Academic qualifications at BSc level or equivalent.
- Command of English or Spanish. (Some courses are offered only in English.)
- Employment with a public or private institution conducting maize or wheat research.

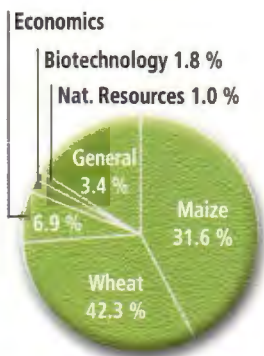
- Permission to attend courses from their employers, both to ensure continued payment of their salaries and to guarantee employment on their return.
- A commitment to conduct maize or wheat research on returning to one's home institution.
- Excellent physical and mental health. Coursework in the field and laboratory is physically demanding. Working hours are long.
- Candidates for general courses are usually younger scientists.

Exceptions to these requirements are determined by CIMMYT staff on a case-by-case basis. Acceptance of nominated candidates is based on a review of the application and other appropriate documents and an interview with a CIMMYT staff member or representative. A candidate's acceptance also depends on the number of openings in the course, the timeliness of the application (time is needed to process visas, for example), the importance of the course work to the researcher's institution, and the availability of funds. Final approval is given by CIMMYT's research directors in conjunction with other senior scientific and human resource development staff. Qualified candidates who are not accepted because of space limitations may be reconsidered for future courses.



* Includes Mexico

Region of origin of participants in basic training courses, 1966-99



Visiting scientists by area of interest, 1966-99



Fellowships awarded by CIMMYT, by type of degree, 1967-99

WHAT Are the Impacts of CIMMYT Training?

More than 9,000 researchers from around the world are alumni of CIMMYT's various human resource development efforts, including more than 600 persons who have completed master's or doctoral research with CIMMYT support.

The achievements of CIMMYT's training efforts extend beyond mere numbers. Many participants in our courses report that training improved their competence, inspired confidence in undertaking research and transferring technology to farmers, and positively influenced the quantity and quality of their work.

Participants also credit CIMMYT courses with helping them find better ways to do things, such as the use of new breeding and screening methodologies. Researchers report that working relationships improved within and among divisions in their institutes after one or more staff members attended CIMMYT courses.

Primary Training Contacts

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About CIMMYT



IN COMING TO **CIMMYT**, COURSE PARTICIPANTS
ESTABLISH CLOSER LINKS WITH ONE OF THE
WORLD'S MOST SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS.
CIMMYT (WWW.CIMMYT.CGIAR.ORG) IS AN
INTERNATIONAL, NON-PROFIT, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTER DEDICATED TO HELPING THE POOR
IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES. WE HELP ALLEVIATE
POVERTY BY INCREASING THE PROFITABILITY,
PRODUCTIVITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY OF MAIZE AND
WHEAT FARMING SYSTEMS. STAFF FROM OUR RESEARCH
PROGRAMS IN MAIZE, WHEAT, ECONOMICS, NATURAL
RESOURCES, AND BIOTECHNOLOGY WORK WITH
COLLEAGUES IN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
PROGRAMS, UNIVERSITIES, AND OTHER CENTERS
OF EXCELLENCE AROUND THE WORLD; IN
THE DONOR COMMUNITY; AND IN
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.