



CIMMYT in AFRICA

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is a non-profit agricultural research for development organization working to improve maize and wheat farming systems for farmers, particularly smallholders and women. We achieve this by developing market value chains, ensuring the constant availability of modern improved seed varieties, training farmers to use best practices and appropriate technologies, working with African institutions and enterprise to ensure that this change is transformative.



Africa is the world's largest wheat importer, at a cost of US \$13 billion, and demand is growing by 5 percent each year. Yet only 10 percent of the land in SSA that could profitably cultivate wheat is used for that purpose. CIMMYT is ready to support policies such as Nigeria's decision to expand the wheat growing area from 70,000 ha to 340,000 ha.

In eastern and southern Africa (ESA), CIMMYT is working with farmers and local government to test and promote sustainable intensification practices for

maize-legume farming systems, and supporting the private sector to produce the improved seed needed.

Over 170,000 farmers were reached by this project in 2015 alone. By 2023, the aim is for 650,000 farmers in ESA to have adopted sustainable intensification practices, improving productivity by at least 30 percent.

Food Security for Africa

Maize is the most important food crop in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), while wheat consumption is higher in northern Africa than anywhere else in the world. Sustainably improving the productivity of these staples has a direct impact on poverty reduction and food security.

The cost of food imports to Africa

\$35
US BILLION

\$37
MILLION

Yearly value of CIMMYT projects in Africa

Not only does CIMMYT promote more sustainable, resilient and productive farming systems, we also take into account dietary quality and health. For example, maize varieties with high-quality protein content are being produced by seed companies in Ethiopia, while 200,000 farmers (40 percent women) and government officials have participated in quality protein maize training days.

KEY DONORS in Africa

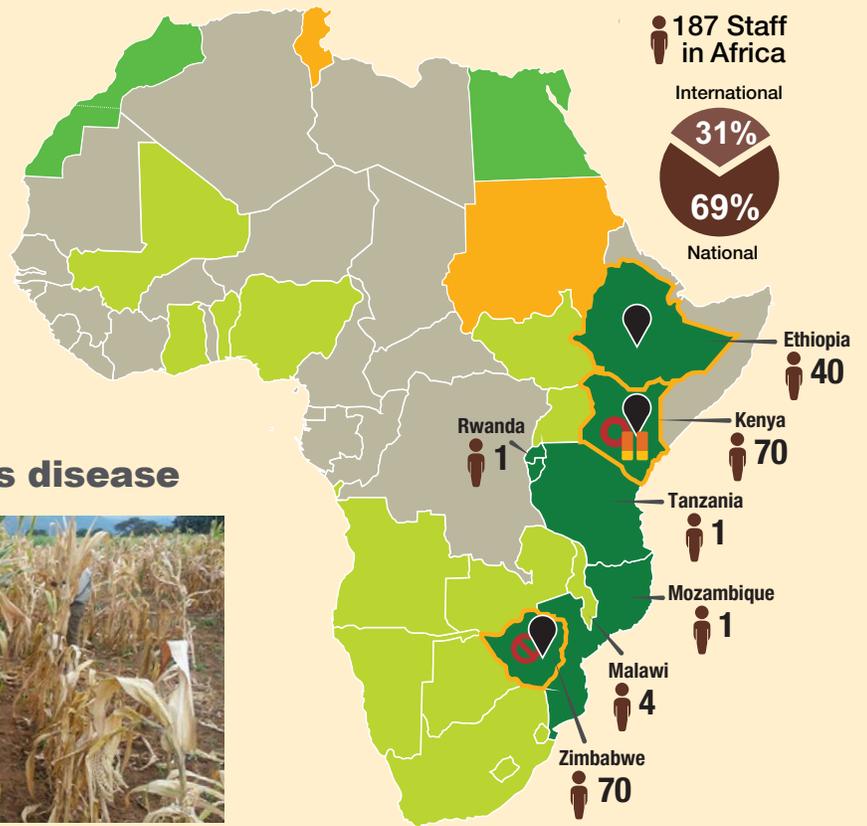


Achieving sustainable intensification will require more power, but agricultural labor is in decline in Africa. CIMMYT is working to study and adapt successful mechanization technologies to the needs of African small-scale farmers, ensuring that women are also empowered through these technologies, and creating the conditions for an efficient service industry to emerge.



CIMMYT in Africa

- Countries with CIMMYT Staff
- CIMMYT Project Countries
- Wheat Phenotyping Network:
 - Planned
 - Operational
- 📍 CIMMYT Office
- 🚫 MLN Screening Facility
- 🚫 MLN Quarantine Facility
- 🏗️ Doubled Haploid Facility
- 👤 # CIMMYT Staff



Tackling Maize Lethal Necrosis disease

CIMMYT staff members were among those who identified maize lethal necrosis (MLN) disease spreading rapidly in eastern Africa, devastating livelihoods and the emerging seed sector.



In 2013, CIMMYT and KALRO opened an MLN Screening Facility for use by national agricultural research institutes and private seed companies to screen maize germplasm. In 2015, an MLN quarantine facility was initiated in Zimbabwe to allow safe transfer of improved germplasm to southern Africa.

The rapid response of CIMMYT and its partners has already seen MLN-tolerant varieties released in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A major project to curb the spread and impact of MLN in Africa is being implemented by CIMMYT in partnership with public and private institutions.

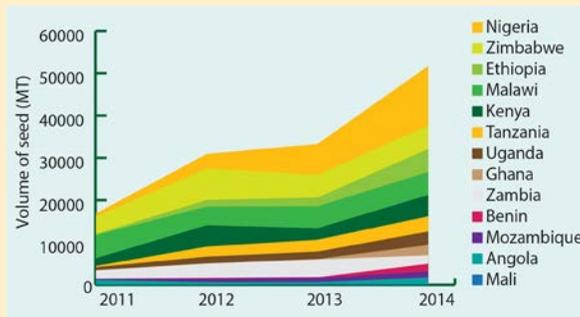
Doubled haploid facilities

Doubled haploid breeding technology drastically reduces the time needed to develop new maize varieties. The doubled haploid facility established by CIMMYT in Kenya brings this technology within reach of African institutions and enterprises, serving as a training hub for the region.

Improved maize releases

From 2007 to 2014, over 200 unique drought-tolerant and nutrient use-efficient maize varieties were released through over 100 private sector companies in 14 countries in Africa.

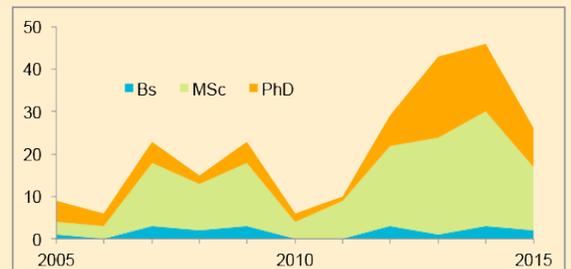
In 2014 alone, CIMMYT supported the production of nearly 52,000 tons of certified drought-tolerant maize seed, enough to plant over 2 million ha and touch the lives of approximately 5.2 million households.



Investing in people, especially women

In order for CIMMYT to have a transformative impact in the places where we work, we strive to build the capacities of national institutions, enterprises, researchers and farmers, and ensure that our interventions are sensitive to gender and cultural relations.

In 2014, CIMMYT coordinated field days for over 10,500 farmers in Africa, half of whom were women.



From 2005 to 2014, 210 African students graduated from higher education after being sponsored by CIMMYT.

Wheat rust disease



Eastern Africa is at the center of international efforts to control the biggest threat to wheat, the rust disease known as Ug99, first detected on CIMMYT nurseries in Uganda and now present in 13 African countries.

CIMMYT has invested heavily in staff and facilities in Kenya and Ethiopia, screening over 50,000 wheat varieties for Ug99 resistance each year.