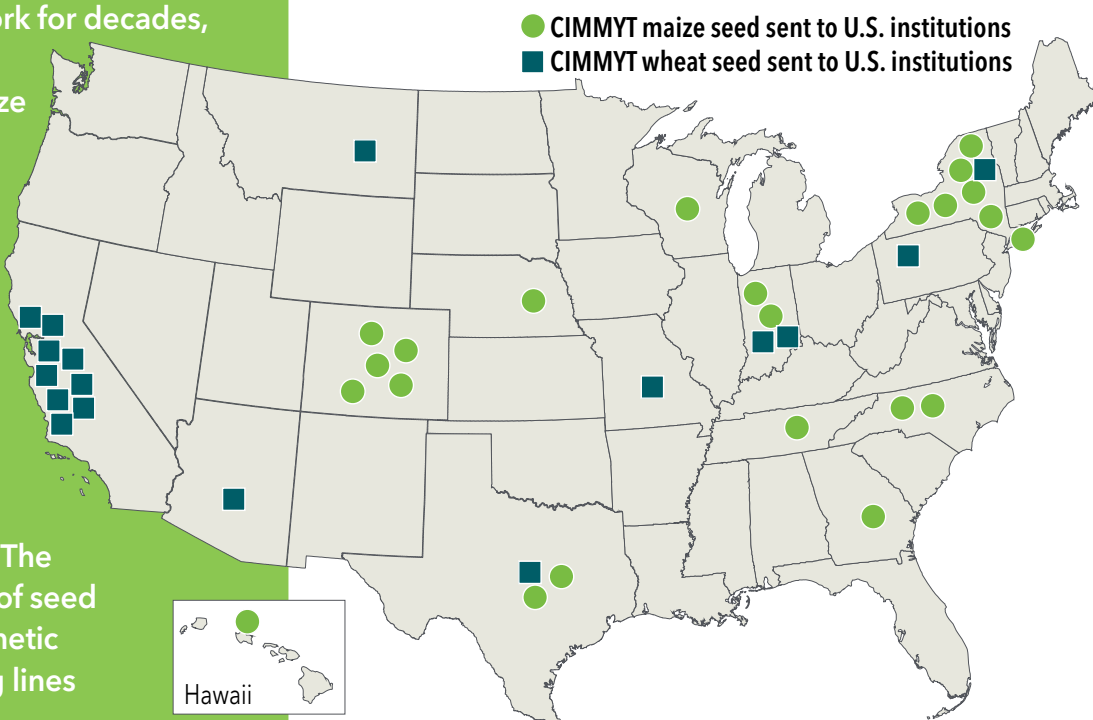


The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has been a leading funder of CIMMYT's work for decades, supporting impactful research to benefit maize and wheat farmers and consumers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In addition to USDA, over 100 U.S. universities and other public and private organizations help CIMMYT with funding and invaluable research collaboration. The map illustrates the use of seed of maize and wheat genetic resources and breeding lines by U.S. institutions.



Nearly 40 U.S. nationals work at CIMMYT, with an even greater number of staff from various nationalities having completed studies at leading American universities.

A key outcome of U.S. investment in CIMMYT is the contribution of our research and development outputs to American farming and economy. Though CIMMYT's main purpose is to improve livelihoods in developing countries, new plant varieties have made their way onto American farms from Washington State to the Carolinas. Sixty percent of all wheat grown in the U.S. is derived from CIMMYT¹, representing a major contribution to increased productivity. U.S.-based economists have estimated that the economy gained between \$3.4-13.7 billion during 1970-93, as a result of CIMMYT's work².

An entwined history

In 1940, while driving from Washington D.C. to Mexico City, Vice President elect, Henry A. Wallace, witnessed the deterioration of Mexican agriculture. He urged the Rockefeller Foundation and the government of Mexico to establish a special program to improve Mexican agriculture that CIMMYT eventually grew out from.

Joining this program was U.S. national, Norman Borlaug. Dr. Borlaug later received the Nobel Peace Prize for work that led to dramatically increased wheat yields in South Asia and Mexico and the eventual founding of CIMMYT, drawing in part on research by USDA and Washington State University. Borlaug also established the World Food Prize, based in Iowa, and received a Congressional Gold Medal from President George W. Bush in 2007.

¹ <http://www.cimmyt.org/global-wheat-breeding-provides-billions-in-benefits-cimmyt-study-shows/>

² Hidden Harvest: U.S. Benefits from International Research Aid, Food Policy Report, IFPRI, Washington DC, September 1996.

Bringing U.S. expertise to developing countries

CIMMYT improves livelihoods in developing countries by bringing American technical expertise, helping to foster economic growth, develop strong diplomatic ties and increase food production. CIMMYT's global network enables top American institutions to gain access to a wider array of genetic material and agricultural technologies that are crucial to advancing both scientific and business ventures, strengthening the competitiveness of American companies and universities worldwide. The following highlights describe a small sample of CIMMYT research-for-development initiatives supported by U.S. funding and science.

Helping the most vulnerable in conflict-ridden Sudan

With funding from USAID, CIMMYT is implementing the Sustainable Agrifood Systems Approach for Sudan, an integrated agrifood system initiative to bolster food security through scalable development opportunities and sustainable agricultural practices, amid a challenging backdrop of armed conflict, declining farm output, displaced populations, and high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity. Launched in late 2022, efforts have sought to boost smallholder agriculture, improve value chains and business development, support community management of natural resources,

and provide horticultural and livestock services such as vaccination campaigns. Among other things, SASAS is working directly with women farmers and pastoralists to foster equity and food security, with positive results.

Cereal systems support in South Asia

Launched in 2009, the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) is a science-driven, impacts-oriented project that sustainably enhances cereal productivity and improves smallholder farmers' livelihoods in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. The initiative has helped to raise crop yields and supported widespread adoption of resource-conserving and climate-resilient farming technologies and practices,



already benefiting more than 8.5 million farmers. The work is led by CIMMYT and conducted with CGIAR partners the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), with funding from USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Among many highlights is CSISA's promotion in Bangladesh and Nepal of small-scale mechanization, such as two-wheeled tractors fitted with crop intensification machinery and surface irrigation pumps, which helps fill farm labor gaps and boost harvests, while supporting micro- and small-scale enterprises.



Drought-tolerant maize, conservation agriculture, and suitable mechanization benefit small farms in southern Africa

In Zimbabwe, the Zambuko Livelihoods Initiative, a resilience program funded by USAID, is empowering local farmers with improved, climate-smart technologies such as CIMMYT-derived drought-tolerant maize varieties paired with conservation agriculture. CIMMYT has been implementing the climate-smart agriculture and mechanization components in Masvingo Rural (Ward 15) and Mwenezi (Ward 6) since 2020, in collaboration with the lead organization, the World Food Programme, and partners SNV, Tree of Life and MTDC.

"In diverse types of on-farm trials featuring a range of improved options, the best drought-tolerant maize grown under conservation agriculture has yielded 1 ton per hectare more than the varieties that had not been selected for drought tolerance," said Christian Thierfelder, CIMMYT principal cropping systems agronomist.

The USAID funded "Feed the Future Zimbabwe Mechanization and Extension activity" is supporting farmer testing and adoption of scale-appropriate equipment, in partnership with local manufacturers and service providers.

USAID is also supporting CIMMYT's work as part of the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS) initiative, which is boosting agricultural productivity and nutrition by developing diverse, climate-resilient crop varieties, including dryland cereals such as sorghum and millet, and building healthy soils.



About CIMMYT

CIMMYT is a cutting edge, non-profit, international organization dedicated to solving tomorrow's problems today. It is entrusted with fostering improved quantity, quality, and dependability of production systems and basic cereals such as maize, wheat, triticale, sorghum, millets, and associated crops through applied agricultural science, particularly in the Global South, through building strong partnerships. This combination enhances the livelihood trajectories and resilience of millions of resource-poor farmers, while working towards a more productive, inclusive, and resilient agrifood system within planetary boundaries. We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our funders, who sustain CIMMYT's efforts and innovations.