CIMMYT-EIAR Collaboration in Maize Research for development

Background
- Maize is one of the most important cereal crops in Ethiopia grown by nearly nine million households.
- Among all cereals, maize contributes to 29% food supply (kg/capita/year), 30% calories (kcal/capita/day) and 25% protein (g/capita/day).
- CIMMYT-EIAR maize research collaboration started in 1975 with the international maize testing network.
- The collaboration continued to date in germplasm supply, technology development and promotion, financial support, and technical and physical capacity building.
- As the result of the collaboration several maize varieties released and adopted by farmers; maize production and productivity increased significantly.

Over the last 35 years, production increased by 151 kg/year and productivity improved by 42 kg/ha/year.

CIMMYT’s maize research for development focus in Ethiopia:
- Increasing maize productivity and improving food and nutritional security through:
  - Developing stress tolerant maize varieties
  - Developing nutritionally enhanced maize varieties
  - Enhancing promotion and adoption of maize technologies
  - Maize seed sector development and improving stallholders’ access to improved seed
  - Developing maize lethal necrosis disease diagnosis and management capacity
  - Application of new tools and strategies (doubled haploid and biotechnology) to enhance genetic gain and breeding efficiency
  - Research capacity building.

Fig 1. Trends of maize production and productivity in Ethiopia.
Fig 2. Total maize varieties released in Ethiopia since 1980s and varieties with CIMMYT origin.
Fig 3. Proportion of maize area covered by improved varieties in Ethiopia.
Fig 4. A happy farmer holding cobs of BH547 (right hand) and BH546 (left hand), each pair from single plant.
Fig 5. Large scale grain production of BH661.
Fig 6. Certified seed production (BH661), a hybrid becoming most popular in Ethiopia.