



ICRISAT

Australia



Background

Australia has earned a global reputation as a pioneer in dryland agriculture, developing innovative approaches to farming in some of the world's most challenging environments. ICRISAT complements these strengths through its internationally recognised leadership in climate-resilient dryland crops, sustainable farming systems and research that improves the lives of millions of smallholder farmers across the semi-arid tropics.



Partnerships

In collaboration, Australia and ICRISAT have built a strong and enduring partnership founded on scientific excellence, innovation and a shared commitment to strengthening food and nutrition security, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods across the world's drylands.

Today, this collaboration spans crop improvement, climate resilience, genomics, sustainable farming

systems, irrigation, soil health, capacity development and agricultural innovation, supported by leading Australian institutions including the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australia–India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF), the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and the Australia–India Council, together with world-class universities such as The Australian National University, Murdoch University, Flinders University and The University of Western Australia.

Current collaborative research is advancing circular food systems in Africa, developing drought-tolerant chickpea through advanced genomics and breeding, and strengthening global efforts to combat *Ascochyta* blight—building on a long history of successful partnerships in irrigation, legume nutrition, crop commercialisation, researcher capacity development and postdoctoral training.



Current Projects

Title: Functional Genomics of Chickpea to enhance drought tolerance

Grant period: 27 September 2024 - 26 September 2027

Primary funder/donor: Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF), Department of Biotechnology, Government of India

Project coordinator: Dr. Rajeev K Varshney, Murdoch University, Australia

ICRISAT PI: Dr Hima Bindu K

Title: Chickpea Ascochyta Program 1 - Pathogen studies: Effective genetic and sustainable management of Ascochyta blight of Chickpea (Phase 2) Project Reference: GRI2407-001RTX

Grant period: 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2027

Donor: Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) through Griffith University, Australia

PI: Dr Mamta Sharma



Completed Projects

Title: Circular Food Systems in Africa (WAC/2023/111)

Grant period: 1 October 2023 - 30 June 2026

Primary funder/donor: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

Secondary funder/donor: Australian National University (ANU)

ICRISAT Scientist: Drs Martin Moyo and Andre van Rooyen

Title: Selecting chickpea cultivars for growth and symbiotic performance under drought (water) stress

Grant period: 10 December 2023 - 30 January 2026

Primary funder/donor: Australia-India Council through Flinders University, Australia

ICRISAT Scientist: Dr Hima Bindu K

Title: Masterclasses for enhancing agency and building capacities of researchers in agriculture research for development: Focus on tools for new crop breeding technologies for climate resilience and impact assessment of projects

Grant period: 1 June 2024 - 30 November 2024

Primary funder/donor: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Secondary funder/ donor: Australian Consulate-General, Bengaluru

ICRISAT Scientist: Dr R Padmaja

Title: ICRISAT collaboration on Chickpea Commercialization in Australia (Phase 1 - 2022 to 2024)

Grant period: 1 January 2022 - 31 December 2024

Donor: Seed Excellence

PI: Dr S Srinivasan

Title: Implantation of 'Post-doctoral Fellow Training Program' at ICRISAT-Patancheru and PCA-Australia

Grant period: 25 August 2022 - 24 November 2023

Donor: Peanut Company of Australia (PCA)

PI: Dr P Janila

Title: Jim and Wendy Ryan Endowment Fund, Australia

Grant period: 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2022

Donor: Jim Ryan

PI: Dr Shalander Kumar

Title: Tightening the phosphorus cycle for grain legumes

Grant period: 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2024

Donor: Australian Research Council through The University of Western Australia

PI: Dr Rajeev K Varshney

Title: Transforming smallholder irrigation into profitable and self-sustaining systems in Southern Africa (LWR/2016/137)

Grant period: 1 August 2017 - 31 December 2023

Donor: ACIAR through the Australian National University

PI: Drs Andre van Rooyen and Martin Moyo

ICRISAT is collaborating with Australian Universities in our research projects.

Current collaboration	Past collaboration
- Australian National University - Murdoch University - Flinders University - The University of Western Australia - University of Queensland - Department of Primary Industries, Queensland	- University of Adelaide - University of New England - Queensland University of Technology - University of South Australia