Accolades
- UNDP Mahatma Award 2023
- Africa Food Prize 2021
- 9th India CSR Award 2020
- National CSR Award India 2019
- King Baudouin Award 1996, 1998 and 2002

Varieties/hybrids released
1,230 ICRISAT varieties released in 81 countries across the globe as of 2021

Germplasm shared
More than 1.64 million seed samples distributed to 150 countries

ICRISAT locations
- ICRISAT - Hyderabad, India (Headquarters); New Delhi, India (liaison office).
- ICRISAT - Nairobi, Kenya (Regional hub ESA); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Lilongwe, Malawi; Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Maputo, Mozambique; and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- ICRISAT - Bamako, Mali (Regional hub WCA); Niamey, Niger; Kano, Nigeria; and Dakar, Senegal.

About ICRISAT
The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a pioneering, non-profit international scientific research for development organization, specializing in improving dryland farming and agri-food systems. The Institute was established in 1972, by a consortium led by the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation with the support from the Government of India. ICRISAT works with global partners to develop innovative science-backed solutions to overcome hunger, malnutrition, poverty, and environmental degradation in service to the 2.1 billion people who reside in the drylands of Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and beyond.

Research focus
The challenges facing the drylands are inextricably linked. As such the Institute adopts an holistic approach to its research with a focus on:
- Evidence-based solutions
- Markets to make farming more profitable
- Partnerships

1 Accelerated crop improvement
- Our genebank conserves biodiversity
- Development of new varieties to counter biotic and abiotic stress - chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut, pearl millet, sorghum, finger millet and small millets.
- Seed systems provide access to high quality modern variety seeds

2 Enabling systems transformation
- Inclusive and sustainable value chains, post harvest management and processing
- Market access and linkages
- Capacity development and raising entrepreneurs
- Women and youth empowerment

3 Resilient farm and food systems
- Climate resilience
- Water management, prevention of soil degradation and nutrient loss
- Digital agriculture and geospatial technologies

www.icrisat.org
Challenge
The majority of the world’s undernourished are found in Asia (381 million). More than 250 million live in Africa, where the number of undernourished people is growing faster than in any other region of the world.

- The state of food security and nutrition in the world, 2020, FAO

Proven solutions
Dryland crops are a major source of nutrition in the semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia. ICRISAT was awarded the Africa Food Prize 2021 for its work that resulted in improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The UN International Year of Millets – 2023 provided new opportunities for ICRISAT’s millet research to counter the triple burden of nutrition (underweight, obesity and micronutrient deficiency).

Our approach

- Develop improved varieties
  High yielding and stress resistant varieties ensure more food supply. Biofortified crops bred for improved iron and zinc provide a cost-effective and sustainable approach for addressing malnutrition.

- Build healthy farm systems
  Our extensive work on reducing aflatoxin contamination has radically improved food safety and continues to prevent food loss. Good agricultural practices ensure that the produce is safe to consume.

- Foster nutrition entrepreneurs
  Agribusiness incubation support, food-processing training and India-Africa cross-learning platforms foster nutrition entrepreneurs.

- Promote sustainable diets as Smart Food
  Building the value chain and mainstreaming Smart Food, i.e., food that is good for you, the planet and the farmer, to address the dietary needs of women and children. Our impact studies and dietary behavior studies guide government policies and programs.

Successful impact of ICRISAT’s interventions

- Biofortified crops: High iron and zinc pearl millet (Dhanashakti) is the first biofortified crop cultivar to be officially released in India. It has been included in the Nutri-Farm Pilot Program launched by the Government of India and 94,000 households benefited from its cultivation. High iron and zinc sorghum (Parbhani Shakti) has a higher yield of 10-15% and higher protein content as compared to other varieties. High-oleic acid groundnuts (Girnar 4 and 5) contain about 35-40% higher oleic acid as compared to regular varieties.

- Agribusiness: Trained tribal women in Telangana, India, run licenced units to process and package ready-to-eat millet and pulse foods formulated by ICRISAT, which are supplied to their community centers (anganwadis).

- Addressing hidden hunger: In Kenya, about 8,000 women who attended nutrition workshops registered an increase in their dietary diversity score (15% women and 80% children).

Partnerships
ICRISAT’s work contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals