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.

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.

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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
- Environmental and business sustainability
- Participation, gender and social inclusion
- 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

1 Accelerated crop improvement
2 Enabling systems transformation
3 Resilient farm and food systems
- Inclusive and sustainable value chains, post harvest management and processing
- Market access and linkages
- Capacity development and raising entrepreneurs
- Women and youth empowerment
- Climate resilience
- Water management, prevention of soil degradation and nutrient loss
- Digital agriculture and geospatial technologies
**Gender in the Drylands**

**Challenge**

Gender inequality is a major reason for the **underperformance of the agriculture sector** in the developing world. An FAO study states that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by **20-30%**. Women produce **50%** of the world’s food, but own only **1%** of the land.

**Proven solutions**

At ICRISAT, **mainstreaming gender in research initiatives** is our priority. We strive to provide women farmers with better access to seed, inputs, credit and markets and devise ways to reduce drudgery, involve them in decision-making while fostering entrepreneurship.

**Our approach**

- **Income generation**
  - Training women seed producers has the dual advantage of increasing incomes and availability of quality seed. Community-level interventions provide access to credit, seed, land and tools to reduce drudgery.

- **Addressing hidden hunger**
  - Crop breeding pipelines incorporate women’s needs. Biofortified dryland crops high in zinc and iron are tried and tested solutions for addressing nutrient deficiency in Africa and Asia.

- **Raising entrepreneurs**
  - Training women in agronomy, farm-based entrepreneurship and dietary behavior change yields economic and social benefits. Agribusiness training programs nurture entrepreneurs.

**Successful impact of ICRISAT’s interventions**

**Increased incomes, nutrition and social standing**

- **Reclaiming degraded land:** In Niger, a **200 m²** bio-reclaimed plot maintained by women who have been trained, yields an average annual income of **US$ 100**, equivalent to what men earn from millet production per hectare. Women acquired land, improved their incomes and household nutrition, and contributed to carbon sequestration through agroforestry.

- **Agribusiness:** Tribal women in Telangana India, who have been trained by ICRISAT run licenced units to process and package ICRISAT-formulated ready-to-eat nutritious millet and pulse foods, 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

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