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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Partner with ICRISAT

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
Livelihoods in the Drylands

Challenge
An estimated 71 million additional people will be living in extreme poverty due to COVID-19. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are expected to see the largest increases in extreme poverty, with an additional 32 million and 26 million people, respectively, living below the international poverty line as a result of the pandemic.

- UN Statistics

Proven solutions
ICRISAT aligns its research with national initiatives and schemes to improve rural livelihoods in Asia and Africa. All of ICRISAT’s research pivots around increasing and sustaining smallholder farmers’ incomes whilst conserving natural resources. Pilot watershed projects led by ICRISAT in South Asia and Africa provide proof of success for doubling farmers’ incomes.

Our approach
Research at ICRISAT is multi-disciplinary. Solutions are scientifically based and evaluated. The approach works across the agriculture value chain, linking farmers, agribusinesses and markets to improve livelihoods.

Successful impact of ICRISAT’s interventions
- Tropical legumes project:
  - 266 new improved legume varieties released for cultivation in Africa and Asia
  - 4.02 million hectares covered across sub-Saharan Africa, India and Bangladesh
  - 380,000 tons of certified seed was planted, leading to enhanced future food security

- Doubling farmer’s income in the drylands of Bundelkhand, India: In a span of 4-5 years the average annual household income has increased from US$ 641 to USD 1,797 in a micro-watershed project.

Partnerships
ICRISAT’s work contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals