

# Reflections on Past and Future INDIA-CIMMYT Collaboration on Wheat Improvement

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#### Wheat Production 1961 to 2015: Global, in developing and developed countries (000 tons)





RESEARCH PROGRAM O

# India Wheat Yield and Production continues to grow at linear rates



Source: FAO, USDA



## **Average National Wheat Yield of Major Wheat Producers**



# 10 year average global wheat yield and average yield increase during a decade



Data: FAO, USDA Compiled by H.-J.Braun



# Concentration trends in the seed industry, 1985-2016



Source: Bonny 2017.142

Private and Public Sector Partners in International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN): Key to Delivering Impacts Locations receiving CIMMYT nurseries



Source: K. Sonders CIMMYT



#### **Benefits from IWIN - Key points from survey**

- No other crop where one central breeding program has been so dominating
- Model had impact far beyond wheat since it served as model for other crops IRRI first International Center but Wheat first international program
- Has united and standardized the global wheat community to a unique language we understand each other
- Brings together the global genetic diversity melting pot for alleles. Increasingly important as free germplasm exchange becomes more and more difficult
- Only publicly available source for improved and genetically diverse germplasm paramount since IP laws have shut down much of germplasm exchange

## Impact of CGIAR Wheat Breeding Germplasm



Lantican M.A., H.J. Braun, T.S. Payne, R.P. Singh, K. Sonder, M. Baum, M. van Ginkel and O. Erenstein. 2016. Impacts of International Wheat Improvement Research, 1994-2014. Mexico, D.F.: CIMMYT.



**INDAIN** Centers N1 Bangalore Ν2 Bijbehara N3 Bikaner Ν4 Bilaspur N5 Coochbehar N6 Faizabad N7 Guwahati N8 Gwalior Ν9 Hisar N10 New Delhi N11 Indore N12 Jabalpur N13 Jammu N14 Junagarh N15 Kanpur N16 Karnal N17 Ludhiana N18 Mahabaleshwar N19 Nilgiris Hills N20 Niphad N21 Palampur N22 Palanpur N23 Pantnagar N24 Powarkheda N25 Pune N26 Pusa N27 Ranchi N28 Sabour N29 Sirsa N30 Varanasi N31 Udaipur



#### CIMMYT International Wheat Improvement Network Partners (Nurseries distributed 2001-2013)





Germplasm

The size of the font indicates the relative size of the distribution









## **The Borlaug Institute for South Asia**

"If you desire peace, cultivate justice, but at the same time cultivate the fields to produce more bread; otherwise there will be no peace."

"The first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankin d. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world." Dr. Norman E. Borlaug (1914-2009)



## Yield at three BISA stations during last 6 years



Results are based replicated yield trials of 600 genotypes One possible region of nearly linear increase is testing of more lines per year IMMY in Mexico

- 1. For the first time in South Asia, 10 t/ha grain yield achieved (location: BISA, India)
- 2. To see the potential of CIMMYT lines, DG ICAR desired first coordinated high yield trial for fast track varietal release which is in place now



# EAT–Lancet Commission report on healthy diets from sustainable food systems

- Food production today already unsustainable
- Cereals will remain important in future diets (1/3 calories & protein contribution)
- Investments to increase cereal systems productivity / efficiency paramount



*Figure 5:* Environmental effects in 2010 and 2050 by food groups on various Earth systems based on business-as-usual projections for consumption and production

CIMMYT

Cornell University

#### Main source of daily calories

Rice Wheat Maize Other Crop No Data Data Sources: FAOSTAT (Average 2015 2017) FAO GAUL



## We estimate the cost of three diets



- Cost of Calorie Adequacy (CoCA)
  - minimum cost to meet energy requirements using the least cost available starchy staple food in each country



#### Cost of Nutrient Adequacy (CoNA)

 minimum cost to meet energy and nutrient requirements (23 macro and micro-nutrients, with upper as well as lower bounds)

#### Cost of Recommended Diet (CoRD)

 Minimum cost to meet food-based dietary guidelines, based on food group classifications





Healthy diets (meet food group recommendations) Nutrient adequate diets (meet required levels of all essential nutrients) Energy sufficient diets

(meet needs for short-term subsistence)

Anna Herforth et al., 2020

#### Main results: Global average costs

- \$0.79 per day to meet daily energy needs using the most affordable starchy staple
- \$2.34 per day to meet all essential nutrient requirements
  - no requirement for proportionality/palatability
- \$3.75 per day (range \$3.29 to \$4.58) to meet dietary recommendations
  - we use 10 different definitions of a healthy diet published by UN member states (no single definition of a healthy diet)



#### The future of Wheat – Wheat Berries



908 g Hard Red Spring = Wheat Berries

103 MPesos = 5.5. US\$ / kg

6046 US\$ / ton of wheat

Farm Wheat Price: 202 \$/ ton

30 x what a farmer gets



## A healthy diet is unaffordable for the poor in every region of the world

a) Cost of an energy sufficient diet compared with the international poverty line b) Cost of a healthy diet compared with the internation poverty line



No data <1.33\$ 1.33\$-1.9\$

Peer-reviewed research shows that micronutrient deficiency is "likely to remain problematic under all modelled scenarios" through 2050...

\*Source: World Bank, Nutrition at a Glance country briefs \*\* Source: Nelson et al., Nature Sustainability (2018)



### Zinc enriched wheat varieties in South Asia



From genetic resources to High zinc wheat in farmers' fields of South Asia in less than 10 years with 20-40% more zinc

## Effect of High Zinc Wheat Intervention on Morbidity Indicators

YΤ

Indicator	High Zinc Wheat Subjects	Low Zinc Wheat Subjects	Days of Sickness Averted For ~ 1300 Subjects Over 180 Days	Difference Significant at 5% Level of Confidence?				
Children 4-6 Years								
Days With Pneumonia	203	244	41	YES				
Days With Vomiting	60	99	39	YES				
Women 15-49 Years								
Days With Fever	999	1092	93	YES				
Sazawal et al	. 2018							

# Wheat contribution to daily intake



Source: The UK National Diet and Nutrition Survey 2014

#### Crop/Scenario Asia **Cereal Grains** 9 Barley 3 Maize Millet 4 Rice 2 6 Sorghum Wheat 1 Roots, Tubers & Bananas 16 Banana 12 Cassava Plantain 19 Potato 5 11 Sweet potato 15 Yam **Oilseeds & Pulses** 14 Beans 20 Chickpea Cowpea 17 7 Groundnuts Lentils 18 Other pulses 13 8 Pigeonpea Soybean 10

Data Source: FAO / USDA Slide Source: W.H. Pfeiffer, H+

## NIPI

The Nutrient Investment Productivity Index (NIPI) ranks crop-specific productivity growth for its contributions across multiple deficit nutrients.

NIPI sums the rank order values for each nutrient and then rank orders the results. The result is an index from 1 - most number of deficient adequacy ratios improved)

Source: Wiebe et al., 2018: Modeling Impacts of Faster Productivity Growth: Inputs to the Multi-Donor Initiative on Crops to End Hunger IFPRI/USDA/ Commissioned paper by USAID.

# Wheat and heat and irrigation



#### Adapting to Climate Change: Heat Tolerant Wheats prove their Value in Farmers' Fields in Mexico



Source: H.-J. Braun and I. Ortiz-Monasterio, CIMMYT

WUE! in GxExM context Yield of CIRNO2008 in Yaqui Valley farmers fields (bed irrigation) and surface drip irrigation on CENEB during 2013 - 2017



Data: S. Mondal et al., paper submitted

# Continous drip irrigation Side study on Irrigation





- Same seed rate, irrigation water and fertilizer given two sets of experiments
- Difference: one receives water every 7 days ( continuous) the other every 25-27 days (interval)



Visible differences observed, High biomass and tillering

# **Trait differences**

#### Grain Yield



- Differences in other traits under continuous (CI) vs interval irrigation
  - Heading : 3 -4 days longer in CI
  - Maturity: 7 days in BW and 10 days in DW longer in CI
  - Biomass: 10% higher in CI, 1t/ha difference
  - Grain number & tiller number: 8 10 % higher in CI

• No difference in Thousand grain weight

Effect of residue mulch, and drip spacing and flood irrigation system on irrigation water productivity (WP<sub>i</sub>) during two rice and wheat growing seasons (BISA station, Ludhiana) (Jat et al. submitted)



Water (liter) needed to produce 1 kg wheat with various irrigation systems



Source: Compiled by H.J. Braun form various sources





### **Summary of case studies on Wheat Yield Progress**

# Yield Gap Closure with

Genotype Agronomy Policy

Region	Estimated farm or potential yield (t/ha) and yield gap (%) in 2010							
(Wheat MegaEnvironment)	FY	РҮ	Yield gap (%)					
Spring wheat regions (some examples)								
Yaqui Valley, Mexico (WME1)	6.4	9.0	41					
Punjab, India (WME1)	4.5	7.0	56					
Western Australia <sup>b</sup> (WME4)	1.8	2.6	44					
North Dakota, <sup>b</sup> USA (WME6)	2.5	4.0	60					
Winter wheat regions (some examples)								
Shandong and Henan (WME10)	5.8	8.8	52					
United Kingdom (WME11)	8.0	10.7	34					
Kansas, <sup>b</sup> USA (WME12)	2.8	3.8	36					
Average all cases (n = 12)	4.43	<sup>h</sup> na	48 ± 4					
After weighting for WME production (WME 1 =23%, WME 6 = 13%, WME 11 = 38%)								
World	3.0	4.5	50					

Wheat Yield Gap Small in LDC compared to Rice and Maize

Source: Fischer et al (2014)

#### **GAP** - **Productivity** has consistently grown for major cereals

#### Trends in productivity (q/ha) of major cereals in Ethiopia



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Trends in productivity (q/ha) of major cereals in Ethiopia


#### My personal key example for Genotype x Agronomy x Policy Early sowing in Punjab and Haryana due to new varieties and Happy Seeder result in higher yields – and option for dual purpose wheat –extra fodder



Green dots: Slide Data source:

Wheat fields

NASA

Amit Srivastava and Prasun Gangopadhyay, CIMMYT India

## 

# Fast track release for early (Oct) sown in NW India

- Fields are vacated by middle of October
- Early sowing gives higher yield up to 9 ton/ha
- Early sowing can use residual moisture of monsoon and can escape terminal heat
- There are machines available the plant under rice residue and castraw burning

3 varieties identified for release this year in India – DBW 303, DBW 187, WH 1270

22% wheat under CA

der Singh, CIMMYT, 2020

### **Green Revolutions – all based on N**

1st Green Revolution – 1840 Guano NPK from Chile/Peru

2nd Green Revolution – 1910 Haber Bosch – N – synthesis

**3rd Green Revolution – 1967 semi-dwarfs utilize more N** 

4th Green N Revolution needed to feed 9.5 billion, with how little N can this be done

Agronomy x Fertilizer Formulation x Genetics x Microbes Root Research

ΙΜΜΥΤ



China, India, Pakistan (50%). Heffer, P. 2009. Assessment of Fertilizer Use by Crop at the Global Level 2006/2007-2007/08. International Fertilizer Industry Association.

33% worldwide efficiency. Raun W.R. and G.V. Johnson. 1999. Improving Nitrogen Use Efficiency for Cereal Production. Agronomy Journal. 91:357:363

Up to 65% efficiency in the US. Roberts, T. 2008. Improving Nutrient Use Efficiency. Turk J. Agric For 32:177-182

## 

Global N application and crop yield – 1961 – 2013

- 1961 11 mlln t
- 2013 115 mlln t of which 75% in developing countries -mainly Asia
- NUE in wheat has not changed since 1999
- **1999: 33% 2015 35%**

# Omara, et al., 2019 Crop yield increased 3 times

Source: FAO, 2015; Hirel et al., Sustainability, 2011 vol 3, 1452-1485

ΙΜΜΥΤ

Global N application and crop yield – 1961 – 2013

- 1961 11 mlln t
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# N-application increased 10 times Crop yield increased 3 times

Source: FAO, 2015; Hirel et al., Sustainability, 2011 vol 3, 1452-1485

#### N application to maize in China and USA



# **New Approaches to Breeding**

- Accelerating Genetic Gains in Maize and Wheat BMGF, FCDO, USAID, USDA – target regions S-Asia and E-Africa
- Focus on reducing cycle time
- Breeding decisions based on Genomic Estimated Breeding Values
- Rapid Bulk Generation Advancement Speed Breeding 3 or 4 years
- Rapid Cycle Recurrent Selection Parents selected from F5
- Selection Index for yield and Zn
- Requires input from many disciplines quantitative genetics, bioinformatics
- CMMYT plans to base a scientist in India to work closely with Indian colleagues to fully exploit the potential of this approach
- Will continue shuttle and compare in a few years costs, selection efficiency and most important performance of germplasm

## Expanding India-CIMMYT/BISA collaboration in Wheat Breeding to benefit smallholder farmers

- Piloting of rapid cycling, quantitative genetics and molecular breeding to enhance genetic gain for grain yield and grain Zn
- Earlier and increased phenotyping in target population of environments (TPEs-S-Asia) beyond selection environments (SE) in Obregon

GS trials currently grown at 3 BISA sites in India, 3 in Pakistan, 2 in Nepal and 1 in Bangladesh

Early access of elite lines & data to participating partners for use as parents, or variety release for faster delivery of genetic gain

In both the AGG & Zn-mainstreaming projects we seek partnerships with 3-4 institutions in each TPEs for phenotyping of Stage 2 trials (180-200 entries)



#### Breeding Cycle time reduction from current 2-generations/year field-based selection 'Rapid Bulk Generation Advancement' (RBGA) & 'Rapid Cycle Recurrent Selection' (RCRS) Schemes Piloting & optimization to initiate in January 2021



Relative grain yield performance of the highest yielding Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trial (ESWYT) line in each year over the grain yield of the local check in that year across 12 sites in the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 37<sup>th</sup> ESWYT



ESWYT line with the highest yield <u>Local check</u>

There was a clear superiority of the highest yielding ESWYT lines over the local check in 144 out of the 152 (94.7%) site-year combinations.

☐ The mean increase in grain yield of the highest yielding ESWYT line over the local check in the 144 site-year combinations was 1.1 <u>+</u> 0.7 t/ha (29.5 <u>+</u> 28.6% increase) and it ranged from 0.03 to 3.54 t/ha (0.6 to 237.2% increase).



### Response to selection in Obregon and genetic gain in TPEs of India (ESWYT 2003-04 to 2017-18)

Note: ESWYT is TPE1 targeted yield trial

	Grain yield progress			
	Kg/ha/year			
TPE1	119			
TPE2	46			
TPE3	125			
Across	109			

### Molecular tracking of favorable allele frequencies and the effect of selection in 15 years of wheat breeding at CIMMYT



Trends in the grain yield favorable allele frequencies in the globally distributed Elite Spring Wheat Yield Trials

The favorable alleles for several grain yield associated markers have reached fixation indicating the effective impact of grain yield selection at CIMMYT, and also emphasize:

- the need for a continued effort of the breeders in introducing novel sources of favorable alleles and
- the importance of integrating genomic tools in achieving accelerated fav. allele enrichment.

#### Trends in the 2NS translocation frequencies in CIMMYT's yield trial germplasm (<9,000 lines each year)





# Frequency



**CIMMYT** 

Α

Crossing block Frequency of favorable allele **WYCYT** Frequency of favorable allele



## Main points

- Physiological pre-breeding is an effective method to incorporate complex traits from exotic germplasm into elite lines
- Molecular markers will increase the efficiency to fix favorable alleles and genes in later generations

### **Selection Traits in Spring Bread Wheat Product Profiles**

	Product Profile/Market Segment					
	Breeding	Program 1	Breeding Program 2			
	1. Hard White-	2. Hard White-	3. Hard White-	4. Hard White-	5. Hard White-	6. Hard Red
	Optimum	Heat Tolerant	<b>Drought Tolerant</b>	<b>Drought Tolerant</b>	High Rainfall	– High
	Environment	Early Maturity	Normal Maturity	Early Maturity		Rainfall
	HW-OE	HW-HTEM	HW-DTNM	HW-DTEM	HW-HR	HR-HR
Trait	2X	2X	1X	1X	0.75x	0.25x
High and stable yield potential	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Water use efficiency/Drought tolerance	х	х	XXX	XXX	XX	XX
Heat tolerance	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	X	Х
End-use quality	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Enhanced grain Zn (and Fe) content (new mainstreaming trait)	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
Stem rust (Ug99 & other)	XX	XX	XX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Stripe rust	XXX	XX	XXX	XX	XXX	XXX
Leaf rust	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XX	XX
Septoria tritici blotch			xxx		XXX	xxx
Spot blotch	Х	XXX	-	Х	-	-
Fusarium – head scab and myco-toxins	-	-	_	-	XX	XX
Wheat blast- new threat in South Asia	Х	XXX	X	X	X	X
						_
Maturity	Normal-late	Early	Normal	Early	Normal	Normal

Importance: X= low, XX= moderate, XXX= high

**Common agronomic traits:** plant height, stem strength, leaf health, spike fertility, grain size & plumpness, etc.

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St St Le Se Sp Fu W	Gender in by wome explored	ntent n farı and i	ionali mers) ntegr	ty (tra need ated	its pre to be	ferre	d (	
Maturity		Normal-late	Early	Normal	Early	Normal	Normal	

Importance: X= low, XX= moderate, XXX= high

**Common agronomic traits:** plant height, stem strength, leaf health, spike fertility, grain size & plumpness, etc. Happy Gene Package Wide Adaptation – Yield Stability – Disease Resistance – Tolerance to abiotic stresses – Quality Countries that often release same line or sister lines



Need to keep desirables alleles as block

 $YT_{MR}$ 

# Wheat as a Global Crop requires Global Co-ordinated Responses



Private and Public Sector Partners in International Wheat Improvement Network (IWIN): Key to Delivering Impacts Locations receiving CIMMYT nurseries



ΙΜΜΥΤ

Source: K. Sonders CIMMYT

# Global network of precision field-based wheat phenotyping platforms developed with co-investing national agricultural research institutes (http://wheat.org)





Unlocking the Genetic Yield Potential of Wheat

Research to Deliver Wheat for the Future

### INTERNATIONAL WHEAT YIELD PARTNERSHIP IWYP'S GOAL IS TO INCREASE THE GENETIC YIELD POTENTIAL OF WHEAT BY 50% IN 20 YEARS

Public Members Australia GRDC Canada AAFC France INRAE India DBT Mexico CIMMYT Mexico SADER Syngenta Foundation Wheat Initiative **Private Companies** BASF KWS Limagrain LongReach Mahyco Pioneer RAGT SeedCo Syngenta

### Ethiopia and Afghanistan Wheat Impact studies using DNA Fingerprinting

#### Afghanistan:

- 75% of samples CIMMYT derived varieties
- 58% of farmers had correct variety name

#### **Ethiopia**

- 89% of samples from all provinces CIMMYT derived varieties
- 55% of sampled households growing rust resistant varieties
- 45% of samples varieties released in last 10 years
   61% released since 2005





Wheat areas where Stem Rust would be a problem without resistant cultivars

Major Minor

#### 

# Wheat accessions phenotyped during 2005-2020 for Ug99 resistance at Njoro (Kenya) and participating countries, in partnership with KALRO



#### Rust control in India

Leaf Rust: Stem Rust: Last epidemics around 1980 – Sonalika epidemic Last major epidemics in late 70s – ca 200 mlln \$ loss Today, 7 mlln ha rust prone area sown with resistant varieties

Leaf rust and stem rust are basically controlled in India through resistant varieties which are maturing earlier and consequent low inoculum built up

Use of rust genes with pleiotropic effects (Lr 34, 46, 67, 68, Sr2 etc)

– no complacency permitted – rust never sleeps!!!

Yellow rust remains an issue rapid replacement of susceptible varieties and support for continuous resistance breeding





### 

#### Wheat varieties released during 2005-2016 showing high to adequate resistance to Ug99 race group



#### Regions with similar climate to location where Wheat Blast is reported from in Zambia



# WB in Bangladesh

**2015-16:** 1<sup>st</sup> report of WB occurrence in **eight** districts. 25-30% loss 2016-17: WB spread to four more districts. 5-10% loss **2017-18:** Unfavorable conditions for development of WB. Spread to additional **five** districts. 3-5% loss **2018-19:** WB limited due to unfavorable conditions. Spread to **four** more districts. 1-2% loss **2019-20:** WB limited due to unfavorable conditions. Spread to **one** 

more districts. 1-2% loss



## Wheat breeding in India 2013-2018

- >50 CIMMYT derived wheat varieties released
  22 direct CIMMYT introduction
  30 derived from crosses between Indian and
  CIMMYT parents
- 4 biofortified (high Zn ) wheat varieties released (2 public, 1 private, 1 PVS)
- ~35 centers got new germplasm (~600 lines) each year
- Indian germplasm tested for Ug99 (in Kenya) and wheat blast (in Bolivia and USA)
- >300 scientists attended international events and training courses
- 6 of 8 released varieties in 2019 CIMMYT derived



### Shifting Global Shares of Public Food & Ag R&D, 1960-2011



1600 wheat scientists from >90 countries have been trained at CIMMYT

Many visiting scientists

**10** International Recruited Indian Scientists

Program Director Dr. S. Rajaram Breeding Lead Dr. R. Singh



Trained scientists (number)





# Conclusion



The partnership between ICAR and CIMMYT in agricultural research is one of the longest and most productive in the world with a history of over five decades. The collaboration started with the visit of Nobel laureate Dr Norman E. Borlaug to India in 1963 for help in paving the way for "Green



Revolution" in active partnership with the national agricultural research system (NARS), farmers and the Government of India. VICIMMYT.





The partnership between ICAR and CIMMYT in agricultural

Whatever matters for wheat in India, Matters for CIMMYT's Global Wheat Program

# To the next decade of a Fruitful and Productive co-operation

help in paving the way for "Green Revolution" in active



Revolution" in active partnership with the national agricultural research system (NARS), farmers and the Government of India.

### Thank You very much for your attention