

The State Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources Commends NuME-supported Offseason Basic Seed Production

The State Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources, H.E. Ato Tesfaye Mengiste, visited NuME-supported offseason basic seed production at Ethioveg Fru Farm Plc. located near the town of Koka, East Shewa Zone of the Oromia Region in Ethiopia. The State Minister was accompanied by the general managers of public and private seed companies and the Farmers' Cooperative Union working in partnership with the NuME project. The State Minister and the other visitors observed the field performance of BHQPY545, a quality protein maize (QPM) hybrid, and commended CIMMYT's offseason QPM seed production efforts.

With financial and technical support of CIMMYT's NuME Project, the Farm is multiplying parental lines of BHQPY545 under irrigation. BHQPY545, with full CIMMYT genetic background, is a single-cross quality protein maize (QPM) hybrid released by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research and CIMMYT. The hybrid is now becoming highly popular among the farming community mainly due to its high productivity. Although the hybrid was released in 2008, large-scale promotion was not carried out until the NuME project was launched in 2012. Despite the variety's popularity, seed



companies have been reluctant to produce and supply enough seed to satisfy farmers' demands due to its low seed yield potential, as both parents of the hybrid are relatively weak inbred lines. ▶

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The Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia (NuME) project is implemented by CIMMYT in Ethiopia and funded by Global Affairs Canada. It is designed to help improve the food and nutritional security of Ethiopia's rural population, especially women and children, through the adoption of quality protein maize varieties and crop management practices that increase farm productivity.



Since the stigma of the parental lines' low yield still lingers, a high-level field day for decision makers and seed company managers was organized on March 27, 2018, in order to:

- ***demonstrate the field performance of BHQPY545 basic seed production and the genetic potential of its parental lines for future seed production efforts by seed growers;***
- ***share experiences and information about an effective offseason maize seed multiplication scheme that complements main season seed multiplication efforts, given the current land shortage for producing quality seeds.***

During the recapping discussion chaired by the State Minister, the participants expressed their thoughts and the lessons they learned from the field observation. The State Minister underlined the importance of maize as the country's number one strategic food crop, taking into account total annual maize production and consumption. He also acknowledged and commended the tremendous achievements of the NuME project. He strongly recommended that the experience of the project be promoted on a wider scale through the national scaling up program. He added that, due to their very nature, projects have a limited lifespan, as their fundamental purpose is to introduce new ideas, practices and technologies which

the national agricultural extension system has to take up and advance to reach the multitude of farmers across the country. In line with this, the State Minister recalled the Ethiopian government's decision to include QPM seed in the national extension package and set an annual target of 200,000 ha to be covered by improved QPM seeds. This constitutes approximately 10 percent of the total land area currently devoted to maize production in the country. Impressed by the field performance of the parental lines of BHQPY545, the State Minister urged the seed companies to produce QPM seed under irrigation in order to meet the growing demand for seed.

Another issue the State Minister stressed was the paradox of seed demand and supply, given that seed companies always complain of the limited demand for improved seeds, while farmers are shouting for QPM seed to be made available at least on the conventional maize seed scale. Since some seed company managers have argued that QPM seed demand is still limited, the State Minister emphasized that QPM is about addressing the health situation of the poorest communities through nutrition-sensitive agricultural programs. He said that QPM is essential for national food and nutrition security, as indicated by previous scientific studies.

There are reports that considerable amounts of QPM seeds are carried over at different locations and no one can explain why this happens. He suggested conducting



a study to investigate the underlying reason for low QPM seed sales despite the demand among maize producing and consuming farmers. The State Minister advised, especially the public seed companies, to make all possible efforts to sell all seeds they produce so that people can benefit from QPM's perceived advantages. He said it is not only a matter of profit, but also of the wellbeing of the current and upcoming generations. Since one of the objectives of establishing parastatal seed companies is seed security, seed companies are responsible for making QPM seed available to farmers. He pointed out that 23 million Ethiopians (23% of the population) who live in absolute poverty cannot afford to access other protein-rich foods like milk, meat, fish and even pulses, and that QPM could be the cheapest way to reduce malnutrition in cereal-producing farming systems. He concluded his remarks about QPM by stating that "when we talk about QPM seed production and dissemination, we need to think about those segments of the communities who are vulnerable to malnutrition due to the lack of protein-rich foods in their dietary intake." According to the State Minister, sustainable demand for QPM could be achieved if farmers who produce it get higher yields and QPM grain has an established market demand. Acknowledging the project's immense contribution to introducing the QPM concept and technologies, the State Minister underlined the key role the Ministry has to play in persuading farmers to produce QPM for its nutritional benefits.

Following the State Minister's brief remarks and thoughts, field day participants expressed their views on the offseason QPM basic seed production they visited and discussed what role they could play to increase future QPM seed production and supply. During the discussion all participants unanimously appreciated the field performance of BHQPY545 basic seed production, which contradicted seed companies' widely held idea that inbred lines are too incompetent and weak to be used in seed production. Participants also said the field visit helped them to realize the potential of the parental lines, specifically the female parental line, CML 161, even under high density conditions. This proved that their prior experience of poor field performance was not due to the inherent potential of the parental lines, but rather to the techniques used to grow them.

The general manager of Southern Seed Enterprise pointed out that he learned a good lesson about how to manage a seed farm and promised to start producing seed using irrigation during the offseason. He underscored that seed production could be optimized not by increasing farm size but by applying seed production knowledge and techniques in a limited land area. Similarly, the general manager of Amhara

"when we talk about QPM seed production and dissemination, we need to think about those segments of the communities who are vulnerable to malnutrition due to the lack of protein-rich foods in their dietary intake."

—State Minister

Seed Enterprise (ASE) said that though there are several large-scale irrigated farms in the Amhara Region, none is as efficient as what they observed during the field visit. He added that his enterprise has produced seeds of three QPM varieties but they have not sold due to the limited QPM awareness campaign carried out by the extension system. He said, "As QPM is so important to our people, we have to produce its seed even if the company is not making profit out of it." After seeing the crop in the field and knowing that QPM is useful for curbing malnutrition in the country, he expressed great enthusiasm for increasing seed production of BHQPY545 and other QPM varieties.

In his concluding remarks, the State Minister called for both the project and the government extension system to continue ongoing efforts to disseminate QPM varieties until wider demand for QPM is sustainably created. After summarizing the participants' opinions of the field visit, the State Minister made the following recommendations for strengthening QPM production and supply:

- **Seed company managers have to sit down with their teams as soon as they get back to their offices and plan QPM seed production for the coming main season.**
- **If there is a shortage of land for seed production, farmers' land can be used either through leasing or as part of an out-grower scheme;**
- **Look for and engage more private seed companies, like Ethioveg Fru, that have the interest and capacity to produce QPM seed to help their people; and**
- **Like any of the private seed companies elsewhere or in the country, the parastatal seed enterprises should be able to sell the QPM seed they produce by raising awareness on the advantages of QPM with the support of the NuME project and the regular extension system.**



Donor Representatives from the Canadian Embassy and Researchers from Two Research Institutes Visited CIMMYT's Offseason QPM Seed Production

On April 11, a field visit was organized for donor representatives from the Canadian Embassy in Ethiopia. The visitors were Ivan Robert, Minister-Counselor and Head of Development Cooperation, and Carolyn MacLeod, Team Leader, Human Development, Environment and Agriculture. Both expressed their appreciation for the collaborative efforts of the NuME project and private seed companies to address the shortage of QPM basic seed.



They were also happy with the crop's field performance. Carolyn said "we were very interested and happy to see such an exemplary success story as the Ethio Veg Fru farm." Carolyn also said she would work together with CIMMYT under Canada's new

Feminist International Assistance Policy that will help women and girls become an important area of bilateral collaboration with the Ethiopian government. Seed of the most popular QPM variety, BHQPY 545, was multiplied to overcome the basic seed shortage. The BHQPY 545 variety is high yielding and has a greater range of adaptability. Because of its high yield and other agronomic advantages, farmers' demand for the variety has grown since the NuME project started its dissemination activities.

A separate field day was organized for researchers from Bako National Maize Center and Bako Regional Agricultural Research Center, who are responsible for the early generation seed production of BHQP545. During the field visit, the overall performance of the

variety in terms of plant vigor, stand establishment, field management, and disease and pest resistance was demonstrated and participants described it as very impressive. The participants also observed that the parental lines would perform well if the required management practices are properly applied. In view of repeated reports from seed companies and their own previous experiences, they were frustrated by the seed yield that had been harvested from these parental lines. They said that the field days organized for higher officials and seed company managers will encourage them to demonstrate the potential of the variety. They also promised to improve the parental lines' field performance by applying maximum crop management practices and manipulating the planting density. They said that as the Bako area is the country's major maize belt, they firmly believe they will achieve better crop performance than what they observed at the Ethio Veg Fru farm.





NuME Conducted a Training Workshop and Inaugurated a QPM Module Prepared for ATVETCs

The Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia (NuME) project published a quality protein maize (QPM) course module for Agricultural Technical Vocational Education and Training Colleges (ATVETCs). A two-day training workshop was organized by the project on 15-16th January 2018, aimed at acquainting ATVETCs staff with QPM and the content and structure of the course module. The module was officially launched at the end of the two-day training workshop.

During the training workshop, Adefris Teklewold, NuME project leader, delivered the welcome speech and pointed out that nutrition has gained widespread attention as a key development challenge by national and international research and development communities, policy makers and planners in countries with high levels of malnutrition. He acknowledged the continued commitment and recognition given to nutrition issues by the Ethiopian government, which has included them as a core priority issue in its sustainable development agenda. It has also launched different policies and initiatives such as the Health Sector Development Plan; Health Extension Program (HEP); National Nutrition Strategy (NNS); National Nutrition Program (NNP); Food Security Strategy and Agriculture Growth Program; School Health and Nutrition Strategy; Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project (WASH), among others. Furthermore, the 2016 'Seqota' Declaration implementation plan reaffirms the Ethiopian government's commitment to nutrition as a foundation for economic development. He also acknowledged the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR) to include QPM in the regular extension program so that it can contribute to the sustainability of the QPM dissemination and utilization efforts that the CIMMYT/ NuME project launched in 2012.

Ato Wondale Habtamu, director general of extension, MoANR, opened the training workshop and also cut the ribbon during the launching of the course module at Lalibela Auditorium, ILRI-Addis Ababa. Speaking at the opening of the training workshop, Ato Wondale said the government of Ethiopia is committed to implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture to address malnutrition problems that are seriously affecting many people across the country. To this end, different programs and projects have been designed and implemented within MoANR's regular extension program, of which the Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia Project is one. Ato Wondale said NuME is one of the biggest nutrition-sensitive project we have in the country that will help sustainably reduce malnutrition, especially among vulnerable women and children.

Thirty-six instructors, four women and 32 men, (Dean, Crop Production Department Head and one lecturer from each ATVET) participated in the training which gave an overview of the NuME project (QPM dissemination, development and seed production), described QPM technology and its relevance to Ethiopia, highlighted QPM varieties released or in the pipeline and their agro-ecological adaptation, QPM maintenance and seed production, and gave an overview of the QPM ATVET module. During plenary and breakout sessions, participants discussed different ways to accommodate the QPM course module in the ▶



ATVET curriculum, i.e., either as (i) a short course, (ii) a component of the human nutrition course currently offered in all ATVETs, (iii) part of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, or (iv) a stand-alone module/course. Some of these alternatives, for example, a stand-alone course, have administrative implications, including alignment with the total credit hours offered, consideration for the Certificate of Competency (CoC), and inclusion in the Ethiopian TVET Qualifications Framework. These alternatives must be decided and approved by the Federal Ministry of Education and the TVET coordination office. As the current ATVETC curriculum is going to be revised in the next academic year, it was agreed that QPM will be included in the curriculum. In the meantime, ATVETCs would offer the module as a short-term course and, in collaboration with the project, each college, in addition to familiarizing and training students, would conduct QPM field and food demonstrations for nearby communities.

Interestingly, some of the colleges had already started QPM-based nutrition learning activities after they received training and supporting manuals and communication materials from the NuME project in 2015 at Adama, Ethiopia. Some of the activities underway include the following.

- ***Student research groups that are being formed have included demonstration of QPM varieties in their programs;***
- ***Demonstration sites have been established to demonstrate different crop varieties including QPM;***
- ***QPM has been introduced as a component of Farmer Research Groups (FRGs) activities;***
- ***QPM-related short courses and awareness raising seminars have been organized;***
- ***A human nutrition course is being offered in all the ATVETCs.***

The course module was launched at the end of the two-day training workshop in a very colorful event. Representatives from MoANR, Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture, CIMMYT-Ethiopia office, the Federal Technical and Vocational Education and Training Agency (FTVETA), as well as from five federal and eight regional ATVET colleges attended the launching event. Ato Wondale Habtamu, director general of agricultural extension, MoANR, in his launching speech said that the module, specifically designed to be used by ATVET colleges, plays a crucial role to guide ATVETC instructors and facilitating the QPM learning process. As nutrition is a multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary issue, the course module is a cross-cutting reference book that can be integrated with different crop and nutrition related courses that are being given at the colleges. Thus, the course will have a paramount importance for disseminating QPM technology rapidly, first to the graduates and then to the community, and for combatting the menace of pervasive malnutrition in the country. The director general also said that the content of the module is quite relevant for endowing agricultural extension experts with basic knowledge about QPM and its nutritional benefits, the characteristic features of QPM varieties and QPM seed production.

The QPM training module provides an understanding of the basic features of QPM (genetics, history and nutritional benefits); the characteristics and adaptation of QPM varieties released in Ethiopia; QPM seed maintenance procedures; and grain contamination prevention.

The module was prepared based on the previously published QPM Guidebook and around 1,000 copies were printed and distributed to ATVET colleges. The module was developed in a consultative and interactive processes facilitated by CIMMYT, MoANR and the ATVET coordination office. The module is meant to acquaint the future agricultural extension cadre with QPM technology and its contribution to food and nutrition security. It will also enable the graduates to play a crucial role in fighting malnutrition among rural farm families, a situation that has prevailed for long in different parts of the country.



The Director General of Agricultural Extension, MoANR, officially inaugurating the QPM module and curriculum.



Training Workshop Organized on Mainstreaming Gender in Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture: The Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia (NuME) Project

A three-day training workshop on “Gender and Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture” aimed at spearheading the gender mainstreaming process in the NuME project was organized from January 29–31, 2018, at Beshale Hotel, Addis Ababa.

The objectives of the workshop were to: (i) enhance women’s participation in NuME and related nutrition-focused projects implemented by MoANR, (ii) develop project implementation plans according to actual project location, and (iii) help trainees use gender analysis tools and frameworks for problem identification, priority setting and gender integration. The training workshop is an outcome of a GAC commissioned review of the projects’ gender equality interventions, achievements and challenges, which advocates the need to organize specific refresher training courses on “gender in agricultural extension” for frontline extension workers and experts from woreda/district agriculture offices.



Participants included gender mainstreaming experts and project focal persons from 36 NuME Project implementation woredas in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray regional states. Specifically, 36 (17 women) gender focal persons from the 36 project woredas and 4 NuME dissemination coordinators attended the workshop.

The training workshop was organized as part of the implementation of NuME’s gender strategy, which strives to ensure balanced participation of women and men in all project activities and reduce gender gaps in knowledge about QPM technology application and utilization and ensure their integration in the entire QPM value chain. The contents of the workshop were identified from NuME’s gender strategy and cover

broad topics, including the importance of gender in agriculture, the basics of gender mainstreaming in agriculture, gender and nutrition, gender analysis tools and frameworks, gender-sensitive extension communication, PRA tools, gender gap analysis, facilitation skills for group discussions and gender-based monitoring and evaluation.

Participants carried out group assignments in the topics covered and prepared plans for selected gender-related issues, which they presented at the plenary session.

The training workshop was successful in delivering the required knowledge and skills concerning the project’s gender mainstreaming status. It gave participants clear insight into how to increase women’s participation in the



project. It was an interactive, two-way communication and learning event; related theoretical and practical group sessions helped participants learn from experience. They held very hot debates on practical planning for selected gender-related issues.

Participants acquired a better understanding of how to enhance women's participation during different project implementation phases and in accordance with the project's gender policy. Woreda "cabin-cadres" were identified as entry points for effective awareness raising and sensitizing activities among direct and indirect beneficiaries to increase the adoption and use of nutritious maize. Some of the suggested mechanisms were creating QPM-related information sharing events through either direct forums for the commodity or the

use of indirect forums like churches, schools, public or community meetings and the effective use of

exchange visits, field days, occasional witnessing and women-managed demonstrations and field days.



NuME Project Approved Its Final Annual Work Plan

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), in collaboration with project partners, organized the Annual Review and Planning Meeting of the Nutritious Maize for Ethiopia (NuME) project on 14-16th March 2018 and 16th April 2018. CIMMYT and its partners meet twice a year to review NuME's activity progress, as well as the issues and challenges arising during its implementation, and to plan future activities focusing on utilizing activity funds to achieve the preset initiative outcomes.

The meeting began with a welcome address from the project leader followed by the opening remarks of Dr. Adguna Wakjira, former deputy director general (DDG) for research of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), who currently serves as an advisor to the DDG. After thanking participants for coming to the meeting and recognizing the presence of higher level officials from partners institutions (Abdulsemed Abdu, advisor to the State Minister, MoANR, and head of the seed unit; Abadi Girmay, DG of TARI; Abrerra Debello, SG2000 country director; and Chillot Yirga, EIAR's DDG for administration and capacity building), the project leader explained



Adugna Wakjira,
Advisor to DDG, EIAR

the workshop's purpose. In his opening remarks, Adugna thanked the participants for their dedication for making the project a success. He gave an annotated account of the project's progress and brought to the attention of the participants some of the activities that can be sustained beyond the project's lifespan and target woredas. He also mentioned QPM seed multiplication as a challenge which is not unique to the project but a systemic problem in the country.

Finally, he talked about the unique nature of the project, which links agriculture with nutrition and health, and its alignment with the government of Ethiopia's initiatives and priority development agenda.



Annual review and planning meetings are held at three phases: the working group, the project implementation committee (PIC) and finally, the project steering committee (PSC). Each group has defined roles and responsibilities and also representation from partners. The working group is a stage where the bolts and nuts of technical issues are raised and a forum where planned and executed activities are discussed at the grassroots level and institution by institution. It is broadest in terms of participants and partner representation, and participants include all technical staff responsible for implementing project activities. The working groups are loosely formed based on intermediate outcomes (research, dissemination and seed) and generally involve most of the active participants in related activities.

During the working group meeting held on March 14-15, each partner presented progress reports followed by discussions to identify strong points and/or shortcomings. It was evident from the numerous presentations that most of the activities planned for the season had been successfully implemented in 2015. Presentations on higher level outputs, and immediate and intermediate outcomes also indicated that most project components are in line with project expectation and targets. Following the review session, the meeting was divided into subgroups to deliberate on planning the 2018/19 activities. As usual, planning started in

November 2017 and was enriched collaboratively and interactively by project partners; it comprises a reduced set of activities that will be implemented in an extension period of the project that focuses on consolidating the results of previous work plans. These activities are focused mainly on seed dissemination and production with very limited research activity. The AWP also describes a reduced set of on-going cross-cutting activities in communications, capacity building and gender equality.

The PIC meeting was held on March 16, 2018. After hearing a summary of 2017/18 accomplishments and a consolidated 2018/19 plan component by component. The key challenges, issues and constraints observed during 2017/18 were discussed. After making the required input, the meeting delegated the PL to compile the partners' accomplishment report and work plan, and develop it as a full-fledged project annual report and work plan to be presented at the PSC meeting.

The PSC meeting was held on April 16, 2018. The PSC is comprised of senior management representatives from the main project implementation partners, namely: MoANR, EIAR, EPHI/ MoH, ESE, SG2000, Hawassa University, FRI, CIMMYT and GAC. Fortunately, GAC was represented at the meeting by two women: Cathy Tremblay, project coordinator, GAC, and Carolyn MacLeod, team leader, Human Development, Environment and Agriculture. GAC representatives welcomed the turnout of the project steering



Partial view of the NuME project's Annual Review and Planning Meeting.



committee members, especially the presence of MoANR representative Ato Abdulsemed Abdu, which indicated MoANR's commitment to the project. In her opening speech, Cathy Tremblay emphasized the good and bad aspects of the maize growing season and praised the project's performance in general, as well as MoANR for conducting a huge number of QPM field demos with the project's nominal support.

During the meeting, two separate presentations were made on the annual performance and the proposed sets of activities for 2018 outlined by outcome, output and activity. Discussion was made based on the facts and information provided by the presentation and the narrative annual report and annual workplan circulated to the PSC members before the meeting. The PSC expressed its satisfaction with the project's accomplishments and approved the annual report after making necessary comments and suggestions. Regarding the annual work plan, meeting participants agreed to prioritize activities that could sustain the project's legacy beyond the lifespan of the project. It was also pointed out that this is the last work plan that includes a reduced set of activities and

focuses on consolidating the results of previous work plans. After entertaining some questions, comments and suggestions, the annual work plan was approved and will be submitted to Global Affairs Canada.

The PSC meeting was closed by Ato Abdulsemed Abdu who highlighted the very good CIMMYT/MoANR partnership that supports government development goals. He also drew the attention of meeting participants to the importance of maize in Ethiopia and the specific role QPM can play in improving nutrition. He attributed the slow adoption of QPM largely to the lack of effective coordination and alignment of the actors involved in nutrition. Since the Ethiopian government is now determined to change the nutrition portfolio of the country, MoANR formed a unit to coordinate and implement its nutrition-sensitive agricultural strategy and action plan, which gives NuME and MoANR a very good opportunity to work together. He also mentioned that MoANR is working to improve the seed sector by organizing a think tank and drafting new policies and guidelines aimed at overcoming the shortcomings of the country's seed system.

NuME Published and Distributed Different Manuals Aimed at Promoting QPM in Ethiopia

The key to NuME's institutional capacity building is preparing and distributing manuals, reference materials and other publications. As a result, NuME has been engaged in producing and distributing various manuals and reference materials for the purpose of strengthening ongoing efforts to create greater awareness and adoption of QPM across the country. Beyond their immediate use during the project lifespan, manuals, bulletins and other reference materials will help sustain project impacts in the future.

During the last annual work plan period (2017/18), the following training and reference materials were produced and distributed to relevant institutions.

“A Quality Protein Maize (QPM) Manual for Agricultural Extension Workers in Ethiopia” has been prepared and distributed. It provides details about QPM to help extension agents working with farmers at the grassroots level provide well-founded information about QPM.

A QPM manual in the Amharic language has also been prepared and distributed. It is intended mainly for farmers.

QPM Module: considering the immense role of future extension workers who are currently enrolled in ATVET colleges in different parts of the country, NuME has prepared and distributed a QPM course module to ATVET colleges across the country. The module is believed to serve the purpose of integrating QPM in college curriculums.

A “Training Manual: QPM-Based Ethiopian Traditional Food Preparation” published in English has been prepared and distributed to different organizations and individuals. It is expected to play an instrumental role in disseminating information on the different types of traditional foods that can be prepared from QPM. It is being translated into the Amharic and Oromifa languages, and those versions will be distributed soon after the translation work is completed.





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This is a quarterly newsletter produced by the NuME project, a six-year project that aims to contribute significantly in reducing malnutrition, especially among young children, and increase food security and household income of resource-poor smallholder farmers in Ethiopia through the widespread adoption, production and utilization of QPM.

Supported by Global Affairs Canada, NuME is implemented by CIMMYT in collaboration with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute, Sasakawa Africa Association, Sasakawa Global 2000, other NGOs as well as universities and public and private seed companies.

The contents of this newsletter revolve around the day-to-day activities that the project and its stakeholders undertake by focusing on strategies such as demonstrating to farmers new QPM technologies, improved crop management practices, post-harvest handling and processing as well as improving their knowledge and skills.

Comments and articles from our readers, particularly the staff of stakeholders, are welcome.

CIMMYT - The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center - is the global leader in publicly-funded maize and wheat research and related farming systems. Headquartered near Mexico City, CIMMYT works with hundreds of partners throughout the developing world to sustainably increase the productivity of maize and wheat cropping systems, thus improving global food security and reducing poverty. CIMMYT is a member of the CGIAR System and leads the CGIAR Research Programs on Maize and Wheat, and the Excellence in Breeding Platform. The Center receives support from national governments, foundations, development banks and other public and private agencies.

