

Sustainable wheat and maize production in Afghanistan



Key details

Location

Afghanistan

Duration

Start Oct 2012

End Oct 2018

Budget

AUD 6,458,924

Commissioned organisation

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center

Partners

Agriculture Research Institute of Afghanistan;
International Center for Agricultural Research in
the Dry Areas

Project Leader

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Improvement Center

ACIAR Research Program Manager

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Program

Crops

Project code

CIM/2011/026

enough to meet domestic demands. Afghan wheat research lacks a home-grown wheat breeding programme, and research in other disciplines also needs support to develop and disseminate useful implementable technologies.

Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, this project, implemented by the International Centre for Wheat and Maize Improvement (CIMMYT), introduced much-needed improved wheat and maize varieties into the country. It aimed to make higher-yielding wheat varieties in a water-limited environment available to Afghan farmers. The new wheat varieties needed to be resistant to the rust diseases of wheat, particularly the threatening stem rust strain ug99 and the widespread yellow (stripe) rust.

The project also tested and demonstrated appropriate and adoptable improvements to cropping practices (such as line sowing of wheat, without tillage). Seeds of released improved varieties are scarce, so the project also explored how communities could produce seeds.



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Overview

This project aimed to introduce new, high-yielding, drought-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties of wheat and maize to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has one of the highest per capita wheat consumptions in the world but does not produce