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 overcoming hunger, malnutrition, poverty and environmental degradation serving the 2.1 billion people who reside in the drylands of Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Accolades
- Africa Food Prize 2021
- 9th India CSR Award 2020
- National CSR Award India 2019
- King Baudouin Award 1996, 1998 and 2002

Varieties/hybrids released
1,184 ICRISAT varieties released in 81 countries across the globe as of 2021

Germplasm shared
More than 1.5 million seed samples distributed to 149 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.

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

Varieties/hybrids released
- Inclusive and sustainable value chains, post harvest management, processing
- Market access and linkages
- Capacity development, raising entrepreneurs
- Women and youth empowerment
- 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, agribusiness 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 USD 641 to USD 1797 in a micro-watershed project.

- Success of seed systems: Use of improved legume varieties in Malawi has led to increased farmer incomes.

Partnerships
ICRISAT’s work contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals

Sep/2022