Facilities Upgrade and Mechanization Improvement project

Achieve higher genetic gains on farmers' fields by implementing sustainable improvements in infrastructure and mechanization methods

The project is designed to address various challenges faced at breeding stations, which include:

- Low level of adoption of mechanization which limits the efficiency of breeding
- Limited irrigation capacity on breeding stations: old or poorly maintained systems
- Improper storage and lack of seed equipment jeopardizing seeds’ viability
- Lack of infrastructure and capacity limiting CGIAR/NARES’ ability to standardize their processes and equipment

In a nutshell

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead organisation:</th>
<th>Participating countries:</th>
<th>Project duration:</th>
<th>Project budget:</th>
<th>Targeted crops:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIMMYT</td>
<td>Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>USD 15 million</td>
<td>Banana, Beans, cassava, cowpea, groundnut, maize, millets, potato, rice, sorghum, sweet potato, wheat, yam</td>
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Facilities Upgrade and Mechanization Improvement's primary objective is to achieve greater genetic gains on farmers’ fields in Africa. This project focuses on improving the infrastructure and mechanization capabilities of 16 priority stations across the participating countries and it will have a positive impact on multiple breeding programs. To accomplish this, the project will provide the breeding stations with essential equipment like planters, solar and irrigation systems, field preparation tools, and harvesting equipment, while also providing comprehensive training and ongoing support to ensure successful implementation. It is part of a wider multi-funder program called Crops to End Hunger (CtEH), and it is implemented by CGIAR’s Breeding Resources Initiative (BRI).

About Crops to End Hunger

In 2017-2018, a multi-Funder group, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), agreed to launch a modernization program for public plant breeding in lower-income countries, called “Crops to End Hunger (CtEH)”. The CtEH program will invigorate breeding for the staple crops most important to smallholder farmers and poor consumers. In 2022, a new grant was launched, covering 14 projects implemented in the years 2023-2024, and including the present one.