



Farm mechanization & conservation agriculture for sustainable intensification project launched



If asked “What is the most limiting factor to cereal production in sub-Saharan Africa,” most agronomists would say water, nitrogen, or phosphorus. Could farm power also have a place in this list? From 25 to 30 March 2013, a multidisciplinary group of 40 agronomists, agricultural engineers, economists, anthropologists, and private sector representatives from Kenya, Tanzania, Australia, India, and other countries attended a meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, to officially launch the ‘Farm Mechanization & Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification’ project, supported by the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) and managed by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The meeting focused largely on planning for activities that will take place in Kenya and Tanzania, but the project will eventually explore opportunities to accelerate the delivery and adoption of two-wheel

tractors (2WTs) based conservation agriculture (CA) and other 2WT-based technologies (transport, shelling, threshing) by smallholders in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This project will be implemented over the next four years by CIMMYT and its partners.

Why do these issues matter? In many countries, the number of tractors has declined in the past decades (as a result of structural adjustment plans, for example), and so did the number of draught animals in many parts of the continent (due to biomass shortage, droughts, diseases, etc.). As a result, African agriculture increasingly relies on human muscle power. This problem is compounded by labor shortages arising from an ageing population, rural-urban migration, and HIV/AIDS. Even in areas where rural population is increasing faster than the cultivated area, labor may be in short supply during critical field operations due to

competition with more rewarding sectors, such as construction and mining. One consequence of low farm mechanization is high labor drudgery, which disproportionately affects women, as they play a predominant role in weeding, threshing, shelling, and transport by head-loading, and which makes farming unattractive to the youth. Sustainable intensification in sub-Saharan Africa appears unlikely if the issue of inadequate and declining farm power is not addressed. Power supply could be increased through appropriate and equitable mechanization, while power demand could be reduced through power saving technologies such as CA. Synergies can be exploited between these two avenues: for example, the elimination of soil inversion in CA systems reduces power requirements – typically ▶

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► by a factor of two— making the use of lower powered and more affordable tractors such as 2WTs a viable option. 2WTs are already present in Eastern and Southern Africa, albeit in low numbers and seldom used for CA in most countries. Several CA planters adapted for 2WTs have also been developed recently and are now commercially available. These are both manufactured outside (e.g. China, Brazil) and in the region (e.g. in Kenya and Tanzania).

The first set of the project's activities will aim at identifying likely farmer demand by defining main sources of unmet power demand and labor drudgery. This will help determine the choice of technologies – from the 2WT-based technologies available for CA (seed drilling, strip tillage, ripping, etc.) and non-CA operations (transport, threshing, shelling) – to evaluate on-station and on farm, with participation of farmers and other stakeholders involved in technology transfer.



The second set of activities will aim at identifying and testing site-specific unsubsidized business models – utilizing private sector service providers to support market systems – that will enable efficient and equitable delivery of the most promising 2WT-based technologies to a large number of smallholders; technologies affordable to the resource-poor and women-headed households. The project will also examine the institutional and policy

constraints and opportunities that may affect the adoption of 2WT-based technologies in the four countries. Finally, it will create awareness on 2WT-based technologies in the sub-region and share knowledge and information with other regions, thanks to the establishment of a permanent knowledge platform hosted by the [African Conservation Tillage network](#). 📌

ZimCLIFS integrates crop and livestock production research in Zimbabwe



In 2012, three CG centers—the International Livestock Research Institute ([ILRI](#)), CIMMYT, and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics ([ICRISAT](#))—launched a joint project called Integrating Crops and Livestock for Improved Food Security and Livelihoods in Zimbabwe (ZimCLIFS). The goal of the project is to develop ways to increase agricultural production, improve household food security, alleviate poverty, and thereby reduce food-aid dependency in rural Zimbabwe through better integration of crop and livestock production and market participation. The inception workshop, held 17–19 October 2012, was attended by international project managers and local stakeholders, including research, extension, private-sector, and NGO personnel, and farmers, totaling 41 participants. ►

► **The project objectives are as follows:**

- Increase productivity of smallholder crop and livestock farming systems in four districts in two contrasting agro-ecological regions of Zimbabwe by identifying and adapting appropriate technologies and management practices.
- Improve farmers' access to resources, technologies, information, and markets by characterizing and strengthening value chains for crops (maize, sorghum, and legumes) and livestock (goats and cattle).
- Increase the knowledge and skills of research, extension, and agribusiness staff, enabling the first two groups to design and implement integrated farming systems and value chain research, and the latter to apply knowledge generated by the project elsewhere in Zimbabwe.

Since its launch, the project has established field trials on 102 farm sites at a time when the cropping season had already started in the high-potential subhumid Murehwa and Goromonzi districts of Mashonaland East Province, where CIMMYT leads the agronomic activities including conservation agriculture as well as socio-economic components of the project. To support work on these trials, project partners including extension and NGO personnel convened on 16 January 2013 for a data collection training workshop facilitated by staff from ILRI and CIMMYT. The workshop sought to orient partners to the project's objectives, activities, and operational framework; create awareness of the different types of agronomic experiments implemented in the 2012–13 season; train participants on data collection tools and expectations for the different types of agronomic experiments; and review trial implementation progress. Presentations covered topics such as ethics in agricultural research and the various ZimCLIFS activities and their data collection needs. "We thank the ZimCLIFS team for organizing this meeting, as it has helped to clarify our roles in this project and the direction it is taking," remarked an extension officer from the Murehwa District in her closing remarks.

On 25 and 26 January 2013, two representatives of the [Australian Center for International Agricultural Research](#), project manager John Dixon and consultant George Mburathi, visited ZimCLIFS staff at the CIMMYT office in Harare and project sites in Goromonzi to see how far the project had progressed. They witnessed conservation agriculture trials in which maize is grown along with livestock-palatable and unpalatable legume species, with the palatable species used to feed livestock and the unpalatable species used to generate biomass for soil cover in the subsequent season, given that livestock graze communally in the area. For example, mucuna (*Mucuna pruriens*) would be used to feed livestock, while residues from fish-poison-bean (*Tephrosia vogelii*) or dry sunn hemp (*Crotalaria juncea*) would be used to provide soil cover in the subsequent season as a new approach to managing residue cover provision in crop-livestock environments. They also visited a site where maize (*Zea mays*), soybean (*Glycine max*), cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), and mucuna rotation and intercropping were being tested with a view to intensifying maize-legume production. Other agronomic trials established by the project address the issues of residue types and residue rates in conservation agriculture systems where livestock competition exists. The visitors also witnessed cowpea screening and forage production trials that seek to demonstrate hay and silage making from legume sources such as cowpea and hyacinth bean (*Dolichos lablab*). Dixon also visited a local abattoir and a goat market as part of appreciating the value chain in livestock production.

Within its first season, ZimCLIFS has established trials in high- and low-potential sites with 303 farmers, about 63% of the targeted 480 households, an impressive start according to Dixon. The project runs until July 2015. Dry season activities will focus on livestock feeding, value chain studies, and establishment of innovation platforms as vehicles for dissemination and increased productivity. ¶¶



SIMLESA progressing and gearing up for Phase II



Over 200 researchers, policy makers, donors, seed companies, and NGO representatives from Africa and Australia gathered in Chimoio, Mozambique, during 17-23 March 2013 for the third **SIMLESA** (Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa) annual regional planning and review meeting to discuss the project's progress and achievements, share lessons learned throughout the last three years, and deliberate over better ways to design and implement future activities in the SIMLESA target (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique) and spillover countries (Botswana, Uganda, South Sudan, and Zambia).

"SIMLESA had attained a 'steady flight path' and is on track to deliver significant impacts," noted Derek Byerlee, Program Steering Committee (PSC) co-chair, and the Mid-Term Review (MTR) conducted last year supports his words: "The MTR Team has reviewed progress by objectives and the overall execution of the Program, and finds that in general it has made very good progress in its first two years." Bekele Shiferaw, Program Management Committee chair, then highlighted MTR's recommendations, including the following: SIMLESA should take concrete steps to overcome current socio-economic research capacity constraints in national agricultural research systems and in the areas of value chains, informal analyses, business management, participatory agronomy, and breeding research; focus on 'smart' sequences for testing conservation agriculture technologies with farmers resulting in step-wise adoption; and create representative and effective innovation platforms with clear roles, structures, and functions.

As SIMLESA Phase I is ending next year, participants brainstormed on key issues anticipated in Phase II, concluding that the overall approach should be holistic, flexible in dealing with complex systems, and should aim to devise effective ways to target different group of farmers, as one size does not fit all. Furthermore, it was noted that Phase II should focus on changing the mindset of farmers. "There are so many different technologies bombarding farmers. The real work therefore lies in dealing with the psychological, social, cultural, and environmental factors of the farmer that will determine the adoption of introduced technologies," noted one of the participating groups during the plenary session. Following the discussion on Phase II, Byerlee shared PSC's vision: apply a broader approach to system intensification (conservation agriculture elements, soil fertility, pest management, and diversification); be more country specific; create empowering, location-specific, and sustainable innovation platforms; and pay more attention to institutions and policies vis-à-vis technology.



In the words of Inacio Maposse, Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique (**IIAM**) director general and PSC member, Phase II is not necessary only because Phase I is ending but also "because we want to add another dimension to the program, and perhaps a different philosophy, one that will lead us to success. And for me, success means to get farmers smile sustainably. Smile because they are better off. For this to happen, we have to design Phase II with heart and wisdom. We need Phase II because we are yet to produce significant adoption and impact on the farming communities." John Dixon (senior advisor for cropping systems and economics and principal regional coordinator for Africa and South Asia, **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research**) added another reason for why to continue with SIMLESA: "Where resources are limited, sustainable intensification is the only option to feed the extra two billion people by 2050." ▶

► Mellissa Wood, Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) director, then explained some of the reasons behind the close cooperation between Australia and Africa: “Australia and Africa share many common agricultural challenges, including limiting soils, highly variable climates, pests, and diseases.” Consequently, AIFSC aims to accelerate adoption; bridge the gap between research and development; find new ways to support African agricultural growth through adoption, policy, scale-out, improved market access, diversification, and nutrition.



In her closing remarks, Marianne Bänziger (CIMMYT deputy director general for research and partnerships) called on the Phase II planners to design holistic packages that entail success and ensure SIMLESA provides farmers in the five target countries with diverse opportunities for improving their livelihoods. “Farmers should be able to get incomes not only from maize and legumes but also from other farm enterprises. You should come up with possible and realistic interventions in realistic time frames,” Bänziger concluded.

Throughout the meeting, implementing partners, researchers, and seed companies showcased their achievements and products at the ‘SIMLESA poster village.’ Participants learned about farmers’ perspectives and practices through field visits to Sussudenga maize breeding and exploratory trial sites, participatory variety trials in Vanduzi and Polytechnic Institute of Manica, and conservation agriculture and innovation platforms scaling out sites in Makate. ▼

BISA station becoming a wheat training hub



Following the tradition initiated during the last wheat crop cycle, the Global Wheat Program in South Asia organized a two-day field training program on the [spot blotch disease of wheat](#) during 24-25 February

2013. The training was coordinated by CIMMYT wheat breeder Arun Joshi under the [WHEAT CRP Strategic Initiative 5](#) (durable resistance and management of diseases and insect pests) and attended by 12 participants. It took place at the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) experiment station in Pusa, Bihar, and aimed to train young scientists and students of the Rajendra Agricultural University (RAU) and Regional Station of Indian Agriculture Research Institute.

The main resource person for the seminar was Ramesh Chand, well-known spot blotch pathologist from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He was supported by PhD students from Banaras Hindu University Musaed Naji Eisa (Yemen) and Conformt Sankem (Nigeria); CIMMYT colleagues Raj Kumar Jat and S.K. Choudhary; and RAU wheat scientist Rajeev Kumar.

The program covered creating artificial epiphytotic for spot blotch, disease identification and scoring, differentiation of spot blotch symptoms from other similar factors, and the role of weather and plant factors in determining the severity of the disease. After a theoretical section, participants attended practical classes in the field. First, they focused on the technique to identify spot blotch symptoms ranging from young lesion to fully developed disease

and to coalescing spots. During the disease scoring session, the instructors explained the double digit system and how it is connected to various growth stages of a wheat plant. The participants then tested their new scoring skills during an exercise which involved scoring on the same genotypes to cross-verify results. This was done with populations of two crosses (Babax × CIANO T 79 and Weaver × CIANO T 79) obtained from CIMMYT-Mexico under the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) project. Later, they learned about the method of differentiating the lesion mimic symptoms from the spot blotch and recorded lesion mimic with high severity on several wheat lines. Other topics included collection procedure and identification of dried leaves colonized by spot blotch and confirmation of spores on the infected leaves under a microscope. ►

The role of weather in the outbreak of spot blotch disease was discussed, along with differentiation of spot blotch from other similar diseases caused by other factors. Furthermore, the instructors explained the effect of sowing date and growth stages on disease severity as these are crucial in regards to wheat plant vulnerability to spot blotch.

The training program provided young scientists with greater understanding of the spot blotch pathogen. Subsequently, BISA-Bihar can plan to collaborate more closely with local institutions to expand this work in the future. RAU vice-chancellor R.K. Mittal expressed support for this plan, as he pledged full support for the implementation of the WHEAT CRP program. ▼



Training continues in Nepal on participatory variety selection for wheat

On 3–4 March 2013, a training program at Bhairahwa, Kathmandu, Nepal, attracted 25 scientists, technical officers, and technicians interested in participatory variety selection (PVS) and high-quality seed production for wheat. The main objective of the training was to provide knowledge on methods of variety ranking and selection and seed production that involve participation by farmers and other stakeholders. The event was organized by the Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) and CIMMYT's Global Wheat Program.



The training took place at the National Wheat Research Program (NWRP) facility in Bhairahwa, where a PVS program has been under way for more than 10 years. In the last few years, farmers selected agronomically superior wheat lines resistant to Ug99 and other rusts; this year they have conducted 50 PVS trials to demonstrate the superiority of the new lines over the conventional ones. NWRP coordinator Janmejai Tripathi opened the event, followed by NARC scientists Nutan Raj Gautam and Shesh Raman Upadhyay, who explained the PVS methodology for identifying the merits of new varieties, selecting the best varieties, and disseminating the seeds. The training program covered the concept and philosophy of PVS, the role of PVS in ongoing breeding programs and projects in collaboration with CIMMYT, such as the Cereal Systems Initiative for

South Asia (CSISA), an overview of Nepalese wheat research, mother-baby trial evaluation and data recording, seed production, an overview of pathology research, and major diseases of wheat and their management in Nepal.

After a morning of productive discussions on the first day, participants toured the wheat plots at the NWRP research station and at the PVS sites in Hakui, Nawalparas, and Bairihawa, Rupandehi. They were shown mother-baby trials planted in different fields at the two locations, and a number of varieties were introduced to the group, with details on their characteristics, qualities, and differences. To reinforce the learning process, attendees received information sheets including varietal information such as maturity duration, yield potential, and resistance to diseases. During the field tour, the experts offered solutions to problems described by participants based on their long-standing experience.

The program trained young wheat scientists to facilitate farmers' selection of farmer-identified preferred varieties; improved their understanding of the traits of new resistant varieties and seed dissemination; initiated planning of new PVS trials for the next crop cycle; and increased interest in further collaboration between farmers, scientists, and development agencies. ▼

Wheat traveling seminar in Pakistan



In collaboration with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), CIMMYT organized another annual national traveling wheat seminar during 03-14 March 2013 in Karachi, Sindh, and Faisalabad, Punjab. Around 50 wheat scientists – breeders, agronomists, pathologists, entomologists, physiologists, agricultural extension workers, and seed specialists from federal and provincial research institutes, private sector, and farmers’ communities– from all four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir participated in the seminar.

PARC chairman Iftikhar Ahmad focused his inaugural address on the Council’s role in coordination and promotion of scientific research

for the betterment of small farmers. He noted that traveling seminars are one of the ways to achieve this goal, as long as they are attended by all stakeholders who are either directly or indirectly associated with the agriculture sector. CIMMYT country liaison officer for Pakistan Md. Imtiaz then welcomed all participants on behalf of CIMMYT director general Thomas Lumpkin. He reiterated Ahmad’s message on the importance of the seminar: “It provides countless opportunities to its participants, including the opportunity to learn more about critical evaluation of wheat areas and production trends, crop management technologies, adoption problems, financial constraints, and dissemination of readily available technologies.” Furthermore, the information generated throughout the seminar will help to refine future wheat research agenda to ensure it addresses the emerging wheat production problems present on the ground. “CIMMYT is committed to work with national programs of Pakistan to advance the research for development agenda for the benefit of resource-poor farmers,” Imtiaz concluded. Richard Ward, CIMMYT-Pakistan, also addressed the opening session and emphasized the importance of timely data delivery and its utilization.

When the participants reached the Wheat Research Institute (WRI) in Faisalabad, they were joined by David Marshall (USDA/University of North Carolina), Xiaming Chen (USDA/Washington State University), and Hans J. Braun (CIMMYT Global Wheat Program director). The group then jointly evaluated lines in national uniform trials, various diseases, nurseries (including trap and CIMMYT nurseries), and rusts differentials; and Braun visited agronomic trials at the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA). During the closing session, while emphasizing the importance of new machineries for increasing efficiency, the USDA delegates and CIMMYT wheat program director handed keys for the machineries newly purchased under the Wheat Production Enhancement Program for Pakistan over to WRI Faisalabad director Makhdoom Hussain. The event was concluded with presentations during which participants discussed various issues covered at the seminar. The salient recommendation resulting from this session was to ban mega variety Sehar-06 due to its susceptibility to leaf rust. ¶¶



Brainstorming session seeks ways to increase Afghanistan's wheat harvest

Afghanistan's growing population consumes more wheat than the country can produce and depends on imports from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, and India. By 2022, wheat needs are projected to reach seven million metric tons. Recent wheat harvests have been erratic, ranging from under three million to over five million metric tons.

To address this challenge, a brainstorming session was held on 27 February 2013 in Kabul, cosponsored by CIMMYT and Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and attended by members of those two organizations as well as the Afghanistan National Seed Organization, Agricultural Research Institute of Afghanistan, [Food and Agriculture Organization](#), [International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas](#), and [Japan International Cooperation Agency](#).

Most of the brainstorming focused on irrigated wheat farming, which produces 70% or more of Afghanistan's wheat but makes up only 45% of wheat farming acreage. The role of rainfed wheat farming, while important, is unlikely to grow significantly in the near future.

Participants agreed that bringing more farmland under irrigation using the best available technology was a high priority and that the best place to start would be districts like Ashkamish, Kalfgan, Khanabad, and Bakwa, where the water table is relatively high. Haqiqatpal Rabani, MAIL's director of statistics, noted that irrigated wheat farmland increased by 28,000 ha in 2012 and can be expected to grow by about 7% every three years. With this projected increase in area, yield per hectare would still need to increase to 4.1 metric tons for Afghanistan to be self-sufficient in wheat in 2022.

Another proposal was for the seed system to offer farmers more new varieties and discourage the use of less productive varieties. The high price of seeds was identified as a barrier to the use of new, more efficient varieties. Suggested ways to address this problem included educating farmers about the optimum seed rate for sowing (for example, through the use of the 2012 wheat fact sheet published by CIMMYT and MAIL), and increasing wheat farmers' seed replacement rate, currently less than 10%, to at least 25%.

Other proposals for reducing farmers' expenses and encouraging productive wheat farming included educating farmers on how to avoid post-harvest losses; introducing a price support system for wheat; providing affordable credit and crop insurance; and providing other farming inputs in good quality and sufficient quantity at affordable prices.

Participants also called for strengthening of the national research system (including by hiring dedicated wheat specialists) and of extension services to disseminate research results. ¶¶

New hotel agreements



The **Risk Management Unit** is pleased to inform you that CIMMYT recently entered into an agreement with hotels around Mexico. As a result, CIMMYT employees get special discounts during business or personal travel. CIMMYT employees must use their CIMMYT ID to receive the discount; for visitors to receive a special fare, CIMMYT staff needs to notify the hotel. Hotels covered by the agreement are Courtyard Marriot and Camino Real Aeropuerto; Casa Inn Hoteles and Cityexpress Hoteles (Mexico city); and Hotel Valle Grande Obregón, Holiday Inn Ciudad Obregón, Cityexpress Ciudad Obregón, and Quality Inn Ciudad Obregon. Another agreement has been made with hotel chain Grupo Real Turismo, which includes Hoteles Quinta Real, Hoteles Camino Real, and Hoteles Real Inn. For more information contact the Risk Management Unit. ¶¶

Birthdays 01-13 April

Francisco Peñafort 1; Mayra Jacqueline Barceló 1; Leonardo Ornella 1; Boniface Nyamande 1; Francisco Hernández 2; Hedilberto Velázquez 2; Baldev Raj Kamboj 2; Manuel Valdés 4; Isidoro Colín 4; Lei Meng 4; Jens Andersson 4; Martha Willcox 4; Oswell Farayi Ndoro 4; Vicente Morales 5; Emma Maramba 5; Dinesh Pal 5; Alwin Keil 6; Andrés Corona 7; Paola Correa 7; Eulalio Román Delgado 7; José Arturo Quintana 7; Félix Domínguez, 9; Antonio Hernández 9; Lorenzo Manuel López 10; Muhammad Imtiaz 10; Miguel Mellado 11; Enrique Rodríguez 11; Cynthia Mathys, 11; Raymundo Sereno 12; Surinder Vasal 12; Simon Gwara 12; Violeta Calvo 13; Máximo Flores 13.

Daylight saving time

Daylight saving time begins this Sunday, 7 April, at 2 am. Don't forget to adjust your clocks one hour forward.



Newcomers



Bertha Patricia Lechuga Palomo, Employees and Visitors Services Manager, Corporate Services, 28 March.



Carlos Moisés Hernández Suárez, Head Biometrics & Statistics Unit, Genetic Resources Program, 01 April.



Miguel Arturo Fuentes Zúñiga, Finance Analyst, CS/Finance/BMU, 09 March.



Luis Jesús Castilla Zetina, Bilingual Science Communicator, Genetic Resources Program, 09 March.



Horacio Vázquez Rodríguez, Collaborating Extensionism Coordinator, Conservation Agriculture Program, 16 March.



Rocío Quiroz Soto, Research Assistant A, Genetic Resources Program, 30 March

Pardhasaradhi G. Teluguntla, Geographic Information System, BISA/India, 2 January.

Vinod K. H., Research Associate, Socioeconomics Program/India, 18 March.

Amos Mbugua Thairu, Germplasm Data Coordinator, Global Maize Program/ Kenya, 1 January.

Arthur Karugu Munyiri, Research Assistant, Global Maize Program/Kenya, 1 January.

Collins Juma Ongeti, Research Assistant, Global Maize Program/Kenya, 1 January.

Joseph Ombaka Orendé, Research Assistant, Global Maize Program/Kenya, 1 January.

Rose Muthoni Mburu, Program Administrator, Global Maize Program/ Kenya, 4 February.

Madhav Bhatta, Maize Genetic Resources, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 1 January.

Shovaram Devkota, Economist, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 1 January.

Resham KC, Junior Data Curator, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 1 January.

Bhusan D. Shrestha, Maize Breeder, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 1 January.

Vivek Shrestha, Database Administrator, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 1 January.

Sabitri Dhakal, Agricultural Machine Operator, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 15 January.

Ranjana Rawal, Accountant, Conservation Agriculture Program/Nepal, 15 January.

Roshan Subedi, Biometrician, Conservation Agriculture Program/ Nepal, 15 January

Anil Chapagain, Finance and Administrative Assistant, IFAD & ANEP/ Nepal, 16 January.

David S. Adhikar, Chauffer, Genetic Resources Program/Nepal, 7 February.

Abdul Khaliq, Chauffer, Global Wheat Program/Pakistan, 13 February.

Siirayi Nomsa Mutungira, Administrative Assistant B, Socioeconomics Program/ Harare, 29 January.

Y Veerendra Babu, Research Technician, BISA/India, 12 March.

Michael John Mulvaney, Associate Scientist, Conservation Agriculture Program, 11 March.

Masahiro Kishii, Senior Scientist, Global Wheat Program, 01 April.

Ernesto Briones, Senior Systems Developer, CS/ICT, 01 April.

Departures

Ma. Elena Segura Reyes, Program Assistant C, Global Maize Program, 22 March.

Noé Santos Jiménez, Senior Program Accountant, Socioeconomics Program, 25 March.

Nyasha Chipunza, Research Officer, Global Maize Program/Zimbabwe, 5 March.

Sayed Mohammad Naim Khalid, Hub Manager, Global Wheat Program/ Afghanistan, 21 February.

Srinivasan T, Finance and Accounts Officer, BISA/India, 31 January.

Melika Rana, Public Relations Officer, BISA/India, 28 March.

11° MINI-MARATON – CIMMYT

Viernes 12 de abril a las 12:30 pm

Friday 12 April at 12:30 pm



Ven y diviértete con nosotros, no pierdas la oportunidad...

Come and enjoy with us, don't miss this opportunity...

Minimaratón

4.5 km 1 & 2 vueltas / 1 & 2 laps

Caminata - Hike 4.5 km

Femenil y varonil / Women & Men

Máster y veteranos / Master & Veterans

" MENTE SANA EN CUERPO SANO "

" HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY BODY "

Último día para inscribirse

Last day to register Monday 08 April

Janin Trinidad - ext. 1161

Liliana Santamaría - ext. 1125

Isabel Peña - ext. 1172

Juan Carlos Alarcón - ext. 1377

Fermín Segura - ext. 1258

Efrén Rodríguez - ext. 1132

Enrique Martínez - ext. 1261

José Luis Barrios - ext. 2224

Rosalba Delgado - ext. 1165

Max Flores - ext. 1199.

Weekly photo contest...

Weekly photo contest winner: Maize and wheat in one field



This week's Informa photo competition winner was sent to us by Rosa E. Cossio, M&E Officer at CIMMYT-Bangladesh. This photo was taken on Char Jelkhana of the Mymensingh District, Bangladesh, and it shows Ug99-tolerant wheat (left foreground), maize grown for grain production (90% of maize is used for poultry/fish feed), and maize grown for popcorn (behind and left of the boys). The land on this char was previously limited to grazing and the cultivation of black gram (a low value crop). However, since CIMMYT-CSISA began their successful maize and wheat demonstrations, many local farmers have started to cultivate these two crops. During the current winter season (November 2012 - April 2013), 36.6 ha of maize and 28.7 ha of wheat have been cultivated on this charland, with farmers from neighboring villages exhibiting rates of adoption of 88% and 215% for maize and wheat, respectively.

Fun fact: Char Jelkhana is an island formed by sedimentation of the Old Brahmaputra River.

Don't forget to send us your entries for next week's competition. From now on please email them to **Barbora Nemcova** (b.nemcova@cgiar.org)—or hand them over on a USB stick—and to look out for the winners on CIMMYT's [flickr](#), where they are shared under a Creative Commons license. Congratulations to Rosa and thank you to all our participants!