

# Environmental Sustainability



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## General Objective

This policy integrates environmental considerations into CIMMYT's decision-making about research activities and internal operations in support of working toward implementing environmental sustainability objectives.

Environmental concerns are entwined with CIMMYT's mission to improve livelihoods through maize and wheat science. CIMMYT envisions a world with healthier and more prosperous people – free from the threat of global food crises – and with more resilient agri-food systems. CIMMYT's research aims to promote development in ways that support environmental sustainability goals while providing means for improving the livelihoods of people in developing countries. Through its involvement in leading and executing CGIAR Research Programs and Platforms, CIMMYT contributes to environmental sustainability by improving natural resources and ecosystem services, which is one of the three CGIAR System Level Outcomes.

In its internal operations, CIMMYT is a user of water, energy, non-renewable resources, chemicals and agricultural land, and contributes to waste production and greenhouse gas emission. CIMMYT can make choices and develop plans that reduce its environmental footprint.

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## Scope

All CIMMYT staff, consultants, students, visiting scientists, and external partners funded by CIMMYT-managed grants.

## Policies

- 1. Overall commitment:** CIMMYT aims to increase the positive environmental impact it generates through its research and continuously reduce its environmental footprint in internal operations. CIMMYT is committed to integrating nationally- and internationally-recognized sustainability practices into its research and internal operations.
- 2. Legal Framework:** It is CIMMYT's policy to comply with environmental regulations of its host countries. It is guided by available frameworks, guidelines, codes of conduct, and where available, applicable external certification(s) related to compliance by its research and business operations with best practices and national and international environmental standards, including but not limited to, the following:
  - 2.1.** Pesticide Management International Legal Framework, including Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, entered into force on 17 May 2004;
  - 2.2.** Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, entered into force on 24 February 2004;
  - 2.3.** International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides FAO–WHO, adopted in 2002;
  - 2.4.** Guidelines on Good Practice for Ground Application of Pesticides – UN Rome 2002; and
  - 2.5.** Convention on Biological Diversity, entered into force on 29 December 1993 and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted on 29 January 2000.
- 3. Provisions for Setting Research Objectives:** CIMMYT's research programs and projects seek to scale out approaches in maize and wheat agri-food systems that: (i) maintain and increase both their productivity and ecological functions; (ii) maintain and enhance biodiversity; and (iii) promote or support ecologically sustainable development, through maintaining and improving the quality of land, water and air.
  - 3.1.** CIMMYT's Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 promotes two specific environmental goals for maize and wheat agri-food systems: (i) to use water, other natural resources and nutrients more efficiently; and (ii) to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, reduce deforestation, reverse soil degradation and restore fragile ecosystems.
  - 3.2.** CIMMYT's understanding of environmental issues in maize and wheat agri-food systems is ever-expanding, through its employment of interdisciplinary research and work with a broad range of partners. The integration by its research programs and projects of environmental sustainability practices reinforces support for sustainability objectives and enhances CIMMYT's ability to respond to the needs of its beneficiaries in the developing world.
- 4. Further Environmental Sustainability Commitments:** Across its research programs and internal operations, CIMMYT has made several specific commitments to further environmental sustainability, including specific objectives and practices (with relevant certifications).

- 4.1. At the global and regional level, CIMMYT is committed to:
  - 4.1.1. Increasing the use of maize and wheat genetic diversity through germplasm conservation, research, use and capacity development;
  - 4.1.2. Reducing deforestation and contributing to increased biodiversity through sustainable intensification with more productive, less land- and resource-intensive maize and wheat varieties and production systems;
  - 4.1.3. Reducing the use of pesticides through the development of maize and wheat varieties with durable resistance to pests and diseases, and increasing the use of integrated control practices;
  - 4.1.4. Improving soil health and productivity;
  - 4.1.5. Increasing the efficiency of use of water, fertilizer and fossil fuels;
  - 4.1.6. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through precision and conservation agriculture research;
  - 4.1.7. Researching and promoting agricultural practices that reduce the environmental footprint in other areas;
  - 4.1.8. Conducting gender-responsive research that can affect the people and communities most vulnerable to environmental harm; and
  - 4.1.9. Implementing risk management procedures when necessary during the development, approval and life of any research project in which potentially negative environmental impact could result from pesticides, fertilizers, biotechnologies or other interventions used in land clearing or water management.
- 4.2. Within its internal operations, CIMMYT commits to:
  - 4.2.1. Reducing the use of water and energy;
  - 4.2.2. Reducing the production of waste and responsibly disposing of it;
  - 4.2.3. Reducing its carbon footprint;
  - 4.2.4. Eliminating single-use plastic in the workplace;
  - 4.2.5. Applying fertilizer and pesticides in a manner that is safe for the environment and people;
  - 4.2.6. Adhering to international standards for the research and use of chemicals;
  - 4.2.7. Adhering to international standards for the research and use of GMOs and gene edited organisms; and
  - 4.2.8. Factoring into the decision-making process the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.