About the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

The mission of the CGIAR is to achieve sustainable food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through scientific research and research-related activities in the fields of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, policy and natural resource management.

- The CGIAR, established in 1971, is a strategic partnership of countries, international and regional organizations and private foundations supporting the work of 15 international agricultural research Centers.
- The 64 Members of the CGIAR partnership include 47 countries (25 industrialized and 22 in the developing world), 13 international and regional organizations, and 4 private foundations.
- The CGIAR-supported Centers foster sustainable agricultural growth through high-quality science aimed at benefiting the poor through stronger food security, better, human nutrition and health, higher incomes and improved management of natural resources.
- About 1,000 internationally recruited CGIAR scientists and 7,000 technical and other staff work in more than 100 countries.
- The CGIAR Centers collaborate with national agricultural research systems, civil society and the private sector.
- CGIAR funding in 2007 is projected to be US$470 million – the world's single largest effort to mobilize global science in the service of poor farmers.
- The CGIAR is best known for its major role in the Green Revolution, a term describing the rapid spread – especially in Asia – of improved crop varieties and related technologies. The Green Revolution transformed agriculture in developing countries, helping boost grain yields, increase incomes and reduce the need to extend basic staple production into fragile environments, such as tropical forests.
- Without public investment in international agricultural research through the CGIAR:
    - World food production would be 4 to 5 percent lower than it is currently.
    - Developing countries would be producing 7 to 8 percent less food.
    - The world prices of food and feed grains would be 18 to 21 percent higher.
    - From 13 to 15 million more children would be malnourished.
- For every US dollar invested in CGIAR research, developing countries produce $9 worth of additional food.
- Additional examples of results and impacts from the CGIAR's collaborative research:
    - CGIAR-related varieties of 10 staple food crops are being planted on more than 11 million hectares across sub-Saharan Africa, according to the CGIAR Science Council.
    - Among these are 50 new drought-tolerant maize varieties, which are planted on about 1 million hectares, yielding 20 percent more, on average, than the varieties they replaced.
    - Nearly half a million farmers practicing a rice-wheat rotation in South Asia now use "zero-till" technology on more than 3.2 million hectares, increasing crop yields and saving water and energy, with economic benefits so far estimated by the World Bank at $147 million.
    - Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT), developed in the 1990s through conventional breeding methods, are boosting rural incomes and employment in 13 Asian countries – including Bangladesh, China, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam – with economic benefits estimated by the Asian Development Bank at $368 million.