



## RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Dryland Systems

Food security and better livelihoods for rural dryland communities

[drylandsystems.cgiar.org](http://drylandsystems.cgiar.org)



### Our vision

Prosperous dryland communities with higher incomes, better access to food, improved nutrition, and increased capacity to manage natural resources in a sustainable, equitable and innovative way.

### Why drylands matter

- The world's dry areas extend over 3 billion hectares and are home to 2.5 billion people – 30% of the world's population
- The majority of the world's poor live in dry areas, with around 16% living in chronic poverty
- Drylands issues – in poor and developing countries – are poorly understood by policy makers
- Despite their size and importance to global sustainability, dryland ecosystems receive less scientific and developmental attention, and less investment, than other major ecosystems.

### The difference we want to make

Our research generates the necessary scientific evidence for policy interventions and technological innovations of scale that will contribute to improved food security, increased incomes and opportunities, and equitable and sustainable management of land and natural resources for:

- 137 million people living rurally in the West African Sahel and Dry Savannas
- 191 million people living rurally in North Africa and West Asia
- 237 million people living rurally in East and Southern Africa
- 39 million people living rurally in Central Asia
- 978 million people living rurally in South Asia.

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