



Founded in 1998, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center is an independent, nonprofit research institute with a mission to improve the human condition through plant science. More than 400 employees from 30 countries seek to increase agricultural productivity to sustainably feed people today, and nearly 10 billion people by the middle of the century, and to do so with a lower environmental footprint and with fewer natural resources.

The Danforth Center's Institute for International Crop Improvement (IICI) led by Don MacKenzie, PhD, focuses on increasing the productivity and nutritional value of staple food crops in developing regions of the world that are generally underserved by commercial agriculture.

To do this, the IICI focuses on improving crops like sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts, potato, and cassava that tend to be regionally important but not traded around the world, and historically have not received the same research and development focus as the major commodity crops, such as corn, soybean, and wheat.

The IICI is dedicated to improving the disease and pest resistance, nutritional content, and harvest of staple crops that are critical to the health and livelihood of smallholder farmers and the millions of people that depend on them for food and nutrition. In addition to stabilizing communities by empowering farmers, these efforts promote agriculture-led growth by increasing sustainable farming productivity and strengthening productive, profitable, and inclusive agricultural systems.

The IICI team also specializes in guiding crop improvement projects through the product development process with international partners to ensure that improved varieties are released, taken to scale in target geographies, and achieve meaningful impact. Areas of expertise include product development planning and coordination, confined field testing, product quality and safety evaluation, regulatory affairs and stewardship, variety registration and seed certification, and technical capacity building.

Through international collaborations, the IICI is also connecting leading scientists and cutting-edge technologies, training international scientists, and providing centralized resources and expertise on regulatory study design, execution, and dossier preparation. The IICI is a focal point for technical capacity enhancement and the implementation of best practices uniformly across the crop improvement portfolio.

To learn more about our work, [visit danforthcenter.org](https://www.danforthcenter.org)