**Mexican research lifts yields world-wide**

By NEIL LYON

The world’s leading wheat scientists gathered in Mexico recently for a special gathering to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of renowned international wheat breeder Norman Borlaug.

Dr Borlaug, who died in 2009 aged 95, was credited with developing varieties in the world that contribute different land-races in CIMMYT, the Norman E. Borlaug Experimental Station (CENEB), Obregon, Mexico, and at the Borlaug Summit.

What is CIMMYT?

- **CIMMYT** is the acronym of the Spanish name of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, based in Mexico.
- One of 16 internationally funded research centres around the world supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).
- Holds the largest collection of wheat varieties in the world.
- **CIMMYT board** of trustees includes chairman and South Australian farmer Ken互联网 (also in a field at the Norman E. Borlaug Experimental Station (CENEB), Obregon, Mexico, and at the Borlaug Summit.

Who was Norman Borlaug?

- Born in Iowa, US, in 1914.
- Developed high-yielding, disease-resistant wheat varieties for use in developing countries.
- Introduced dwarf wheats that helped Mexico, India and Pakistan become self-sufficient in wheat production.
- Credited with saving as many as one billion people from starvation.
- Became known as the ‘Father of the Green Revolution’.
- Won Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.
- Died in 2009 aged 95.

New international wheat partnership

CIMMYT global wheat program director Hans Braun said research focused on yield was critical for providing calories and protein to the 4.5 billion people who depend on wheat for their sustenance.

“Wherever breakthroughs are found they will be bred and commercialised, with the aim of achieving the desired yield gains and adapted as finished varieties.”

**CIMMYT board** of trustees chairman and South Australian farmer Ken Internet said the world’s population was estimated to reach 9.6 billion by 2050 and wheat production would have a crucial role to play in food security and the global economy.

“As we need a collective global approach to make more wheat available,” Mr Visscher said. “We aim to make the most widely grown staple food crop and the new varieties with increased yield will be vital to feed the world’s growing population.”

**Neel Lyon**