



Norman Borlaug

Father of the
Green
Revolution

Norman Borlaug grew up on a farm in Iowa during the Great Depression. He grew up valuing education, caring for others, and hard work.

Through his career he worked for the University of Minnesota, U.S. Forest Service, DuPont, and the Rockefeller Center.

3 MAIN INNOVATIONS



1. 6000 Wheat Crosses

Dr. Borlaug made about 6000 crosses of different wheat varieties, all by hand, to find disease-resistant and environment-adapted strains. He increased yield 20-40%.

2. Expedited Breeding Program

He developed methods to grow two generations of wheat a year, halving the normal time needed for traditional breeding programs.



3. Dwarf Wheat

With his breeding program and crosses, he developed wheat that was shorter with more tillers that could remain standing with fertilizer applications.

Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his advances in plant breeding and increased yield in food cereals.

His work isn't without controversy, though. Many say that his innovations have led to water shortages, over-application of fertilizer, and prices drops for corn and wheat that rob farmers of an income.

His innovations and work towards improvement of food availability has paved the way for current research in food technology.

Sources

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