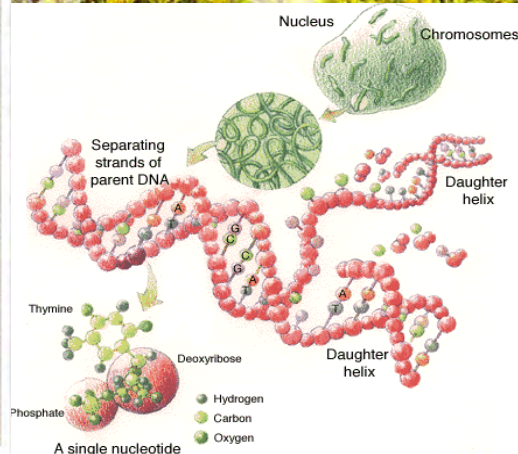


The increasing roles of PPPs in Developing Countries



Denis J Murphy
University of Glamorgan, UK

The Green Revolution



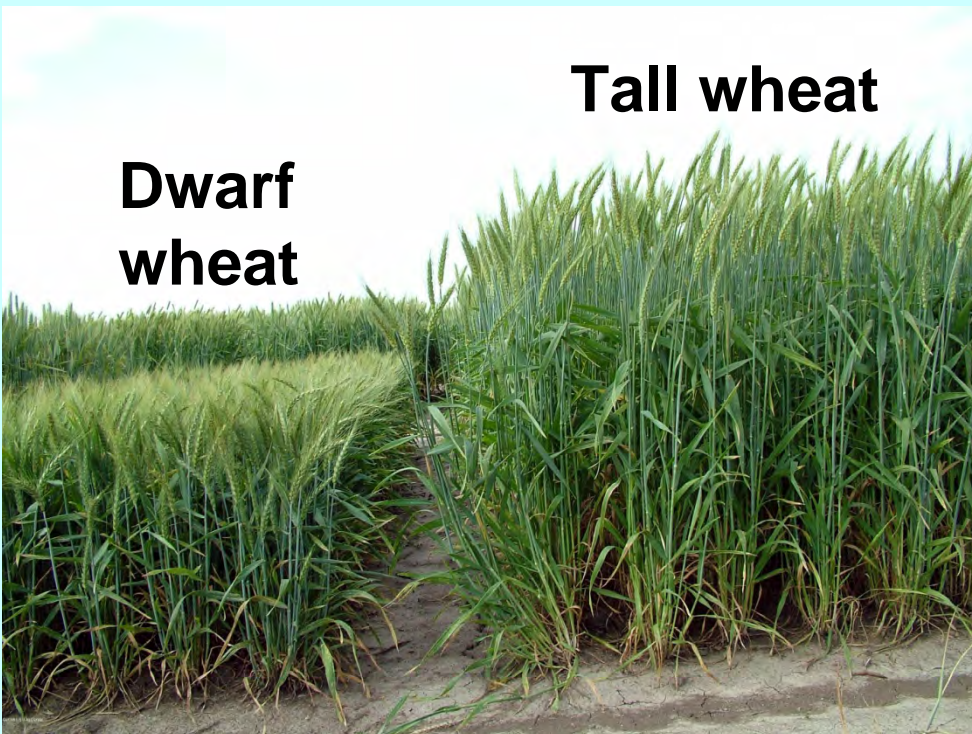
Dwarf cereal plants developed by breeders in 1950-70 have higher yields, do not topple, and respond well to fertiliser



Norman Borlaug, Nobel Laureate, 1970

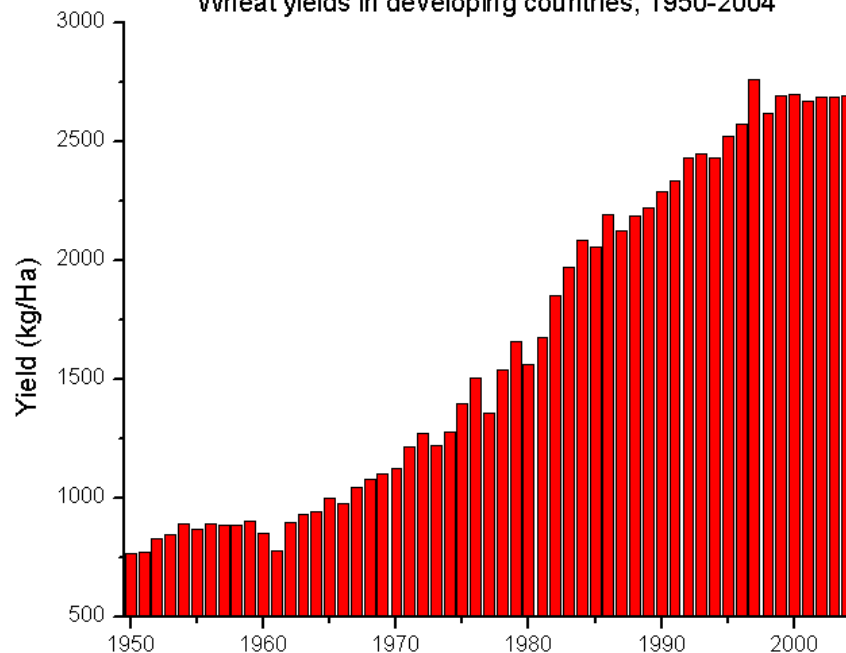
Dwarf wheat

Tall wheat



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Wheat yields in developing countries, 1950-2004



Source: FAO

Some major public sector-led breeding successes

- NERICA, inter-specific hybrid *O sativa* X *O glaberrima* (wide cross, embryo rescue) **WARDA**
- Disease resistant rice, inter-specific hybrid *O sativa* X *O nirvara* (wide cross, embryo rescue) **IRRI**
- Hybrid rice, intra-specific hybrid with strong heterosis – feeding extra 75M people/yr (MAS, extension) **China**
- Vitamin A sweet potato & cassava (μpropagation) **Africa**
- Mutation breeding: 2770 crops/varieties **Global**

Biotechnological tools

Advanced breeding technologies

- Transgenesis (genetic engineering or GM)
- Mass clonal propagation
- Hybrid creation
- DNA marker assisted selection
- Genomics
- Mutagenesis/TILLING

These technologies have created unprecedented opportunities for advances in the biological performance of food crops

But some key technologies/expertises reside within, or are best exploited via, the private sector – hence the increased need for PPPs

Oil palm – a key global crop

The major edible oil crop in the world

Biggest markets are in Asia

Major cultivation centres: Indonesia, Malaysia, S America

Grown by 2 million smallholders

High environmental impact – especially when pristine land converted to plantations

Both large producers and smallholders can and should be part of solution to current problems with OP

Requires a multi-pronged approach including PPPs

Oil palm – the yield problem

Palm oil yields stagnated for many years now

The Star
27 July 06

There are many "whys" the planting fraternity must answer on our yield stagnation.

The best persons to provide the answers would be the estate manager (EM) and the chief executive officer (CEO).

The EM is the implementer of the daily field operations to achieve the best yields and the CEO is the policy maker to provide guidance and support to the EM to attain this achievement with the researchers and others from head office playing a supporting role.

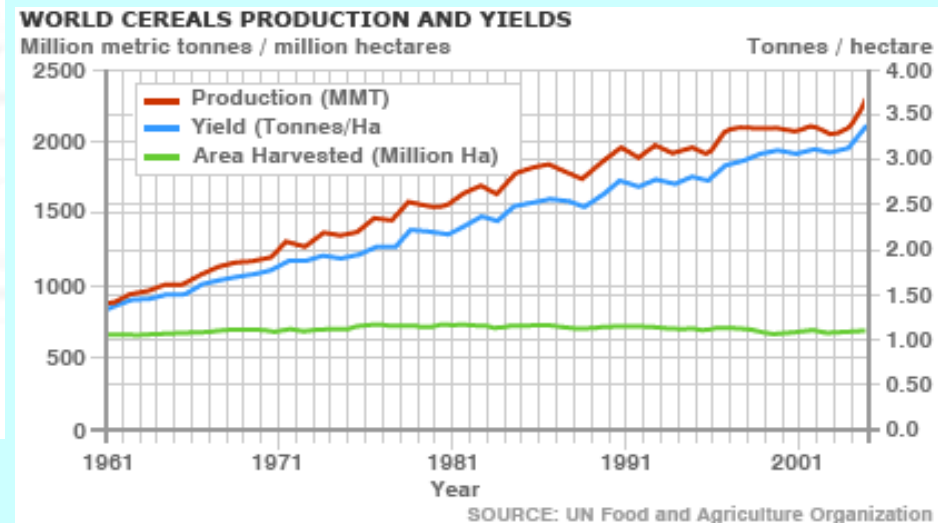
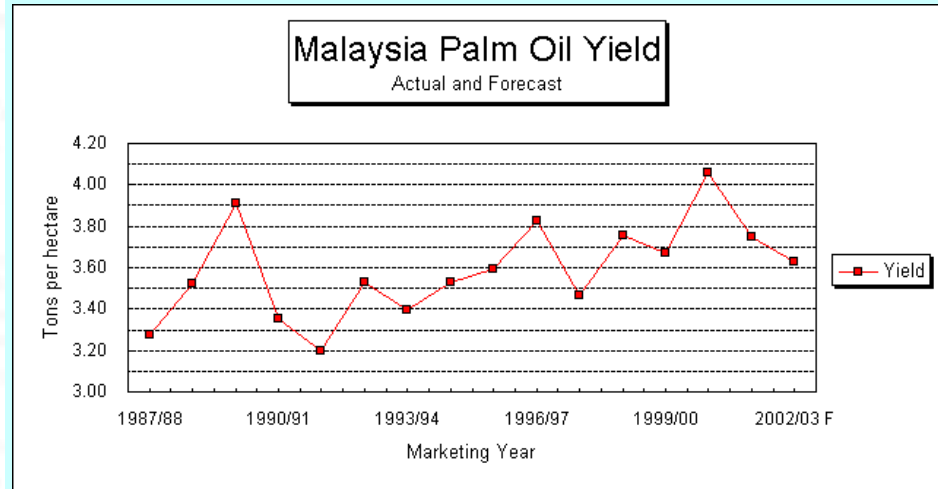
Basically, everyone has a role to play to ultimately assist the EM to produce the best yields as his primary concern is to ensure that the oil palms produce the highest number of bunches.

There is also another big question on why expand when we have not managed and tapped the full potential of land productivity on our existing plantations within our shores. We have the experience, expertise, books, knowledge from articles, conference proceedings written by senior planters and researchers who have come and gone and existing planting materials capable of producing 40 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches or more and yet, we still have yield stagnation.

Basically, we, being in the industry for so long, know what needs to be done to close the gap i.e. managing our human resources to bring out their best to excel in whatever they do to achieve the desired result by putting in the GMP and GAP.

This is easier said than done. The important point is we can get it done; and we must if we want to sustain our business on our existing land within our shores for many years to come for the betterment of our nation and future generations.

A PRACTICAL PLANTER,
Subang Jaya.



SOURCE: UN Food and Agriculture Organization

The yield issue



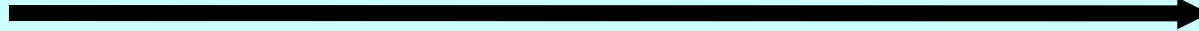
Soybean/Canola/Sunflower:
0.5 T/ha



Oil palm: **3 to 10 T/ha**
Potentially < 20 T/ha

Getting from A to B

A



B

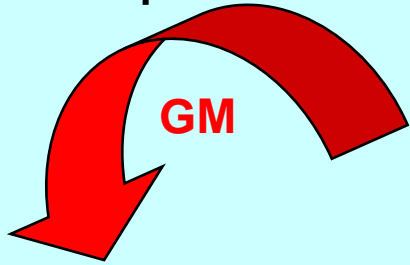
Low yield semi-
improved OP

New high yield
improved OP

How do we do it?

Getting from A to B

Genes from other species



A

Low yield semi-improved OP



Biotechnologies for OP improvement

F1 hybrids

Mass propagation

Genomics

Mutagenesis/TILLING

Genetic engineering (GM)

B

New high yield improved OP

Non-GM



Genes from OP accessions

Genes from other species

Getting from A to B

GM

Some target traits/genes

A

Low yield semi-improved OP

Height
Oil yield
Oleic acid
Lipase
Disease resistance
Stalk length
High vitamin A, E

Biotechnologies for OP improvement

F1 hybrids

Mass propagation

Genomics

Mutagenesis/TILLING

Genetic engineering (GM)

B

New high yield improved OP

Non-GM

Genes from OP accessions

Genes from other species

Getting from A to B

GM

These targets will be most efficiently achieved via PPPs and NSPs, while maintaining local ownership of key technologies and bioresources

Low yield improved

High yield improved OP

Disease resistance

Stalk length

High vitamin A, E

Mutagenesis/TILLING
Genetic engineering (GM)

Non-GM

Genes from OP accessions

Facilitating PPPs

- Plantation companies have input into public R&D (**PAC**)
- Plantation companies also do their own R&D (**μprop**)
- Public sector outsources aspects of R&D to local & international hi-tech service providers (**genome sequencing/informatics**)
- Public sector works with SMEs to commercialize R&D (**Bt spray, hi-value antioxidants**)
- Public sector mediates with global community on topics such as GMOs and environment/sustainability agendas

Improving crop management

- It can be a major challenge to translate biological improvements into reality on all plantations (commercial & smallholder)
- Management of plantations – disseminating best practice, improving extension services, re-skilling labour force
- Implementation of best practice in propagation, husbandry, harvesting, and processing of the crop
- Underperformance in this area is shown by the relative stagnation of average plantation yields at well under 4 t/ha over the past 15 years
- This is despite the development of much higher-yielding genotypes and their effective cultivation by some of the more exemplary growers.

Engaging the private sector

- Should be a key aspect of the mission of public sector R&D bodies
- Private sector includes small and large farmers, service providers, middlemen, food processors, retailers etc – all of whom are stakeholders in agriculture
- Encourage entrepreneurship by R&D providers – including public sector (where appropriate)
- Exchange staff via public/private secondment schemes

Conclusions

- **In order to confront the challenges of 21st century agriculture, breeders need to use all available tools and modalities of crop improvement/management**
- **Many private sector technologies are providing new tools for crop improvement**
- **The private sector can also benefit from public sector involvement in opening up new markets and in facilitating dialogues with global bodies**
- **PPPs are best viewed as win-win enterprises that are relevant to all sectors and scales of agriculture from global multinationals to small farmers and local SMEs**

**Thank you for
your attention**