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**Norman Borlaug**

**Overview:**

Norman Borlaug (1914-2009) was an American agronomist known as the “Father of the Green Revolution,” who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. Borlaug grew up on a small farm in Iowa before graduating from the University of Minnesota with a PhD in plant pathology. Then, he worked in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation and Mexico hoping to assist struggling farmers who were facing diseased and low producing crops. During his time there he explored crossbreeding wheat varieties and developed semi dwarf wheat which resisted stem rust, grew anywhere, and produced high yields of high-quality grain. He brought the strain to India, Pakistan, and a variety of other countries that were facing rapid population growth. His wheat was a key technological advancement that allowed The Green Revolution to take off. By many, Borlaug is credited with saving millions of lives from starvation and death.

Borlaug’s work has also received significant critique due to its environmental, cultural, and political costs. The Green Revolution has become the gateway into the modern-day food system, one that depends on large quantities of high yield crops, fertilizers, and industrialized processes. The positive and negative implications of Borlaug’s work can be felt across the globe today and are visible in grocery store aisles and massive protests in India, both of which live in the shadow of the Green Revolution.

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