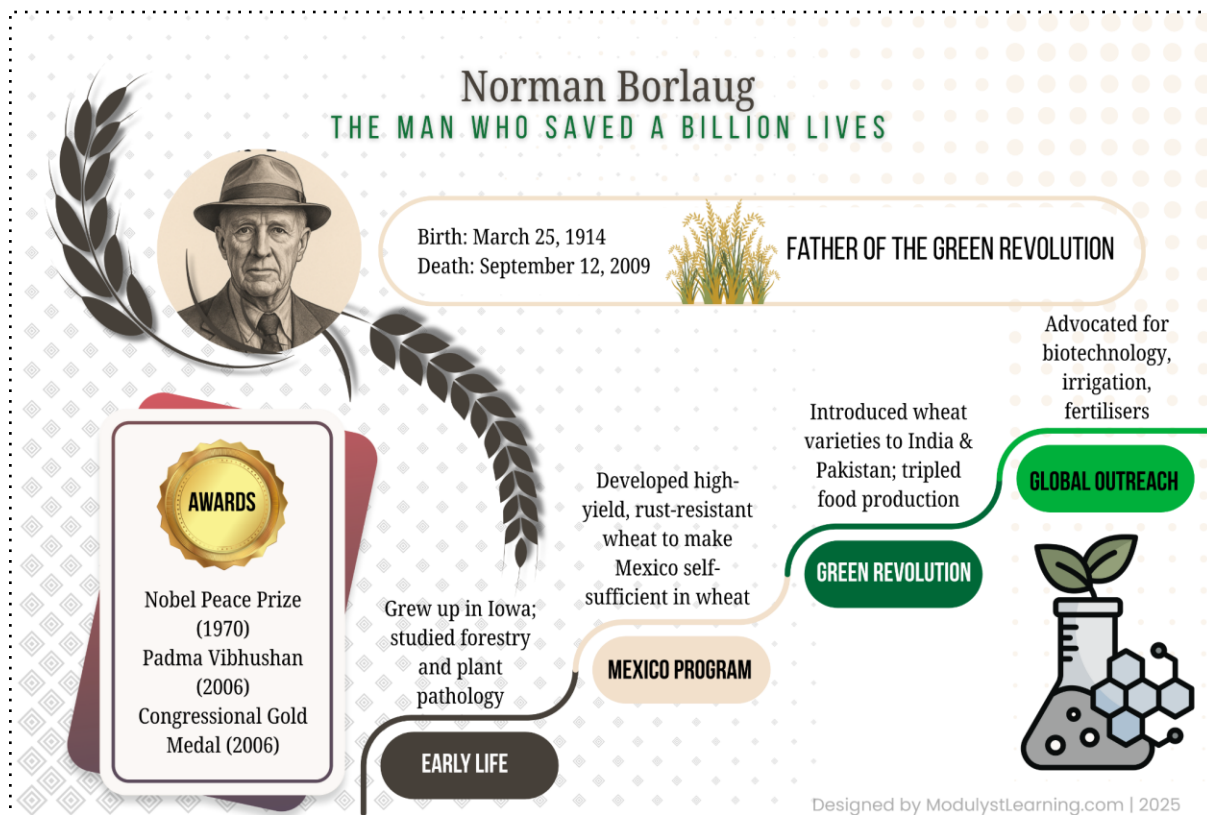


NORMAN BORLAUG



1. Norman Ernest Borlaug was born on March 25, 1914, and died on September 12, 2009. He was an American agronomist, plant pathologist, and humanitarian. His nicknames include "Father of the Green Revolution" and "Man Who Saved a Billion Lives."
2. He received Cresco, Iowa, from Norwegian American farmers. Growing up on a farm influenced his interest in agriculture and food production. His educational background includes:
 - B.Sc. in Forestry (1937) from the University of Minnesota
 - Later pursued M.Sc. (1940) and PhD (1942) in Plant Pathology and Genetics, specialising in rust diseases in wheat
3. His work in Mexico spanned from 1944 to the 1960s, during which he was involved in the Cooperative Mexican Agricultural Program (CMAP), backed by the Rockefeller Foundation. The program's goal was to improve wheat yields and combat crop diseases in Mexico. The key achievements –
 - Developed high-yielding, semi – dwarf, disease-resistant wheat varieties

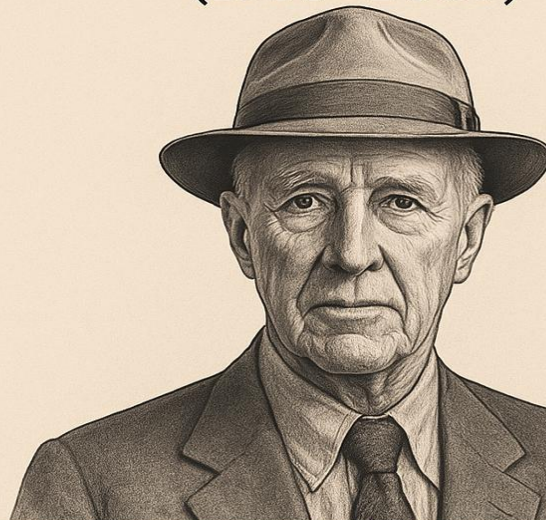
- Introduced shuttle breeding (growing crops in different locations/seasons to increase adaptability)
 - By 1963, Mexico became self-sufficient in wheat production
4. He participated in the Green Revolution from the 1960s to the 1980s, bringing his wheat varieties to India and Pakistan, both of which faced severe food shortages. Later, Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and agronomist M.S. Swaminathan invited him to discuss crop failures. The results include –
 - Wheat production in India and Pakistan tripled within a few years
 - The famines were averted, and these nations became food secure. This period is called the Green Revolution – a global agricultural transformation.
 5. He also had an international role, promoting agricultural innovations across Africa—particularly in Sub-Saharan regions—as well as in China and Latin America. He supported genetic engineering, chemical fertilizers, irrigation, and scientific methods to address hunger.
 6. His awards and honors include the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for promoting global peace through food security. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the USA in 1977, a civilian honor. In 2006, he received the Congressional Gold Medal in the USA for his lifelong achievements, and the same year, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor. In 1986, he helped establish the World Food Prize to honor food innovators.
 7. He believed that science and political action could solve hunger and starvation. He criticized both environmental extremists and political inaction, promoting a balanced development approach. He saw biotechnology, like GMOs, as crucial for future food security. While endorsing sustainable farming, he prioritized feeding the population.
 8. He was not a particularly notable author of books, but he did publish several research papers. Several biographies focus on –
 - “The Man Who Fed The World” by Leon Hesser
 - “Norman Borlaug: The Man Who Saved More Lives Than Any Other” by Noel Vietmeyer
 9. He was honored for saving over 1 billion lives from starvation. His work laid the foundation for higher cereal crop yields, global food policy reforms, and progress in agro-biotechnology. Several institutions are named after him.

- The Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University, along with the Des Moines-based World Food Prize Foundation, honors his legacy. Many schools, research centers, and awards worldwide are named after him. Critics argue that the Green Revolution caused monoculture, increased chemical use, and harmed soil and water, while favoring wealthy farmers over smallholders. Borlaug was aware of these issues but prioritized fighting hunger as his primary goal.
10. Norman Borlaug transformed global agriculture through the Green Revolution, preventing hunger for over a billion people. Although he faced criticism, his contributions stand as one of the most significant in modern history.



NORMAN BORLAUG

(1914–2009)



EARLY LIFE

- Grew up in Iowa studied forestry and plant pathology

GREEN REVOLUTION

- Tripling food production, prevented famines

MEXICO PROGRAM

- Developed high-yield, rust-resistant wheat
- Mexico became self-sufficient in wheat

AWARDS

- Nobel Peace Prize (1970)
- Padma Vibhukan (2006)
- Congressional Gold Medal (2006)

LEGACY

- “Father of Green Revolution”
- Saved over 1 billion lives

CRITICISM

- Environmental impacts
- Social inequity in food distribution

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