

Crop Genetic Resources of the Mountains of Pakistan

Major Crops

A wide variety of crops are grown in Pakistan, and wheat and rice, among the cereals, and chickpeas, in food legumes, are the principal crops. The areas under cereals and food legumes, in all the four provinces of Pakistan, are given in Tables 1 and 2 (Annex) respectively. It is observed from Table 1 that wheat is the dominant crop, accounting for 66 per cent of the total crop area. Wheat and barley are widespread in the mountain regions and are grown even above 3,000 m. Rice and maize are mostly grown at altitudes under 2,500 m. *Bajra* (millet) and *Jowar* (sorghum) are mainly grown in the plains, but a considerable area of lower hills is also under these crops.

Among the food legumes of Pakistan (Annex, Table 2), the chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) is grown on 71 per cent of the total area. About 26 per cent of the area is used for lentils, *mung* beans, *urd* beans, peas, and *khesari*. The remaining 31 per cent is used for other legumes such as dry beans, fava beans, pigeon peas, cowpeas, and moth beans. The peas, *mung* beans, *urd* beans, lentils and fava beans occupy about 29,000 ha in the mountain regions of Pakistan (Malik 1988). Farmers mainly grow landraces of lentils, fava beans, and peas in the mountain regions.

In Pakistan, different types of fruits are grown over an area of 0.43 million ha (Anonymous 1986). Tropical fruits such as citrus fruits, guavas, bananas, and mangoes etc, are mainly grown in the warm plains. However, citrus and guava are also grown in the low to middle mountains. The temperate fruits, such as apples, pears, apricots, walnuts, peaches, plums, grapes, and almonds, are grown mainly in the middle to high mountains of Pakistan. The areas where different fruits are grown in various provinces of Pakistan are shown in Table 3 (Annex).

Minor Crop Resources (High Mountain Crops)

In addition to the major food crops some minor cereal crops are also grown in the mountains (Annex, Table 4). Foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), common millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), barnyard millet (*Echinochloa frumentacea*), oats (*Avena spp.*), amaranthus (*Amaranthus spp.*), and buckwheat (*Fagopyrum spp.*) are cultivated as relict crops in the high mountain regions of Pakistan (Anwar et al. 1987). These crops have been grown in the mountains for centuries. Besides these crops, there is a potential for producing medicinal crops in the mountains. Substantial quantities of the following medicinal crops grow in the mountainous regions.

Local NameBotanical Name*Kanis**Sioscorea deltoidea**Bankari**Podophyllum emodi**Ban javain**Thymus serphyllum**Revand chini**Rheum emodi**Mamekh**Paeonia emodi**Afsantine**Artemisia maritana**Afune**Papaver spp.*