

Genetic Resources' Perspective

In view of the catastrophic loss of crop genetic variability in the centres of diversity (particularly developing countries), a regional project, "Exploration, Collection, Conservation, and Evaluation of Plant Genetic Resources," was initiated during 1974 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in the Near East. Six countries - Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Turkey - were covered by the Project. To provide a counterpart contribution to the regional effort, a national research programme on "Plant Genetic Resources in Pakistan" was approved by the Government and started in 1977, under the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The exploration and collection of crop genetic resources, conservation of native genetic stock, and preliminary evaluation and distribution of crop germplasm to the user community, within the

country and abroad, were the major objectives of the Plant Genetic Resources' Programme. The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad, extends its full cooperation to the international project for the collection of native crop genetic resources in the country. Foreign nationals who desire to collect these resources should follow certain procedures and these have been outlined below.

- Inform the Plant Genetic Resources' Programme, PARC, at least six months before the exploration trip.
- Send a copy of the biodata of each participant. This is essentially required for clearance from the Government of Pakistan.
- The Pakistani Government's permission for participant(s) to travel to the interior of the country should be obtained by PARC.
- All the material collected during the expedition should be divided into two equal parts and one part handed over to the Plant Genetic Resources' Programme, PARC.