

Exploration Activities

Exploration for crop germplasm commenced during the early 70s in Pakistan. About 900 accessions of rice germplasm were collected by the PARC from the Punjab and Sind provinces, through a research scheme known as "Collection of Rice Germplasm in Pakistan and its Evaluation". The Plant Genetic Resources' Programme (PGRP) started exploration activities in 1981, after the establishment of the PGR Laboratory and the Genebank. Different agro-ecological regions in the country were explored for crop genetic diversity.

The following germplasm collection expeditions were organized and undertaken by the PGRP, PARC :

<u>Name of Expedition</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Region Explored</u>	<u>Samples</u>
Cereal Crops' germplasm	1981	Baluchistan	794
Fruit germplasm	1982	Baltistan	96
Chickpea germplasm	1982	Sind & Punjab	660
Cereals' germplasm	1982	Azad Kashmir	136
Vigna germplasm	1982	Punjab	419
Fruit crops	1983	Northern Areas	227
Lentil germplasm	1983	Punjab	212
Vegetables' germplasm	1983	Northern Areas	80

Cereal germplasm	1983	NWFP, Punjab, & A.K.	79
Rice germplasm	1984	NWFP	144
Chickpeas & lentils	1985	Sind & Punjab	356
Rice germplasm	1985	Baluchistan	200
<i>Aegilops</i> & Wheat germplasm	1986	Baluchistan	105
Wheat germplasm	1986	Northern Areas	150
Fruit germplasm	1987	NWFP & Azad Kashmir	205
Rice germplasm	1987	Sind	205
Minor cereal germplasm	1988	Northern Areas	250
Fruit & nut species	1988	NWFP, Northern Areas	300

The germplasms collected during the expedition were preserved in the Genebank at the PARC. In addition to preservation in the country, duplicate samples were supplied to international institutions and genebanks for conservation and utilization.

International Collaborations

The PGRP of the PARC, Islamabad, is the only institution in Pakistan responsible for conservation, exploration, and distribution of crop genetic resources. Due to the limited budget of the programme, most of the germplasm collection expeditions were supported by the IBPGR and other international institutions. The following germplasms were collected in collaboration with different international organizations.

<u>Name of Expedition</u>	<u>Collaborating Agency</u>
Wheat germplasm from Baluchistan.	SVP, Netherlands
Cereal germplasm from the NWFP, Punjab.	Academy of Agri. Science, China
Chickpea germplasm from Sind & Punjab.	ICARDA, Syria
<i>Aegilops</i> & wheat from Baluchistan.	ICARDA, Syria

Wheat germplasm from Northern Areas.

ICARDA, Syria

Minor cereals from the Northern Areas.

Kyoto Univ. Japan.

Fruits from NWFP, A.Kashmir, & N.A.

OSU/USDA, USA.