

SUMMARY

The collection, introduction, maintenance, multiplication and description of Vigna and Cajanus germplasm

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The objectives are to acquire, conserve, multiply and describe germplasm of Cajanus cajan, Vigna unguiculata and Vigna subterranea for the development of cultivars (forage, pulse and vegetable) suitable for low input agriculture.

A collection trip has been planned and prepared for March 1994 (p. 7). Four wild ecotypes were, however, collected in South Africa (3) and Tanzania (1) while conducting other work.

By means of plant introduction eight (p. 5) short and medium duration C. cajan accessions were obtained from ICRISAT (India). The V. unguiculata collection was expanded (p. 6) by combining RGI and IGGC germplasm and by introducing 207 new accessions. This material (domesticated and wild) enhances resistance to drought, leaf blight, nematodes and plant parasites. No progress was made with the introduction of V. subterranea (p. 6).

The new accessions have been processed and placed in the gene bank (p. 8) and germplasm available before PRAC funding has been multiplied (p. 8).

Description trials have been planned (p. 9-11) and will be planted during October and November 1993. The results should be available for the 1994 progress report.

The acquired material is intended for the development of cultivars by means of evaluation and breeding. The PRAC has been approached for funding of these intended projects.

Once the required material has been assembled and the variation described it is intended to publish the results in International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) publications (e.g. Directory of Germplasm Collections, Geneflow and Genetic Resources Newsletter).