



The PHASELIEU project

The PHASELIEU project (Improvement of sustainable *Phaseolus* production in Europe for human consumption, FAIR5-PL97-3463) developed under the FAIR Program of the European Union was born in 1998.

The overall aim of PHASELIEU was to coordinate the ongoing research on *Phaseolus* and to elaborate and integrated strategy model for the improvement of *Phaseolus* production in Europe for human consumption. Also, this project would like to avoid the duplication of current research and other RTD activities at national and transnational level on *Phaseolus*.

Therefore, the strategic aims of the project are the following ones, concerning to the organization and management of research and development in *Phaseolus*:

- * The **establishment of an EU wide network of experts** in order to exchange and disseminate the knowledge and expertise regarding the issues concerned. This includes also the exchange of genetic material within the participating groups and other outside the network.
- * The **organization of thematic workshops-group meetings**, as open as possible, in order to discuss specific subjects, to develop an integrative strategy model approach, and, on the basis of this model, to prepare follow-up research proposals to develop joint shared cost project in *Phaseolus* improvement.
- * The **publication of several scientific and technical documents** such as: a) progress and final reports, b) scientific and technical articles, c) handbooks and catalogues and d) contribution in international conferences. It is planned to publish all of them both as hardcopy version, electronic one in Internet and CD-ROM.
- * The **scientific exchange as training visits** are one of the aspects of the project. There will be two kinds of exchange visits among laboratories: 1) short visits, like targeted restricted meeting and 2) visits, for technology transfer and diffusion of information notably for younger scientist. First year all of them will be focused in genetic variability, cropping systems and diversification and quality analysis. During the following years (with the agreement required from the Commission) the subject of the visits will be focused in transferring expertise on biotical and abiotic stresses, molecular markers, regeneration and transformation and breeding.

Eleven european countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom) and thirteen partners participated in the PHASELIEU project (the list of PHASELIEU participants is included). Also, well known scientific institutions such as International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP), and “Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical” (CIAT) supported PHASELIEU project as linked organizations.



PREFACE

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The initiative of the PHASELIEU project partners to prepare a catalogue of common bean genetic resources responds to the basic need of *Phaseolus* germplasm users to know what genetic material is available and where it is conserved. Good quality information on the status of the European germplasm collections is essential to maintain a high level of collaboration within the region and to permit an effective conservation and use of genetic resources.

It seems useful to mention here a number of existing sources where information on genetic resources of *Phaseolus* can be found:

- The IPGRI directory of germplasm collections (<http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org/germplasm/dbintro.htm>) offers summary information on *ex situ* germplasm collections worldwide. The data include contact information on organizations holding germplasm and on the type of germplasm, that is maintained, such as: species names, number of accessions per species, type of accessions, etc.
- The European *Phaseolus* Database (<http://www.agrobio.bmlf.gv.at/phaseolus>) was established on the initiative of the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) in 1995. It is maintained by the Federal Office of Agrobiological Sciences in Linz, Austria. The database contains passport data of over 30.000 accessions representing the *Phaseolus* collections of 20 European contributors. The structure of the database follows the IPGRI/FAO Multicrop descriptors list.
- The CGIAR System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) (<http://singer2.cgiar.org>) links the genetic resources information systems of the individual CGIAR Centres around the world, allowing them to be accessed and searched collectively. SINGER contains key data on the identity, source, characteristics and transfers to users of more than 27.000 *Phaseolus* accessions held in the Centres' genebanks.

The main contribution that the present catalogue adds to the existing sources of information can be outlined as follows:

- It is an update of the summary information available from the IPGRI directory.
- It offers new information, by listing relevant bibliography and some collection highlights of immediate interest for breeders.
- It brings to light a number of collection holdings previously not recorded in the existing databases.

This snapshot of the *Phaseolus* germplasm conserved in Europe in the early 2001, though limited by the different level of response to the questionnaire, is expected to be useful both as a catalogue for immediate consultation and as a reference for further development of a comprehensive information system on *Phaseolus* genetic resources in Europe. This general objective can only benefit from all the complementary initiatives such as this PHASELIEU catalogue.



Introduction

One of the tasks of the PHASELIEU project was to elaborate a “**CATALOGUE OF BEAN GENETIC RESOURCES**”. Therefore, as a first step in this job, the PHASELIEU coordinators (partner 1) elaborated a survey which was presented to the PHASELIEU partners in the FIFTH PHASELIEU WORKSHOP in Hannover-Germany (October 21-22, 2000) to get their suggestions and their approval.

“The Questionnaire Sheet Form” was one of the results of this meeting. Thereby, this survey was sent to everybody who keeps any collection of *Phaseolus* beans and/or is involved in *Phaseolus* bean germplasm and breeding in Europe. Additionally, information was requested from all the european BIC (Bean Improvement Cooperative) members (*the Bean Improvement Cooperative (BIC) is a voluntary and informal organization to effect the exchange of information and materials for the improvement of bean production worldwide. Members include scientists, students, private organizations and lay-people interested in bean research*).

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The editors of this Catalogue got information from many researches who are involved in *Phaseolus* bean germplasm and breeding. Likewise, some public organizations/institutions did not answer the survey. Therefore, for the institutions to which the editors did not have any data, they were compiled from:

Maggioni, L., M. Ambrose, R. Schachl and E. Lipman, compilers. 2000. Report of a Working Group on Grain Legumes, Second meeting, 1-3 October 1998, Norwich, United Kingdom. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

About ninety surveys were delivered by e-mail, fax and ordinary mail to different European countries. Five months later it is a pleasure to present this catalogue as a task that it was well done.

Finally the Editors thank to the Fundación Pedro Barrié de la Maza for giving financial support to the edition of this book.

Pontevedra (Spain), February 2001

The Editors,

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