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VEGETABLE PLANT CROPPING: DEVELOPING THE UNIVERSITY SEEDBANK

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Abstract: Present study is aimed at the enrichment of food and heirloom common bean and pumpkin resources based on unique domestic germplasm completed by the range of other genetic stocks from Russia, Japan, China, USA and EU countries.

In 2008-2010 overall more than 80 common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris L.*) varieties (e.g. "Ufimskaya", "Bijchanka", "Cornell", "Laura", "Vegetable Sack'es", Russia; "Dove", "Scarlet Emperor", UK; "Pinto", "Red Goya", "Camelia", USA; "Igolinska", "Bomba", "Otrel" and "Malinka", Poland) originating from different countries have been introduced to the mountain area of Almaty Region and partly submitted to the Institute of Potato and Vegetables Research. These cultivars manifested proper seed maturity despite a severe affect of late drought. In addition, eight azuki bean varieties, as well as few broad bean (*Vicia faba L.*) and lentil—cultivars (*Lens culinaris L.*), have been trialed under likely water-deficient conditions. Interestingly, comparison of the Russian and the Japanese azuki bean resources has indicated the best accessions with highest yields in the mountain zone. Despite relatively moderate germination rates, some of these cultivars have shown high thermostability and drought tolerance. Azuki harvesting in the same zone has demonstrated belated leaf vegetation and delayed onset of the anthesis and pod formation. This has led to a repeated or "wavy" flowering in hot and dry climate conditions.

Biodiversity and breeding research on food and heirloom pumpkins, *Cucurbita pepo* L. has been initiated at our department in 2010. This vegetable may be used for delicious dishes, roasted seeds, glowing jack-o'-lanterns and soil amelioration. Our collection presently includes local, Chinese. French, Russian and Italian species. Apart from prospective proposing new joint projects on beans and taking into account numerous reports on nutritional value of food and heirloom pumpkins, we may develop related joint pumpkin research as possibly commercial projects.