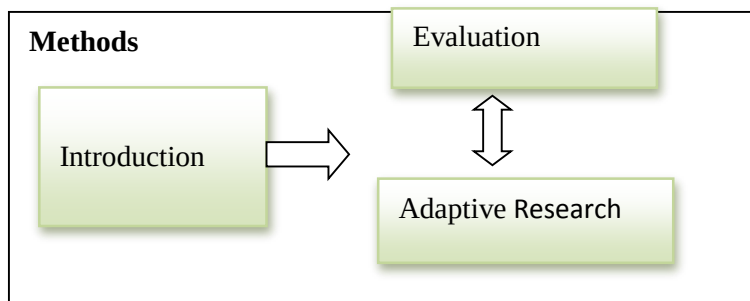


Introduction

- Together with rice, maize, wheat and oilseeds, pulses are considered as one of the most important field crops of Bhutan.
- However, the country imports more than 60% of its pulse requirement, mostly from India.
- Being major sources of nutrients such as proteins and essential amino acids, pulses constitute an important ingredient of Bhutanese food and calorific value.
- It is considered as the most versatile crop as it fits well into different cropping systems and crop combinations. Further, it is grown as low cost bio-fertilizer source as it is known to fix N through symbiotic nitrogen fixation.
- Some of the major pulses grown in Bhutan includes mungbean, rajma bean, soybean, urd bean, pigeon pea, lentils and chicken pea. The country's pulse production is just about 3500 t (DoA, 2010).
- With people's increase in income level and awareness on health, pulses consumption in Bhutan is expected to increase drastically in the near future. This poster gives an overview of pulse research and development in Bhutan.

Methods



Objective

- To popularize pulses as an important food source
- To diversify crops benefiting both human health and environment

Result and Discussion

- Research on pulses dates back to as early as 1980s, and so far the country has released 12 varieties of three major pulses (Figure 1).
- Area under cultivation and production of pulses are low but over the last few years, there has been growing interest and more evaluation trial works on French bean, mungbean, lentils, and urd beans (Table 1).
- Currently the yields are also quite low but with greater emphasis on research and improvement in extension system, the yields could be increased.

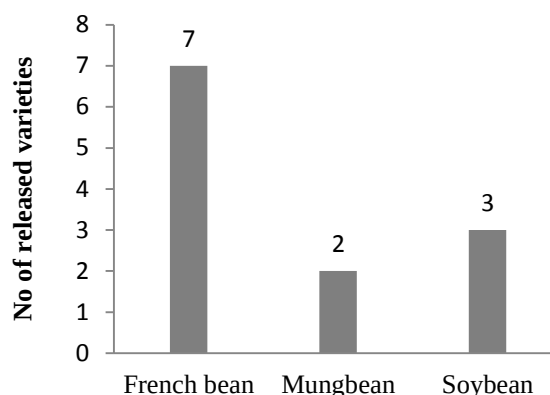


Figure 1. Three most popular pulses grown in

Table 1. Current pulses varieties under trial

Sl.No	Urd bean	Mung bean	French bean	Lentil
1	Uttara	Meha	Arun	Sheetal
2	NDU-1	Samrat	Hur 15	Simal
		Hum 1, Hum 12, Hum 16		
3	Pant U-40	Pant Mung 5	PDR 14	Mahesh Bharati
4	Pant u-31	IPM 16, IPM 19	Utkarsh	
5	IPU-2002-1	Saptari Local	VL 125	
6	IPU-2002-2	Prateksha		
7	BLG-0067-1			
Yield (t/ha)	2.45	2.60	4.20	3.60

Conclusions

- Currently, Pulse production in Bhutan is not significant and there lies tremendous potential for enhanced production.
- With increasing demand due to its nutritive values, and soil enrichment services, both the area and production of pulses in Bhutan is expected to double within the next few years.
- Though, there are not many varieties and types of pulses grown by the farmers, our international/national linkages will help us in improving R and D in pulses.

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