Shands, H.L., Weisner, L.E. (ed.): **Use of Plant Introductions in Cultivar Development. Part 2.** (CSSA Special Publication Number 20.) - Crop Science Society of America, Madison 1992. 166 + XVII pp.

The lack of adequate genetic diversity is often the cause of a yield barrier or an unsatisfactory stress tolerances in many crops. Increasing genetic diversity of a crop is thus highly desirable; and in most cases, plant breeders take advantage of exotic germplasm, either introduced foreign cultivars, or wild plant accessions.

The book contains a series of papers presented at a symposium held at the CSSA annual meeting at San Antonio in October 1990. Proceedings of this symposium (a second one on this subject) include review articles on the use of plant introductions in cultivar breeding of several crops of importance to U.S. agriculture: common bean, new industrial crops, food legumes of the temperate zone (pea, lentil, Faba bean, chickpea, grasspea) peanut, sugarbeet, sugarcane and sunflower.

The authors usually describe the history of individual crops breeding and characterize the status of germplasm collections and of its use in cultivar improvement. In many cases, the reader will find comprehensive surveys of disease, pest and other stress resistance sources found in introduced germplasm. He will be also informed of the use of exotic germplasm in hybrid development (especially in sunflower and sugarbeet) as well as of the role of introduced germplasm resources in breeding commercial cultivars.

Special attention was paid to "new" industrial crops (though some of them were new several decades ago), such as *Parthenium argentatum* (rubber producer), *Hibiscus cannabinus* (now for paper pulp production), *Cyamopsis tetragonolobus* (pulse, legume and forage crop), and many oilseed crops (*Simmondsia chinensis, Limnanthes alba, Crambe abissinica, Cuphea* spp., *Lesquerella* spp., *Vernonia galamensis* and others, including industrial rapeseed (*Brassica napus, B. rapa*).

This publication could be very useful for plant breeder, because it supplies him with a lot of knowledge of different germplasm sources, of their part in commercial cultivar improvement and also of the future trends in their use. Besides, this book can be of interest for advanced agronomy and plant genetics students. But, above all, it is indispensable for plant germplasm scientists participating in and contributing to international programmes and projects.

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