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#### MANUAL OF LEGUME CROPS

At the invitation of Mr. R. M. Polhill, I am endeavoring to assemble contributions from taxonomic specialists, editorial comments from generalists, and personal communications from area specialists, all consolidated into a framework to serve as a basis for a proposed MANUAL OF LEGUME CROPS. For the past five years, the Plant Taxonomy Laboratory of the Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute, USDA, Beltsville, Maryland, has been compiling fact sheets on crops and potential crops of the world, aided materially by collaboration with Dr. Clyde F. Reed, Reed Herbarium, Baltimore, Maryland. For data that is otherwise difficult to obtain, we resorted to a Phytomass Questionnaire. Respondents returned the filled-in questionnaire with checklists of crops they grow, and their more common weeds and/or legumes.

I seek generalists and specialists interested in participating in our collaborative effort, which we hope will lead to a useful and accurate MANUAL OF LEGUME CROPS. We hope to treat somewhere between 100 and 250 of the more important economic legumes with emphasis on food, fiber, drug, and chemurgic legumes, possibly on fodder, forage, and manure legumes. I will be coordinating this work rather carefully with the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' A SURVEY OF TROPICAL LEGUMES under the direction of Dr. Noel Vietmeyer.

Many of you no doubt have new information that should be included. We need to include, in the new manual, information of interest to germplasm collections! Where are sources of various tolerances? We need to learn how much firewood a tree produces a year, how much nitrogen, if any, it fixes. How much methanol or ethanol could we produce from stands of a given legume on a sustainable basis? What is its potential as a leaf-protein source? I hope that, with your help, the proposed manual can answer these and many other questions germane to modern man.

Please let me know if you would like to receive and review the first draft writeups. More importantly, if you would like to prepare a first draft in our format on certain legumes, we would welcome that.