



Legume-cropping and research needs in India

Parthiba Basu¹, Soumik Chatterjee¹ and Barbara Smith³

1. Centre for Agroecology and Pollination Studies, University of Calcutta, India
2. CAWR, Coventry University, UK

E-mail: bparthib@gmail.com

Being the second most populous country, **India** is one of the largest **pulse** consuming countries and pulses are an integral part of Indian diet. However, paradox lies in the fact that it is also one of the largest importer of pulses and at the same time exports too. The productivity of pulses is at least 30 - 40% less than the global average as legume cropping is faced with several bottlenecks. A **perception survey** among farming community revealed that water access, availability of quality seed, poor profit margin and lack of supporting technical knowledge to be the major **limiting factors**. This is perhaps the result of years of apathy and negligence of the state in promoting legume production system while investing huge resources to cereal production e.g. rice and wheat. Apart from improving the **nutritional status** of the marginal poor pulses also have the potential to significantly improve the **ecological health** of the agricultural landscape. Although as evidenced by our survey, the farmers appreciate this, there is little focus within the agri-research system in India to investigate this linkage. There is wide scope in integration and expansion of legume crops in the Indian farming system.