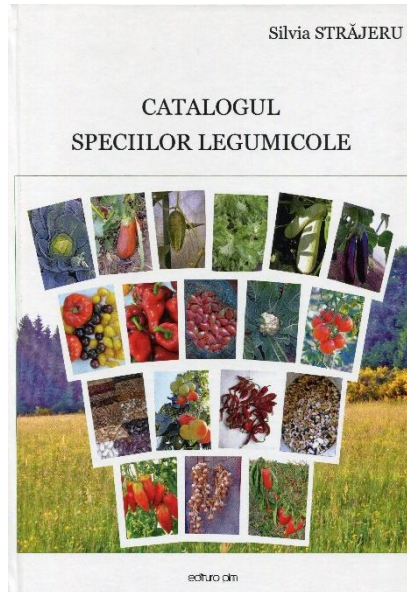


BOOK REVIEW

SILVIA STRĂJERU, *Catalogul speciilor legumicole [Catalogue of vegetable species]*, 2018, PIM Publishing House, Iași, 180 p, ISBN 978-606-13-4639-4.



The preservation of agro-biodiversity genetic resources, of the wild genitors and regionally and locally cultivated varieties is of great importance for humankind, both in terms of their role as sources of food, condiments, fodder, fuel, textile fibres, bioactive compounds for the medical and pharmaceutical industries, traditional medicine, but also for their potential as genetic material for developing new and improved varieties with higher productivity and adapted to various climatic conditions, being at the same time a crucial component of social and cultural values.

One of the most efficient and safest way to preserve these resources is using *ex situ* conservation methods of genotypes with different origins within Gene Banks, under strict and controlled conditions. In Romania, the activities regarding this aspect started with the first breeding attempts, but is not until 1990 that a real gene bank was founded by PhD engineer Mihai Cristea in Suceava. The extensive collections of this institution, which include traditional varieties and national/international new created cultivars, represent an important source of material for scientific research in various fields: agriculture, plant breeding, biotechnology etc.

With this volume, the author, Silvia Străjeru, Scientific Researcher and Director of the Suceava Plant Genetic Resources Bank “Mihai Cristea” presents the valuable inventory of the plant species and cultivars managed by three major Romanian entities involved in the preservation of cultivated vegetal germplasm: Suceava Plant Genetic Resources Bank “Mihai Cristea”, Bacău Vegetable Research and Development Station and Dăbuleni Research and Development Station for Plants Grown on Sandy Soils.

The volume is divided into three different parts. The first part presents the significance of passport descriptors that characterize every entry, the FAO codes for the

country/institute of origin and a theoretical presentation regarding the definition and classification of the vegetable species, their importance and, for every species, the main vegetal organ used for alimentary purposes.

The second part represents the actual inventory of the 97 species, subspecies and varieties of vegetables (Dicotyledonatae and Monocotyledonatae), with 6.828 entries, alphabetically ordered and accompanied by relevant and specific data regarding the popular name (in Romanian and English), origin and unique identification code. The highest number of cultivars belong to *Phaseolus* sp. (beans, kidney beans, dwarf beans, runner beans,) 3.357 entries, followed by *Vicia* sp. (faba beans, horse beans, tick beans) with 806 entries, *Capsicum* sp. (peppers, round peppers, long peppers, bell peppers, hot peppers) with 406 entries and *Solanum lycopersicon* (tomatoes, cherry tomatoes) with 345 varieties.

The third part includes 17 maps illustrating the origin of the main landraces described in the catalogue and a selection of 147 photographs of the fruits and seeds of cultivars listed in the Catalogue.

Through this volume, the author presents to the public the extensive and valuable collections of vegetable species preserved in three major Romanian institutions that activate in the field of *ex situ* conservation and development of cultivated plant varieties, which represent an important source for further research activities and also an essential part of our national cultural and historical legacy.

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