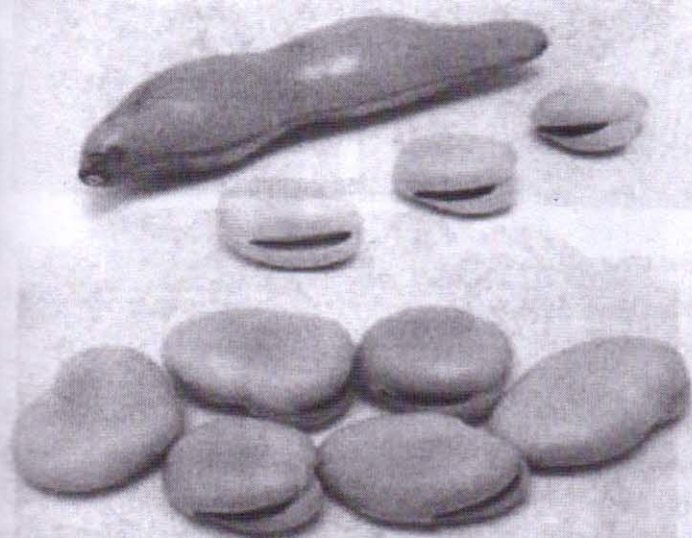


DOUBLE BEAN:

A Potential Pulse Crop For Hilly Regions

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Fresh green bean



Dried

Fresh and dried edible parts of double bean

Double Bean is an annual legume crop known botanically as *Vicia faba* L. The crop is known by many names such as faba bean (*Vicia faba*) Broad bean, Horse bean, Windsor bean, Tick beans (small types), Bakela (Ethopia), Boby kurmouvje (Russia), Faveira (Portugal) Ful masri (Sudan) Feve (French) and Yeshil Bakla (Turkey). In India in Hindi it is popularly know Kala Matar and Bakala as well. The Chinese used them for food almost 5,000 years ago, and the Egyptians 3,000 years ago, the Hebrews in biblical times, and a little later by the Greeks and Romans. Double bean is presently grown on 2.5 million ha of land globally, with Central and East Asia contributing 36% and Sub-Saharan Africa about 21% of the total area under double bean cultivation. China is the major producer of the double bean with 60% of the production, and other important producers are northern Europe, the Mediterranean, Ethiopia, Central Asia, East Asia and Latin America. Egypt is the world's largest importer of double beans and its annual requirement is 4.8-5.2 lakh tonnes accounting for more than half of global imports.

In India, double bean is cultivated over a considerable area particularly in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu Kashmir, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, etc. The area under double bean crop is very less in India and it is still categorized under minor and underutilized crops. In India it is categorized as an underutilized and still not fully exploited crop. Its green pod is mainly used as vegetables and also the dry cotyledons which is a good source of protein (lysine). It is one of the best crops that can be used as green manure and a best bio factory for fixing atmospheric nitrogen. It can be grown in diverse agro-climatic conditions. Productivity of this crop is very low in India in comparison to other country. It is an important crop in other parts of the world and has huge potential to increase the production and productivity in India for local consumption and also for export.

This crop is more tolerant to biotic and abiotic stress and needs minimum input. The crop is tolerant to drought stress because it produces more amount of proline, an amino acid, during stress conditions which improves the stress tolerant ability of the plant and speedy recovery thereafter. But it also