



World List of Seed Sources: FAO plant materials search engine

ECHO Asia Notes

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By Rick Burnette

Director, ECHO Asia Regional Office

The ECHO Asia Regional Office regularly receives inquiries concerning sources of crop seeds and seedlings. While pleased to assist regional partners in locating plant materials, we would also like to recommend the WORLD LIST of SEED SOURCES, a free on-line search engine offered by the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The search engine lists over 200 countries and territories and more than 350 crops of practically every description (including forest species, medicinal and industrial crops, and the soil inoculant *Rhizobium*). The site is a good place to start with regard to locating potential sources of plant materials.

For example, if you are curious about the availability of soybean seed in Mongolia, you can begin your search by clicking on the following web link,

<http://www.fao.org/scripts/wlss/query/wlsscroe.idc?function=form>.

The resulting page contains two boxes where you can select the country of interest and the desired crop. By selecting “Mongolia” and “soybean,” a second page offers the following result:

SHIM Research and Production Co. Ltd.

Central P.O. Box 181 Ulaanbaatar

Fax: (1) 359001

MONGOLIA

For “Thailand” and “pigeon pea” the result is:

Chia Tai Agricultural Promotion Co.

299-301 Songsawad Road Bangkok

Phone: 233-8191

Fax: (662) 237-1540

Telex: 82015 CHIATAI TH

THAILAND

As I experimented with this search engine, I was not able to locate a Thai source of sunn hemp or sources for a few other reasonable crop/country combinations. But overall, my experimentation with the search engine has yielded a considerable amount of useful information about regional sources of plant materials.