SUMMARY

In the present study twenty five germplasm seed materials of tribal pulses and their wild related species have been collected/procured throughout India either by undertaking periodic field trips or by contacting some Research Organisations/Scientists. The agrobotanical characters have been recorded periodically by raising the crops in the experimental plots of Botanical garden of the Botany Department, Bharathiar University and based on these characters better germplasms have been identified.

Studies on the biochemical and nutritive evaluation have been carried out only for 21 germplasm seed materials. The biochemical and nutritive analyses reveal that the tribal pulses appear to be rich sources of crude protein, crude lipid, minerals like potassium, calcium and iron; amino acids like aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, valine, leucine+ isoleucine, phenylalanine and tyrosine. Besides these good qualities, the tribal pulses consist certain antinutritional factors like free phenols, tannins, L-DOPA, phytohaemagglutinins and trypsin inhibitors. So, the tribal pulses might be effectively and efficiently used only after minimising the ill-effects of the detected and undetected antinutritional factors.
Certain favourable agrobotanical, biochemical and nutritive traits have been identified in the germplasms of *Mucuna pruriens* (Silent Valley), *M. hirsuta*, *M. gigantea*, *Abrus precatorius*, *Canavalia gladiata*, *C. ensiformis*, *Bauhinia purpurea* and *Vigna umbellata* var K 1 and these germplasms may be exploited for improving the growth, yield based parameters and developing resistance against pests and pathogens in the commonly consumed pulses or after suitable trails these germplasms may be popularised for human consumption in developing countries like India to alleviate the widely prevailing protein malnutrition.