Wild progenitors of major crops, primitive populations, and wild relatives of crop species form a wealth of genetic diversity from which to draw sources of adaptation or resistance to environmental factors.

Program: In the United States, with almost no native crop germ plasm, cooperation with other countries for this purpose has been on-going. It is now necessary to examine our total national effort for adequacy in connection with the rapidly increasing scope of the international work and to determine any additional support that is required.

The Use and Management Subcommittee of the US/IBP has participated in the program developed by the IBP international Working Group on Biological Control and will continue to do so. Two projects proposed by the international working group are indicative of the broad framework within which American biologists may develop activities relating to plant gene pools. The projects are "Survey, exploration, assembly, and conservation of genetic stocks" and "Evaluation of plant resources-biology of adaptation." Because of the broad base of genetic variability that would be provided, these activities represent an unusual opportunity for biologists interested in working to preserve genetic stocks.

There has been established, a National Seed Storage Laboratory (NSSL) at Fort Collins, Colorado. While this collection is extensive, there is a need to preserve important genetic marker collections, quality carrying stocks that may be lost in over-emphasis on quantity production, and other biological tools that are in danger of being lost. A program will be developed by the subcommittee by means of a working group on the preservation of genetic stocks.

9. Nutrition

Objective: To accomplish the following:

a. Emphasize investigations of protein supply, to include amino acid balance and protein utilization studies, as well as use of fish products as protein supplement.

b. Encourage broad studies of the role of fatty acids in the nutrition of humans living under different conditions of environment and stress.

c. Study the adaptation of populations to levels of dietary intake different from those considered normal.