

# History of Plant Breeding

## 1.5 Important Historical Events:

- 700 BC - Babylonians and Assyrians pollinated date palm artificially
- 17th century - several varieties of heading lettuce were developed in France
- 1717 - Thomas Fair Child - produced the first artificial hybrid, popularly known as Fair Child's mule, by using carnation with sweet William.
- 1727 - The first plant breeding company was established in France by the vilmorins.
- 1760-1766 - Joseph koelreuter, a German, made extensive crosses in tobacco.
- 1759-1835 – Knight was perhaps the first man to use artificial hybridization to develop several new fruit varieties.
- Le couteur and Shireff used individual plant selections and progeny test to develop some useful cereal varieties.
- 1873 - Work of Patrick Shireff was first published.
- He concluded that only the variation heritable nature responded to selections, and that there variation arose through 'natural sports'
- 1856 - Vilmorin developed the progeny test and used this method successfully in the improvement of sugar beets.
- 1900 - Nilson-Ehle, his associates developed the individual plant selection method in Sweden.
- 1903 - Johannsen proposed the pureline theory that provided the genetic basis for individual plant selection.

- The science of genetics began with the rediscovery of Gregor Johan Mendel's paper in 1900 by Hugo de vries, Tshermak and Correns which was originally published in 1866.

### **1.6 History of plant breeding in India:**

- 1871 – The Government of India created the Department of Agriculture.
- 1905 – The Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was established in Pusa, Bihar.
- 1934 – The buildings of the institute damaged in earthquake.
- 1936 – Shifted to New Delhi.
- 1946 – Name was changed Indian Agricultural Research Institute.
- 1901-05 – Agricultural Colleges were established at Kanpur, Pune, Sabour, Llyalpur, Coimbatore.
- 1929 – Imperial council of Agricultural Research was established.
- 1946 – Name was change to Indian Council Agricultural Research.
- 1921 – Indian Central Cotton Committee was established – Notable researches on breeding and cultivation of cotton. E.g.: 70 improved varieties of cotton.
- 1956 – Project for intensification of regional research on cotton, oilseeds and millets (PIRRCOM) was initiated to intensify research on these crops – located at 17 different centres through out the country.
- 1957 – All India Coordinated maize improvement project was started with objective of exploiting heterosis.
- 1961 - The first hybrid maize varieties released by the project.
- ICAR initiated coordinated projects for improvement of the other crops.
- 1960 – First Agricultural University established at Pantnagar, Nainital, U.P.