Crops For the Future (CFF) is the world’s first centre dedicated to research on underutilised crops. From its headquarters near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, CFF has established an international network of partners to help diversify agriculture beyond the narrow range of crops on which we now depend.

**CropBASE:**
The first global knowledge base for underutilised crops

Today, there is a lack of knowledge and scarcity of data on underutilised crops at the global scale. To access such information, datasets need to be harvested and aligned from local communities around the world and linked to new scientific research using state-of-the-art technologies. Data will play a key role in the future of agriculture as farmers need to make more informed choices, particularly when it comes to decision-making about new cropping options.

Current data models that focus on a ‘business as usual’ approach on major crops will not be sufficient to feed and nourish a growing population on a hotter planet. We must diversify agriculture beyond the narrow range of staple crops on which humanity currently depends. For this, we need innovative data solutions and knowledge systems that provide agricultural diversification opportunities in the climates of the future.
The world’s first global knowledge-base for underutilised crops

CropBASE integrates qualitative and quantitative knowledge on the world’s underutilised crops into decision support systems and user applications. It provides an online and accessible gateway to data from a variety of sources to address challenges faced in the agricultural value chain – from genetics to consumption – for currently underutilised crops that have the potential to be ‘crops for the future’.

Prototype: SELECTCROP Crop Selection Tool

CFF has developed the SELECTCROP tool based on the CropBASE Global Knowledge System for underutilised crops. This tool is designed to help farmers and decision makers select the most suitable crops for their own locations based on the best available information.

SELECTCROP supports dynamic calculation for crop suitability for all locations around the globe based on climate and soil data. With the use of Global Information Systems (GIS) and technologies, SELECTCROP will be expanded to CROPGRIDS. This feature will provide estimates of the suitability of different crops for any polygon on the globe and up to worldwide scale calculation for both current and future scenarios.

Data at your fingertips

At the core of SELECTCROP are nine million data points on over 220 underutilised crops and their potential uses at locations around the world. This allows farmers, researchers and the industry to obtain knowledge and make informed decisions about the cultivation and potential uses of these crops at the click of a button.

Crop suitability at any location

SELECTCROP provides a list of crops for any location and an estimation of crop suitability, yield and income for farmers and investors who want to grow these crops. By entering their specific location, the tool will provide users with potential crops that can grow in their area based on climate suitability and soil characteristics. SELECTCROP has had positive feedback from extension workers and farmers through pilot projects in Malaysia.