Beans are a staple food for millions of people in the region and are by far the most produced pulse, followed by broad beans and lupines.

The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in the Colombian Department of Valle del Cauca, houses the largest quantity of germplasm of bean varieties preserved worldwide.

In countries like Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela, beans are a dietary staple due to their high yield, low cost and high nutritional value.