Southeast Asia is home to the mung bean (green gram) and mungo bean (black gram) as well as a host of other beans, all contributing to a unique and varied range of pulse dishes.

India is the world leader in the production of pulses, some 20 million tonnes in 2014. It is the world’s second leading producer of dry beans with the greatest amount of land dedicated to their cultivation. Around one-third of the population are vegetarian, having made beans, lentils and chickpeas indispensable in their diets.