



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO 2008

New light on a hidden treasure



AN END-OF-YEAR REVIEW





INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE POTATO 2008

New light on a hidden treasure

AN END-OF-YEAR REVIEW

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2009

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN 978-92-5-106142-8

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders. Applications for such permission should be addressed to:

Chief

Electronic Publishing Policy and Support Branch
Communication Division

FAO

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

or by e-mail to:

copyright@fao.org

Contents

Foreword	v
Acknowledgements	vi
The International Year	1
The potato	11
Potato world	47
IYP around the globe	83
Focus on a global food	99
Perspectives	111
Beyond 2008	131
IYP Secretariat, FAO Task Force and Informal International Steering Committee	136
<i>Maps and tables</i>	
World potato production	48-49
World potato production and consumption, by region	50-51
Africa: Potato production, 2007	52
Asia/Oceania: Potato production, 2007	58
Europe: Potato production, 2007	66
Latin America: Potato production, 2007	74
North America: Potato production, 2007	80

Foreword

The International Year of the Potato (IYP) in 2008 was a celebration of one of humanity's most important and universally loved staple foods. This end-of-year review records IYP's achievements and underscores its essential message: that the potato is a vital part of the global food system, and will play an ever greater role in strengthening world food security and alleviating poverty.

The review describes the rationale for the International Year, its objectives and implementation. It introduces our guest-of-honour, *Solanum tuberosum*, the "humble tuber" that spread from the Andes across six continents and changed the course of world history. Specialists from FAO and the International Potato Center deepen our knowledge of the potato in 10 factsheets on key issues in potato development. The review also provides the most recent FAO statistics on world potato production and consumption, and profiles of 52 major potato producing countries.

The International Year was observed around the globe in scientific conferences, growers' congresses, festivals, cooking contests, art exhibitions and school projects. We present highlights of those events, as well as the winning entries in the IYP Global Photography Contest. The review concludes with viewpoints gathered from some of the world's leading "potato people" – those whose daily work with the potato has become a passionate way of life – and an overview of prospects for potato development beyond 2008.

This book seeks to contribute to strengthening the potato industry everywhere. It will be of particular value to developing countries that recognize the potential of the potato to drive economic development and sustain rural livelihoods. We sincerely trust that, for everyone, it will throw new light on the hidden treasure that is the potato.

Shivaji Pandey

Director, Plant Production
and Protection Division
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Acknowledgements

This end-of-year review of the International Year of the Potato offers an opportunity to convey our appreciation to those who contributed to the remarkable success of IYP.

Thanks are extended to the former Assistant Directors-General of FAO's Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Alexander Muller and Jose Maria Sumpsi Viñas, and their successor, Modibo Traoré, and to the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), Shivaji Pandey, for their support and confidence in the IYP Secretariat.

The work of the Secretariat was led with great dedication by NeBambi Lutaladio, of AGP, and benefited from the collaboration of many IYP partners, particularly the International Potato Center and its Director General, Pamela Anderson. Ireland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland provided financial support, as did private partners such as McCain Foods Ltd and Scott Simplot.

The Secretariat benefited from the guidance of an Informal International Steering Committee and FAO's IYP Task Force, and from the enthusiasm of the "IYP team" of communication and potato specialists. All those organizations and individuals who helped make 2008 a memorable year are listed at the back of this book.

Eric A. Kueneman
IYP Task Manager
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nation