

WORLD INTERNATIONAL POTATO DAY – 30 MAY 2024

IMPROVING THIS INVALUABLE FOOD RESOURCE

In December 2023, [the General Assembly decided to designate 30 May as the International Day of the Potato](#) to raise awareness of the multiple nutritional, economic, environmental and cultural values of potatoes and its contribution as an invaluable food resource and as a source of income for rural families. The annual observance of the Day was championed by Peru, which submitted the proposal for its adoption to the UN General Assembly



based on a FAO Conference Resolution of July 7, 2023. The impetus for the Day, which builds upon the results of the International Year of Potato that was celebrated in 2008, originates from the need to emphasize the significant role of the potato in tackling prevalent global issues, such as food insecurity, poverty and environmental threats.

Members of the World Potato Congress Inc. have been lobbying the relevant authorities in different countries to ensure that the proposal was successful. They created an international coalition of support for the declaration of an International Potato Day led by Peru, center of crop's biodiversity, supported by Ireland, Canada, Belgium, Australia, and China.

"This International Day will shed light on the significant value of the potato – nutritional, economic, environmental and cultural. It will also highlight the contribution of the potato to global food security, poverty reduction and the livelihoods of millions, while emphasizing the key role of Indigenous Peoples knowledge and practices. The Day will also allow to draw attention to the importance of this ancestral crop in sustaining efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty; as well as to encourage agricultural development, food security, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functions.

A millennia-old food with origins in the South American Andes region that made its way to Europe in the 16th century then spread around the world, the potato is much more than a source of nourishment. Potatoes are an important component of strategies to provide accessible and nutritious food and improved livelihoods in rural and other areas where natural resources, especially arable land and water, are limited and inputs expensive. The crop's versatility and ability to grow in a variety of conditions make it an advantageous crop choice. Potatoes are also a climate-friendly crop as they produce low levels of greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to other crops.



In the past decade, global production of potatoes has increased by 10 percent leading to growth in employment and income, but more work still needs to be done to harness the full potential of the crop in the quest to end hunger and malnutrition globally. The World Potato Day wants to contribute to this further development of potato cultivation and consumption in all countries of the world.

The [website of the International Day of potato](#), managed by FAO, is the permanent tool already activated to inform about the aims of the initiative and the ongoing campaign to involve all the actors interested in celebrating the day by promoting various initiatives in different countries and territories.

[The guide to the International Day of Potato](#) published in the website, resumes the main characteristics of the initiative and the [Key messages](#) of the campaign, for example that Potato is a crop that contributes to improve agricultural production, nutrition for people, environment and life. In particular:

- Better Production: Promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices and key technologies can help millions of farmers to boost their productivity and incomes
- Better Nutrition: Potatoes are nutrient-rich, providing vitamins, minerals and dietary fibre.
- Better Environment: Adopting sustainable potato production systems can enhance adaptation to climate change and biodiversity.
- Better Life: Potatoes are a staple crop that can contribute to food security and create livelihood opportunities.

The guide is a call to action for governments, civil society and non-government organizations, parents and educators to learn more about the potato. The Guide also proposes different ways to participate in the celebrations of the International Day.

In an article published to promote the World International Day of Potato, the [FAO presents a remarkable collection of articles](#) to offer better insights into this global common food, to contribute to the global campaign to raise awareness and inspire action.

To know more

[International Day of Potato website](#)

[FAO Selection of publications about potato](#)

[International Year of Potato 2008](#)

[International Year of Potato 2008.pdf](#)

[FAO Plant Production and Protection](#)

[Doubling global potato production in 10 years is possible](#)

[Potato water management](#)

[International Potato Center](#)

[World Potato Congress](#)

[News in the potato congress website](#)

[News in the FAO website](#)

