

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF POTATO – 30 MAY 2025

IMPROVING THIS INVALUABLE FOOD RESOURCE

May 2025

The celebration of the International Day of Potato will be on 30 May 2025, with the theme: *Shaping history, feeding the future*.

In December 2023, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 30 May as the International Day of Potato, to raise awareness of the multiple nutritional, economic, environmental and cultural values of potatoes and its contribution as an invaluable food resource and source of income for rural families. Potatoes are cultivated in 159 countries and eaten by more than one billion people around the world and are a vital food source.

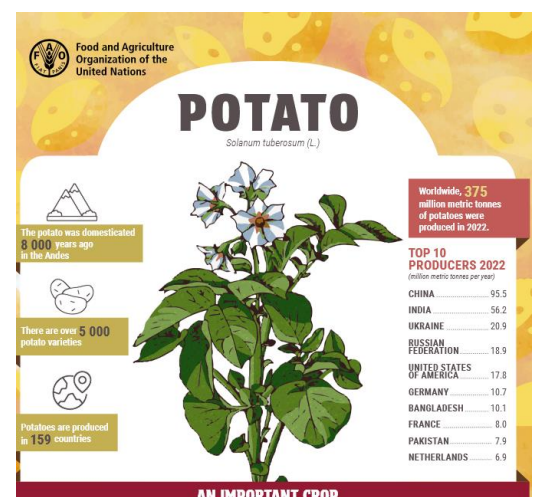
The annual observance of the Day was championed by Peru, the center of the crop's biodiversity, which submitted the proposal for its adoption to the UN General Assembly. The international coalition of support for the declaration included Ireland, Canada, Belgium, Australia, and China.

The initiative builds upon the results of the International Year of Potato, celebrated in 2008, and originates from the need to emphasize the significant role of the potato in addressing global changes such as food insecurity, poverty and environmental threats.

The first celebration was held in 2024 and the second observance of the International Day of Potato will take place on 30 May 2025, with the theme of *Shaping history, feeding the future*. The theme acknowledges the potato's deep historical and cultural significance, as well as its evolving role in today's global agrifood systems.

From its domestication in the Andes, to its global spread, the potato has shaped civilizations and diets across continents over several millennia. Occurring during FAO's 80th anniversary, this second observance highlights the potato's contribution to food security, nutrition and livelihoods especially for small-scale farmers. It also encourages reflections on the crop's production constraints, the need to conserve its diversity, and the actions required to strengthen its value chain for a more sustainable future.

On 30 May, the event spotlights the potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) - a crop regularly consumed by billions of people worldwide. Potatoes are a key component across diverse farming systems globally, ranging from smallholders producing diverse heirloom varieties by hand in the Andes, to vast commercial, mechanized farms in different continents. Potatoes contribute not only to food



security and nutrition but also to livelihoods and employment of people in rural and urban areas across the world.

The observance will also highlight the importance of the crop in combating hunger and poverty and in addressing environmental threats to agrifood systems. The roles of small-scale family farmers, a significant proportion of whom are women, in safeguarding the crop's rich genetic diversity, will also be recognized, while the cultural and culinary dimensions of the crop's cultivation and consumption will be celebrated.

The [website of the International Day of potato](#), managed by FAO, serves as a central platform to inform about the aims of the initiative and the ongoing campaign to involve all interested actors in celebrating the day by promoting various initiatives in different countries and territories.

[The Guide to the International Day of Potato](#), published on the website, outlines the main characteristics of the initiative and the key messages of the campaign, for example that potato is a crop that contributes to improved agricultural production, human nutrition, environment sustainability and quality 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 supports food security and creates livelihood opportunities.

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

On the website of the International Day, the [Potato Park located in the Andes near Cusco](#), Peru, is presented as one of the few conservation initiatives in which local communities are managing and protecting their potato genetic resources and traditional knowledge of cultivation, plant protection and breeding. The 12-hectare Potato Park helps preserve indigenous knowledge and ancient technologies, while ensuring that the production of native varieties remains under local control. The reserve is home to six indigenous Quechua communities whose 8.000 residents manage their communal lands jointly for their collective benefit. The communal activities are spearheaded by the organization known as the "Guardian of Native Potatoes", the Papa Arariwa Collective. Association Andes, the NGO that established the project, supports potato farmers in adapting to the effects of climate change. Many international organizations and magazines have published articles highlighting this important initiative of the Potato Park.

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

Through its widespread cultivation and consumption, the potato crop contributes to key objectives of the SDGs, such as achieving zero hunger, promoting sustainable agriculture and advancing economic opportunities. Potatoes are not just a staple in the diets



of many people but also provide key opportunities for employment and sustainable economic growth along their value chains.

Cultivated in 159 countries around the world, today, the potato stands as a beacon of food security and a pillar of sustainable agriculture: with more than 5.000 potato varieties offering a genetic wealth to combat pests, diseases, and climate change impacts, guiding sustainable agriculture practices.

To know more

[International Day of Potato 2025 website](#)

[News in FAO website](#)

[Nutritional Values of the raw potato](#)

[Potato solanum tuberosum](#)

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

[International Year of Potato 2008](#)

[A Guide to the International Day of Potato](#)

[Potato Park of Cusco Peru in FAO website](#)

[Potato Park of Cusco in bbc.com](#)

[Potato Park in oneearth.org](#)

[Potato Park in naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org](#)

[Potato Park in andes.org.pe](#)

[Potato Park in parquealapapa.org](#)

[Potato Park in ourworld.unu.edu](#)

[International Potato Center](#)

[The potato travel through ages and continents](#)

