

**Declaration of Dublin:
Fostering Potato Partnerships for Food Security
Revised April, 2023**

An earlier version of the following was presented at the 11th World Potato Congress in Dublin and was so termed "The Declaration of Dublin." Special recognition is given to Ireland for funding the participation of 40 bursaries from developing countries, the recipients of which are engaged in projects whereby this Declaration is being implemented.

Declaration of Dublin: Fostering Potato Partnerships for Food Security

The Declaration of Dublin is a “Call to Action” to foster relationships between private and public potato partners with the goal of addressing current and future challenges in global food security through the exploration and development of innovative action plans and investment opportunities. This “Call to Action” includes the sharing of success stories and experiences of countries and continents where potatoes play an important role as a vital crop for food and income security (i.e. South America, Africa, Asia). The adoption of this Declaration, will align with the recently adopted United Nations “Sustainable Development Goals”. *(See footnote).

Engaging and working in concert with existing in-country stakeholders will initiate and strengthen the potato value chain projects at local, regional, national, and/or global levels. Partners in this engagement model might include local communities and authorities, non-governmental organizations, research and development institutes, Sustaining Partners of the World Potato Congress (WPC), potato media, financial institutions, foundations, farmers’ communities, and other entities who find value in this commitment of potatoes changing the food insecurity paradigm.

I. Rationale

1. The ‘power’ of potato-based food systems to feed people.

By 2050, a global population of 9.7 billion people will demand 70% more food than is consumed today. Feeding an expanded population nutritiously and sustainably will require substantial improvements to the global food system – one that provides livelihoods for farmers and nutritious products to consumers while minimizing an environmental footprint. A critical challenge is how to produce more food with the same or fewer resources.

Growth in agricultural productivity and reduction of post-harvest losses are key to reducing rural poverty since most of the poor depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods. Food and income security can be enhanced through education and through the improvement of current farming methodologies.

In many countries of Asia, Africa and South America, the full expression of the potato crop's yielding capacity has not yet been achieved and is usually much lower than the attainable yield. Much improvement is needed in equipment, adapted mechanization, use of inputs, agronomic practices, quality seed production, and varieties tolerant/ resistant to abiotic and biotic threats such as potato late blight and drought. Therefore, the current and upcoming contextual change, especially considering climate change, encourages a review of these production issues from a new lense. Innovations based on potato science can be a significant vehicle for targeting the poor and hungry.

**The UN Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. More important than ever, the goals provide a critical framework for COVID-19 recovery*

Global potato production indicators

Region	Average 2019-2021		
	Production (000 t)	Area (000 ha)	Yield (t/ha)
Africa	27.547	1.830	15,1
Asia**	193.259	9.273	20,8
Western Europe	36.160	878	41,2
Europe Others	69.293	3.631	19,1
Northern America	24.636	521	47,3
LAC	21.136	1.034	20,4
World	372.032	17.167	21,7

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAOSTAT, Crops and livestock products, last update March 24, 2023.

** = Asia + Oceania.

2. Success of setting up public/private partnerships for the development of the potato crop.

Governments acting alone cannot achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but they have a key role to play. In some developing countries, the national recognition of the potato as a food security crop has resulted in the development of policies, activating services from central governments. Recognition of the successful experiences of these policies by nations facing similar challenges, has resulted in the adoption of these successful policies in other regions.

Examples:

#1 China: The potato is a major staple for poor rural areas where local governments continue to provide subsidized inputs (e.g. clean seeds of selected varieties), while at the same time being at the forefront of an increasing private sector-led processing industry, accompanying rising incomes in urban populations and diversification of diets.

#2: Peru: In Peru, a large effort began in early 2000's to develop a competitive and inclusive native potato value chain for domestic markets. The development of the native potato value chain took advantage of Government policies at the macro level, promoting private sector and market-led developments and the fast growth of Peru's economy. While the Government of Peru focused on public investments to promote export-oriented agricultural growth, the experience with the private sector to develop the native potato value chain has proven successful to link small potato farmers to domestic and export markets and to develop a more inclusive growth strategy of the highly diverse agricultural sector.

#3: A final example of policies that have been adopted to promote the potato sector in developing countries is through seed laws and regulations. Seeds are an important input of production of the potato crop and can affect yields since they are a vehicle for important diseases. Some countries are updating the regulations regarding seed quality assurance systems for potatoes to increase availability and access of quality seed by farmers. A broad range of changes are proposed, from relaxing some of the standards required for certified seed to allowing the use of private inspection services to increase the number of seed producers that can be inspected each season as is the case in Kenya.

II. Implementing the Dublin Declaration and the Call to Action : The call to action for partnership between the private sector, farmers' organizations and research and development partners.

To meet future challenges and take full advantage of any emerging opportunities to increase productivity and value chain development, the strengthening of the research and development network would be required. Addressing food security requires multi-sector innovation and public-private partnership in approaches that, through the use of existing knowledge and applied scientific research, improves the performance of agri-food systems.

There is also a dichotomy between research activities in developed versus developing countries that highlight the need for more exchange, knowledge sharing, and collaboration. For producers to implement key research and technology options, they require support. Better access to research and technology needs to be provided by the potato research community through improved services at national and international levels.

III The Role of the World Potato Congress Inc.

As it is known:

a) Whereas: The World Potato Congress (WPC Inc.) is a premier global networking organization creating opportunities and facilitating links of communication and information sharing throughout the world potato community

b) Whereas: WPC continues to expand its scope within the global potato community through other initiatives including providing supports in the development of the International Potato Day (IPD), a project overseen by FAO in collaboration with the government of Peru and a coalition of countries. This initiative seeks to raise awareness of the potato's nutritional benefits and contribution to society.

c) Whereas: The WPC, through Congresses, and the global connections of its Directors and International Advisors, has the networking reach to promote and support research and development initiatives, improve the efficiency of potato value chains, foster strengthened coordination among its actors, enhance efficient production, reduce food losses, augment profit, and generate attractive opportunities for the young population, without exacerbating social inequalities.

So it be recognized:

a) Therefore: The WPC will network with national and international research organizations and NGO active in developing countries, encouraging involvement of farmer organizations with the objective to increase the public and private sector engagement and to invest in potato driven projects in developing countries.

b) Therefore: Taking into consideration the expected growth of the population of Africa, South America and Asia, WPC will communicate stories that highlight the 'power' of potato-based systems to feed people These stories might include:

- promoting potato consumption and locally produced processed potato products. -
- discussing potential economic levers for rural communities in developing countries all over the world.

- professionalizing farming in rural communities.
 - raising awareness of entrepreneurship and collaboration
 - facilitating public/private partnerships and participation of small holders in profitable value chains
 - focusing on scientifically supported methods to cope with production challenges and climate change effects responding to rural communities needs
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