



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



30 May
International
Day of Potato

A guide to the

International Day of POTATO 2024



Harvesting diversity, feeding hope



www.fao.org/international-potato-day
#InternationalDayOfPotato

Get started!



On 30 May, we spotlight the potato, *Solanum tuberosum* (L.) – a crop regularly consumed by billions of people. Potatoes are a key crop across agrifood systems globally, ranging from smallholders producing diverse heirloom varieties by hand in the Andes, to vast commercial, mechanized farms in different continents. As the third most consumed food crop globally, potatoes contribute to the food security, livelihoods and employment of people in rural and urban areas the world over.

The Day is an opportunity to build on the International Year of the Potato, which was observed in 2008. The observance will also be used to underscore the importance of the crop in combating hunger and poverty and 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 diversity will also be recognized, while the cultural and culinary dimensions of the crop's cultivation and consumption will be celebrated.

In December 2023, the United Nations General Assembly tasked the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with facilitating the annual international observance. FAO is committed to supporting its Members to build sustainable, resilient value chains of crops that are appropriate for their context and adapted to local needs. The observance of the International Day of Potato aligns with the FAO [Strategic Framework 2022-31](#), which supports the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

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Potatoes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The potato is a crop of enormous global significance. Through its widespread cultivation and consumption, the 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 opportunities for employment and sustainable economic growth along their value chains.

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