









WORLD POTATO CONGRESS

INDIA'S ONLY BEWSLETTER FOR POTATO GROWERS, TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIERS, EXPORTER, IMPORTER, COLD CHAIN & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

## - WORLD POTATO CONGRESS 2024 CONCLUDES WITH RECORD ATTENDANCE & INSPIRING INSIGHTS







ADVANCING AGRICULTURE IN IRAQ BEIRUT ERBIL POTATO PRODUCTS COMPANY HOSTS FRENCH CONSULATE & DEVELOPMENT DELEGATION CHINA'S POTATO INDUSTRY ADVANCES WITH COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING ON LATE BLIGHT PREVENTION AND DIGITAL MONITORING U.S. POTATO CONSUMPTION HITS 19 MILLION TONNES MARK AS STOCKS RISE

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**COVER STORY** 









### World Potato Congress 2024 Concludes With Record Attendance And Inspiring Insights

he World Potato Congress (WPC) 2024, held from June 23-26 in the vibrant city of Adelaide, Australia, was a landmark event that united the global potato community in a celebration innovation, sustainability, of and collaboration. The congress commenced with a heartfelt traditional Aboriginal welcome on the evening of June 23, where attendees were immersed in the rich cultural heritage of the region. The evocative sounds of the didgeridoo filled the air, creating an atmosphere of warmth and inclusivity that set a celebratory tone for the days to come.

Dr. Nigel Crump, representing Potatoes Australia, took the stage to warmly welcome delegates from around the world. He encouraged attendees to explore the diverse exhibit hall, which showcased the latest advancements in potato farming technologies, sustainable practices, and innovative products. The exhibit featured a variety of engaging displays and interactive demonstrations, providing an invaluable platform for participants to connect and exchange ideas.

#### A Grand Opening

The opening ceremony was a spectacular affair, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, drawing industry leaders, experts, and enthusiasts from across the globe. The event began with a keynote address from Her Excellency,

the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, who emphasized the importance of agriculture in ensuring food security and sustainability. Following her address, Hon. Clare Scriven MLC further articulated the vital role the potato industry plays in local and global economies.

Dr. Peter VanderZaag, President of the World Potato Congress, delivered a compelling keynote speech highlighting the pressing need for innovation and sustainability within the potato sector. His remarks resonated with attendees as he discussed the WPC's significant impact on global networking efforts aimed at leveraging the potato as a key player in addressing food security challenges.

#### **COVER STORY**





#### **Trade Exhibit Hall**

One of the main attractions of the congress was the expansive trade exhibit hall, which served as a hub for innovation and technological advancements in potato farming. Exhibitors presented an array of cutting-edge equipment and products, ranging from advanced harvesting machinery to sophisticated irrigation systems. The hall buzzed with excitement as attendees engaged directly with manufacturers, distributors, and innovators, gaining valuable insights into tools and techniques that could enhance efficiency and productivity in their own operations.

#### Celebrating Excellence: The Global Potato Industry Awards

A highlight of the congress was the prestigious Global Potato Industry Awards, which celebrated outstanding contributions and achievements within the global potato sector. This year's awards honored remarkable individuals and organizations, including Nelio Compelio from the Philippines, Walter Davidson from Canada, Abd-Allah Md Dhaif-Allah from Yemen, and several others from Australia, China, and India. The awards ceremony was a poignant celebration of dedication and ingenuity, inspiring attendees to strive for continued excellence and advancement in the industry.

The sold-out Gala Dinner, held at the iconic Adelaide Oval, concluded the event with a gourmet menu inspired by the humble potato. Approximately 800 delegates attended, reveling in a night of fine dining and camaraderie, further solidifying the connections forged during the congress.

For additional information and highlights from the Global Potato Awards, please see the exclusive Awards section below.

#### **Post-Congress Tours**

The final day of the Congress featured exclusive post-Congress tours. These tours provided participants with a unique opportunity to visit some of the top potato farms and research facilities. Attendees witnessed best practices firsthand, including advanced crop management techniques and innovative storage solutions.

For many, these tours were an invaluable experience, offering practical insights and a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges of modern potato farming. Participants explored notable sites such as Mitolo Farms, Pye Group, and Peter Cooper's Kangaroo Island Seed production. Alongside the potato sector visits, attendees had the chance to immerse themselves in authentic Australian culture and hospitality, with stops at wineries, gin distilleries, botanical gardens, wool factories, and wildlife parks.

The Australia World Potato Congress has undoubtedly sparked numerous new initiatives and alliances. As attendees return to their respective countries and fields, the innovations and collaborations







ignited at this Congress will continue to influence discussions on research, marketing, and production. With the conclusion of this 12th Congress, the WPC now looks forward to the 2026 event in Gdansk, Poland.

**COVER STORY** 



### Testimonials



Jang Bahadur Sangha Board Member, World Potato Congress & MD, Sangha Group

The World Potato Congress serves as a vital platform for potato stakeholders — entrepreneurs, scientists, and industry leaders — to collaborate, share research, and leverage the latest technologies. It offers Indian farmers and seed growers access to innovative practices in seed production, disease control, and sustainable agricultural methods. The Congress also addresses pressing challenges like climate change, focusing on breeding resilient potato varieties.



Gerard Backx, CEO, HZPC Holding BV

As the world's largest potato breeder, we are committed to exploring opportunities across continents, and I see India as a country ripe with potential. With its growing population, there is a pressing need for improved potato production. I believe that, with the right strategies, we can easily double or triple potato yields per acre in India over the coming decades. Let's work together to enhance production and ensure good food for all.



Nripendra Jha CEO, Technico Agri Sciences Limited (ITC Group)

At the World Potato Congress, we aimed to strengthen our network with breeders, processors, and other key stakeholders in the potato value chain, enabling us to collaborate more effectively in addressing global food security. Thank you for the opportunity to connect and share insights.



**– Soundararadjane S** CEO, HyFarm

<sup>44</sup> The World Potato Congress in Adelaide has provided an exceptional platform for networking with industry peers and stakeholders—from farmers to researchers—allowing us to share insights and collaborate on advancements in the potato sector.



Dr. Tarun Gangwal
GM Agricultural Services, Simplot India Foods Pvt. Ltd.

Events like the Global Potato Summit are essential for fostering connections, sharing knowledge, and discussing the future challenges we will face in the next five to ten years. I extend my sincere gratitude to the organizers, particularly India Today, for hosting such a remarkable event. It has been a fantastic platform for collaboration and discussion in our industry.

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HyFun Foods

# Make in India Make for the World

HyFarm, the agricultural business unit of HyFun Group has robust business linkages with its farmer customers through its highly innovative contract farming model, that aids in seamless production & procurement of processing-grade potatoes (French Fries & Crisps) and Table Potatoes. Our goal is to collaborate with 30,000 farmers & work towards achieving an ambitious procurement target of one million tonnes of potatoes by 2028. Moreover, HyFarm is also speeding towards expanding its presence into procuring a diverse range of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Email: info@hyfarm.in

Phone: +91 75750 70910

www.hyfunfoods.com

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### Global Potato Industry Award Winners Announced at the 12<sup>Th</sup> World Potato Congress in Adelaide, Australia

#### by T.G. Lynn

n June 25, following the 12<sup>th</sup> World Potato Congress in Adelaide, Australia, an Industry Award Ceremony was held to recognize nine remarkable individuals who have devoted their life's work to the potato industry. WPC President Peter VanderZaag presented the awards at the sold-out closing Gala Dinner with over 800 attendees at the iconic Adelaide Oval.

The nine Global Industry Award winners were: NelioCampelio, Philippines; Walter Davidson, Canada; Abd-Allah MdDhaif-Allah, Yemen;Dr. Paul Horne, Australia; Dr.Liping Jin, China; Dr.Mohinder Singh Kadian, India, Frank Mitolo, Australia; Alan Pye, Australia, Dengshe (Don) Wang, China.

#### NelioCampelio, Philippines

Campelio adopted the Apical Rooted Cutting technique and established a family business with greenhouses to produce plantlets for growers. He was



Award presented to distinguished Nelio Campelio, Philippines by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag

an early adopter of the new late blight and PVY resistant variety "Igorota" in 1992, that transformed potato production. This is the first example of a locally bred variety being multiplied to meet the farmer's demand without importing seed from Europe or North America.

The major hurdle in the rapid diffusion of the variety Igorota was overcome by Nelio and his family due to their ARC seed production venture. They started producing Igorota seed tubers in 1992. By 2010, over 50% of the highland potato crop was grown with Igorota. Nelio, an active farmer-cooperator of NPRCRTC since 1990,

Initially, he made an improvised greenhouse in Buguias, Benquet and multiplied apical cuttings from in-vitro plants sourced from NPRCRTC. His planting materials were of good quality and became popular with other farmers. made an improvised greenhouse in Buguias, Benquet and multiplied apical cuttings from in-vitro plants sourced from NPRCRTC. His planting materials were of good quality and became popular with other farmers.

Today Nelio and his family continue to lead the ARC technology and provide either rooted cuttings or minitubers of the varieties wanted by fellow growers including the old staple variety Granola. He compliments NPRCRTC's work in providing the high-quality pathogen free tissue culture planting materials.

He works closely with the national research centerswho provide the tissue culture pathogen free starting material for his business. He runs a successful family business that has positively impacted most communities in the highlands.

#### Walter Davidson, Canada

Walter Davidson was born in Aughton Lancashire, England. He served in the British Army during his teenage years. He had the opportunity in 1956 to immigrate to Canada Walter arrived in Canada with \$15.00 in his pocket. Upon arrival, Walter began working on a farm that dealt primarily with cattle and grain but eventually moved on to growing potatoes on about fifty acres. When the Crang family decided to sell, Walter and his wife Linda started his dream vision and bought the farm. From there they grew his dream to what it is today, W.D. Potato Limited.

W.D. Potato Limited is a \$120 million, third generation family-owned business that has a large storage and transportation facility situated on a 150acre site located in the heart of Beeton, Ontario. WD Potato Limited has been in



Award presented to distinguished Walter Davidson, Canada by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag

### P TATO NEWS

#### Awards



the business of potatoes for more than 50 years. Walter has a great depth of knowledge and experience in growing, handling, storing, and transporting potatoes for the chip processing industry in both the USA and Canada. Walter has always been a man of his word; he believes a handshake seals a deal. He has built a relationship with a network of forty-five processing chips and seed growers, increased storage and wash capabilities and has a dedicated fleet of trucks to provide the business. Walter and his wife Linda are true believers in giving back to the community in which they have prospered. The vision of WD Potato Ltd is to work together and build long-lasting, beneficial and rewarding relationships. Walter and Linda have carried this same vision into their community by supporting the local memorial hospital and the people in which it serves, along with supporting local sports organizations and charities.

#### Abd-Allah Md Dhaif-Allah, Yemen

Aliah is a potato entrepreneur who has successfully built a potato business over the last 34 years supporting the greater community of the Thamar Valley with excellent seed potatoes of the preferred varieties for many farmers. Furthermore, he has employed many local people in his business, giving them food security and good wages. He had been a great blessing to the Thamar Valley economy.

By 2023 he had built an excellent potato storage with eleven rooms storing with a total capacity of 3800 tonnes. This facility has cold storage rooms allowing longer term storage of seed potatoes. He also grows over one hundred hectares of seed potatoes.

He is also closely working with the university and the government extension service on assuring that the fields grown for seed are properly inspected and roguing is done of virus infected plants as well as black leinfected plants.

The continued war and civil unrest in Yemen make his work even more extraordinary! Awarded by the President of Yemen as the best farmer for potato and wheat as rotation in Thamar valley in 2018, we are proud to honorMr.Aliah for his work in addressing food security in his country through potatoes.

#### Dr. Paul Horne, Australia

As a distinguished applied entomologist, Dr. Horne initiated his impactful career in 1986 at the Victorian Department of Agriculture, later establishing. IPM Technologies P/L in 1996—an industry leader in integrated pest management.

Dr. Horne's unique methodology,



Award presented to distinguished Dr. Paul Horne, Australia by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag

blending technical proficiency with a practical focus on growers, has generated tangible solutions in agriculture. His influence is particularly notable in potato crops, where he leads integrated pest management for various insect pests, including potato virus vectors like aphids and thrips. His adept guidance aids growers in managing caterpillar pests, such as the notorious potato moth, through the application of IPM principles. Ongoing research addresses challenges posed by the Tomato Potato Psyllid, a vector linked to Zebra Chip disease, ensuring preparedness for effective pest management in regions like Australia and with immediate application in areas such as New Zealand.

Under Dr. Horne's leadership, IPM Technologies has markedly reduced pesticide reliance, advocating sustainable pest management practices. His influence extends to fostering improved stewardship in the judicious and environmentally responsible use of pesticides.

Dr. Horne's knowledge-sharing has positioned him as a trusted authority, impacting the global entomological community. His dedication, growerfriendly approach, and achievements, spanning from the Victorian Department of Agriculture to his current leadership at IPM Technologies, undeniably merit recognition.

#### **Dr.Liping Jin, China**

Dr Llping Jin has bred and released over thirty potato varieties for table and processing. She has published over 150 scientific papers and supervised more than twenty graduate students. She is

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Awards



Award presented to distinguished Dr. Liping Jin, China by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag

the principal scientist of China Agriculture Research System-Potato under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Over the last 30 years she successfully developed an extraordinary team of scientists and extensionists to promote potato research and development across all of China with great success.

Under her leadership the potato crop growing area in China has increased and stabilized to about 4,800,000 ha, and average yield increased from 15 to 21 t/ ha.

She also received the National Poverty Alleviation Innovation Award, and the National Innovation Excellence Medal. Her most significant and gratifying thing would be that the cultivars and technologies she bred or led had been widely used by farmers and entrepreneurs in many areas of the country.

#### Dr. Mohinder Singh Kadian, India

Dr.Mohinder has dedicated his professional life "4 decades" in potato crop improvement in India primarily but also contributed key roles in South Asian countries "Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka", to establish importance and advantage of potato to improve socioeconomic conditions of the farming community. His expertise in improved agronomic practices, development, and evaluation of new varieties from CIP and CPRI as well as in seed potato production and evaluating the



utility of True Potato seed (TPS) has benefited potato farming community and processing industry people in South Asia.

He started his professional journey by joining International Potato Center (CIP) as Associate Scientist in 1983 and after retirement in 2018, continued his journey and passion to shoulder potato crop for improvement of socio-economic conditions of potato farming community in India, presently he is working as Senior consultant for CIP in multiple projects of ICAR, Karnataka, West Bengal, Haryana, and Odisha Meghalaya.

On the professional front, Dr. Mohinder contributed not only to field research, but he also published over 122 scientific publications on his potato research and received many prestigious awards for his significant contribution in potato research development.

#### Mitolo Family, Australia

The Mitolo family's legacy stands as a shining beacon of enduring values tradition, innovation, determination, and of course, family. These values have continued to underpin its passion and steadfast dedication to providing premium



Award presented to distinguished Mitolo Family, Australia by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag



Award presented to distinguished Dr. Mohinder Singh Kadian, India by WPC President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag

produce to the tables of Australian households and beyond, for more than half a century.

Founded on the northern Adelaide Plains in 1972 by Bruno and Angela Mitolo, the leadership has now passed to the next generation of brothers Frank, Darren, and John. This dynamic 21st century team led by Managing Director Frank Mitolo has spearheaded the exploration of new farming methods, introduced innovative varieties (including the world's first lower GI potato and a low carb potato) and embraced cutting-edge technologies.These pioneering solutions have entrenched their position as industry leaders, setting the gold standard for Australian primary production.

Over five decades, the Mitolo family has meticulously crafted a reputation for excellence. Its enterprise, Mitolo Family Farms, has become a cornerstone of Australian agriculture, boasting a workforce of over eight hundred individuals and achieving annual sales exceeding AUD\$280 million.

Operating as a vertically integrated powerhouse, Mitolo Family Farms oversees every facet of the supply chain—from cultivation to marketing. With a primary focus on potatoes and onions, they have emerged as one of the largest potato production businesses in Australia, with twenty-six farms spanning South Australia and New South Wales, covering an expansive 40,000 hectares of land. The company also has packaging businesses in Brisbane, Melbourne

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#### Awards





Alan Pye — (1941-2024)

and Sydney; capital cities on Australia's Eastern seaboard and is a supplier to all major retailers.

The Mitolo family's legacy under Frank's captaincy is a testament to the transformative power of passion, tradition, and innovation; inspiring change in many for years to come.

# Alan Pye, South Australia and New Zealand – awarded posthumously – (1941-2024)

Allan was born in New Zealand in 1941. After leaving school at the age of fourteen he began a farming career that would span nearly 70 years. He started picking potatoes for two local farmers and instead of wages, was offered seed potatoes by one of them and this started a lifelong passion for potatoes.

Allan was an early adopter of irrigation, after traveling to America to look at farming practices. He started a seed dressing business and was instrumental in the formation of the South Island Export Barley Society, which was set up to drive better returns to farmers for growing barley.

Allan was a supplier of potatoes, carrots and peas to Watties in Timaru and when they decided to amalgamate operations in Christchurch, Allan worked with local farmers and businessmen to establish Alpine Foods, which is now the McCain Factory in Washdyke. The relationship with McCain led Allan to Australia and the formation with his son Mark, of Parilla Premium Potatoes which



Alan Pye Family

is now one of Australia's biggest potato, carrot and onion growing operations.

Perhaps Allan's biggest business success was the formation of Dairy Holdings. For 14 years Allan was a cornerstone shareholder of what is today the largest milk supplier to Fonterra. One thing that stood out throughout his farming career was his collaboration with others. Whether it be the seed business, the Barley Society, Alpine foods, Rushy Lagoon, Dairy holdings or his current farming partnerships with both his family and other shareholders, Allan was often the visionary who surrounded himself with others that could help make those dreams a reality. The most notable being his former wife, Diana.

#### Dengshe (Don) Wang, China

Wang graduated from an agricultural university in the 1980s and worked in a research sector as a potato breeder for about ten years and then shifted his role to the business field. For over 30 years, he always worked very hard, cultivating potatoes on 500,000 acres of barren farmland in poverty-stricken areas of northern Hebei, benefiting more than 500,000 families and over 1 million people.

Dedicating himself to research, he has developed more than eighty new potato varieties and strains. Due to his unwavering efforts, the Canadian variety "Shepody" has taken root and flourished in China, breaking the previous challenge of being unable to grow "Shepody"



Award presented to distinguished Dengshe (Don) Wang, China by WPC President, Dr. Peter Vander Zaag

potatoes on Chinese soil. With this, the Chinese potato planting industry has reached a new milestone.

Dengshe is the founder of the SnowValley Agriculture Group in 2007. It has developed into a complete potato value chain business including, but not limited to, potato breeding, tissue culture, seed production, large scale potato production operations, excellent storage facilities, processing of frozen fries and marketing of their finished products in China and twenty other countries. The company now has twenty-three subsidiaries and has a staff of 1600.

In 2018 and 2022, the company received the "Enterprise Social Responsibility Award" from People's Daily. In 2023, the company was honored with the "Green Sustainable Development.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the WPC Global Potato Industry Awards!

Source: www.potatoes.news







# Glimpses of World Potato Congress 2024











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#### **PHOTO FEATURE**







### Prime Minister Narendra Modi Introduces Three New High-Yield, Biofortified Potato Varieties

- PM releases 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops
- PM highlights the significance of value addition in agriculture
- Seeds of these crops are climate friendly and can yield good crop even in adverse weather: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Today's program is best example of lab to land program: Shri Chouhan

n a major advancement for agricultural innovation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled three new potato varieties developed by the Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI) Shimla on 11th August 2024 (Sunday). The varieties—Kufri Chipsona-5, Kufri Bhaskar, and Kufri Jamunia—were introduced at an event held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. At the same event, the Prime Minister also launched 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified crop varieties.

These new potato varieties, which CPRI scientists have been developing since 2013, are designed to meet the needs of the processing industry while adapting to climate change challenges. Dr. Brajesh Singh, Director of CPRI, emphasized that the varieties are not only heat-resistant but also rich in nutrients and well-suited for processing.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of crops at India Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi earlier on 11th August 2024 (Sunday).

Prime Minister also interacted with the farmers and scientists on the occasion. Discussing the importance of these new crop varieties, Prime Minister stressed on the significance of value addition in agriculture. The farmers said that these new varieties will be highly beneficial as they will help reduce their expenditure and also have a positive impact on the environment.

Prime Minister discussed the importance of millets and underlined how people are moving towards nutritious food. The farmers appreciated the efforts undertaken by the government for promoting natural farming.

Prime Minister suggested that KVKs should proactively inform



farmers about the benefits of the new varieties being developed every month to enhance awareness about their benefits.

The 109 varieties of 61



crops released by the Prime Minister included 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. Among the field crops, seeds of various cereals including millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, fibre and other potential crops were released. Among the horticultural crops, different varieties of fruits, vegetable crops, plantation crops, tuber crops, spices, flowers and medicinal crops were released.

Later, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed the media, stating that today is significant for farmers since the 109 varieties of 61 crops that have been released will help them produce more, earn more money and spend less. Shri Chouhan said that the seeds of these crops are climate friendly and can yield good crop even in adverse weather. He also informed that these varieties are rich in nutrition. Today's program is best example of lab to land program.

Respond to inquiries from the media, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan declared that within three years, farmers will receive seeds from all 109 varieties. Additionally, he said that imports of exotic mango varieties are not currently necessary because our own variety is more productive, more aesthetically pleasing, and has superior keeping qualities, all of which can increase farmers' income. All of these types are appropriate for natural farming, and research on this topic is ongoing.

On one day each month, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, proposed that experts from KVK, ICAR, and state agricultural universities engage with farmers. The goal of this exchange should be to tackle a current issue related to agriculture and attempt to identify answers through mutual learning.

Union Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary and Shri Ram Nath Thakur and DG ICAR& Secretary, DARE, Dr. Himanshu Pathak were also grace the occasion along with 30 farmers from nearby state and all the DDGs and other officials of ICAR.

News

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#### News







### World Potato Congress Inc. Welcomes Sangha Group to the Silver Sustaining Partner Sponsorship Program



2024 WPC Board of Directors attending the Australia Congress in June 2024

World Potato Congress Inc. (WPC) President, Dr. Peter VanderZaag, along with the WPC Directors and International Advisors, is pleased to welcome Sangha Group as a Silver Sustaining Partner.

Sangha Group, based in Jalandhar, Punjab, has been a significant player in agribusiness, innovation, and technology in Northwest India since 1962. Sangha group is one of the largest seed potato growers (~55,000 tonnes), most-sought after brand, and one of the largest maize and rice growers of India.

Disease-free seed potatoes are produced under a limited generation seed program on an area of about 5,000+ acres. The group owns state-of-the-art cold chain facilities and an innovation company focusing on meeting current and future challenges in agriculture and food sector. The group is the largest client of John Deere tractors in India – owning 200+ tractors and has state of the art GRIMME equipment for seed bed preparation, planting and harvesting of potatoes.

Since 2005, the group ran multiple national and international initiatives in optimizing food production and supply chains to reduce food waste through its strategic collaborations with leading universities and research centers in India, UK, US, Australia and Netherlands.

Sangha Group is led by Jang Bahadur Sangha, who holds a Master's degree in Science from Cornell University and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Punjab Agricultural University. He works to connect India to global food value chains, supported by a team of professionals who graduated from prestigious institutions such as Punjab Agricultural University, Queen Mary University of London, University of Saskatchewan, and Harvard Business School.

Under Sangha's leadership, the group has transformed largescale agricultural production in India and is committed to

building the capabilities of the next generation of farmers. He also contributes his expertise to various organizations, including the World Potato Congress, Australia India Institute, and the Confederation of Potato Seed Farmers. He has previously advised the Indian government on agricultural policy. Previously he has helped Indian government in developing major agricultural policy as former board member of Punjab Agricultural University, one of India's premier universities.

"The WPC appreciates the valuable contributions and insights which Jang Sangha has provided as a Director of the WPC Board and as a member of its Governance and Communications Committees", says WPC President, Peter VanderZaag. "We appreciate the commitment of Sangha Group in supporting the various initiates of the WPC Inc. as we begin planning for the 2026 Congress in Gdansk, Poland".

Building on its legacy, the Sangha group companies are focusing on 'future of food' through their investments in sustainability, traceability and blockchain technologies, enhancing farmer profitability by embracing agri-technology, and fighting global warming.



### U.S. Potato Consumption Hits 19 Million Tonnes Mark as Stocks Rise

by T.G. Lynn

U.S. potato consumption reached an impressive 19 million tons, marking an 8% increase from the same period last year. This rise in consumption is accompanied by a significant 19% increase in potato storage, according to the latest USDA data. The top U.S. potato-producing states—Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—are pivotal in this growth, showcasing substantial contributions to the national figures.

#### Potato Storage and Consumption Insights

Nationally, as of June 1, the largest potato-producing states had 3.39 million tons in storage, up 19% from June 1, 2023. Potatoes in storage represented 15% of the 2023 production, compared to 14% the previous year. This data underscores a strong demand and efficient processing capabilities within the industry. **Idaho:** 

Storage: 1.62 million tonnes Total Consumption: 5.74 million tonnes Processors Consumption: 3.47 million tonnes

Idaho, the largest potato-producing state, continues to lead with significant storage and consumption figures. Processors in Idaho have consumed 3.47 million tons this season, highlighting the state's critical role in meeting the nation's potato demand.

#### Oregon:

Storage: 208,289 tons Total Consumption: 1.18 million tons Processors Consumption: 1.66 million tons Malheur County: 431,819 tons Other Counties: 1.22 million tons

Oregon's potato industry shows robust activity with processors utilizing 1.66 million tons of potatoes this season. Malheur County alone utilized 431,819 tons, indicating a strong regional processing presence.



Washington: Storage: 711,232 tons Total Consumption: 4.35 million tons Processors Consumption: 2.84 million tons

Washington has also demonstrated a substantial increase in potato consumption with processors using 2.84 million tons this season. The state's total consumption stands at 4.35 million tons, showcasing its vital contribution to the industry. Industry-Wide Processor Usage

Processors across eight states have consumed a total of 9.90 million tons of potatoes this season, a 4% increase from June 1, 2023. This consistent rise in processor usage reflects the growing demand for potato products and the efficiency of processing facilities in handling large volumes.

The U.S. potato industry is experiencing notable growth in both consumption and storage, driven by increased demand and efficient processing. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are at the forefront of this growth, significantly contributing to the national figures. As the industry continues to evolve, the focus remains on meeting the rising demand through sustainable practices and efficient processing.

Source: www.potatoes.news

### European Potato Planting Progress Amidst Weather Challenges

#### by Viktor Kovalev

#### Varied Weather Conditions Impact Potat Planting Across Europe

As reported by potatobusiness, the majority of European countries have completed their potato planting for the season. However, The Netherlands experienced significant delays due to intense rainfall last week, causing disruptions in their agricultural schedule.

#### **Regional Planting Updates**

The most recent report from the Irish Farmers' Association

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#### News

(IFA) indicates that physical potato prices are strengthening as buyers secure supplies for the end of the season. Planting activities continue in parts of the United Kingdom, despite varied weather conditions.

In Ireland, potato sowing is characterized by a 'stop-start' approach due to heavy weather conditions that hinder continuous work. This intermittent method reflects the farmers' resilience and adaptability in coping with the challenging weather patterns.

#### **Market Demand and Supply Pressures**

Retail demand and home consumption of potatoes remain robust across Europe. The IFA report highlights that this year is expected to be extremely late for potato harvesting, putting pressure on existing stocks from the previous season. Buyers are actively seeking out the remaining stocks to meet the demand, leading to increased pressure on old season supplies.

The fluctuating weather conditions have not only impacted planting schedules but also influenced market dynamics, with a notable rise in prices as the season progresses. This situation underscores the importance of strategic planning and timely planting to mitigate the effects of unpredictable weather patterns on crop production.

#### **Future Outlook**

The late planting and subsequent delayed harvest may affect



the overall yield and quality of the potato crops in certain regions. However, the sustained demand for potatoes suggests a stable market outlook for farmers and traders. The industry's ability to adapt to weather-related challenges will be crucial in maintaining supply chains and meeting consumer needs.

Stakeholders, including farmers, agronomists, and industry professionals, are encouraged to monitor weather forecasts closely and adjust their planting and harvesting strategies accordingly. Collaboration and information sharing among European potato producers can also help mitigate the impacts of adverse weather conditions and ensure a more resilient agricultural sector.

Source: www.potatoes.news

### Potato Imports to Russia Decreased by 30 per cent

This year, the volume of imported potatoes has decreased by almost a third compared to the figures of 2023. In total, 247.3 thousand tons of tubers arrived in the country from abroad.



First of all, experts attribute the emerging trend to a reduction in the supply of Egyptian products. According to the Rosselkhoznadzor, the decrease in its volumes amounted to 44.6% – up to 114.6 thousand tons.

The fact is that products from the North African region were redirected to the EU countries. Due to crop failures in 2022-2023, Europeans are experiencing a serious shortage of potatoes. There is especially a shortage of raw materials for enterprises producing fries and chips.

At the same time, exports from Azerbaijan to Russia decreased by 33.3% to 40.8 thousand tons. Supplies from Belarus, on the contrary, increased by 11.3% to 74.7 thousand tons. And imports from China have increased more than 7 times, from where 11.2 thousand tons of potatoes have already been imported.

Source: www.potatoes.news

### In Primorye, a Quarantine Object was Found in Chinese Potatoes

by Irina Berg

Specialists of Primorsky laboratory found a quarantine facility in two batches of potatoes shipped from China.

During the study, brown rot of potatoes was detected in the samples. The total



weight of the infected tubers is 33.8 tonnes.

According to the press service of the regional Rosselkhoznadzor administration, according to the decision of the owner of agricultural products, it will be destroyed.

Source: www.potatoes.news



### Brazil's Potato Harvest Begins Prices Drop in São Paulo

by T.G. Lynn

#### Potato Market Trends in Brazil

The onset of the potato harvest season in São Paulo has led to a noticeable decline in prices. This seasonal adjustment is a result of increased supply as the harvest progresses, particularly during the dry season. The price dynamics in various regions illustrate the broader market response to these changes.

**Recent Price Fluctuations:** 

- In São Paulo (SP), the price of special Agata potatoes dropped by 3.07%, closing at BRL 179.25 (USD 33.17) per 25 kg sack.
- In Rio de Janeiro (RJ), prices fell by 12.37% to BRL 164.44 (USD 30.43) per 25 kg sack.
- In Belo Horizonte (MG), there was a 4.70% decrease, bringing the price to BRL 173.23 (USD 32.05) per 25 kg sack.

These reductions are directly linked to the intensifying harvest activities, which are boosting supply across these key markets.

#### Harvest Conditions and Supply Dynamics

The harvest during the dry season in São Paulo has significantly contributed to the increased availability of potatoes. The southwestern part of São Paulo has been particularly pivotal in this uptick, as harvest operations ramp up.

#### Key Factors:

**Dry Season Harvest:** This period typically sees more favorable conditions for harvesting, which has helped accelerate the process and increase output.

**Regional Impact:** The southwestern São Paulo region is a major contributor, enhancing overall market supply.

#### **Projections for the Coming Months**

Looking ahead, the market anticipates a continued rise in supply leading up to August and September. This period marks the peak



of the winter harvest, which is expected to further drive down prices as more potatoes flood the market.

#### **Expectations:**

**Increased Supply:** The winter harvest's peak will likely intensify the downward pressure on prices.

**Market Adjustments:** Consumers and retailers should prepare for fluctuating prices as the market adjusts to the increased supply.

The commencement of the potato harvest in São Paulo has set off a chain reaction across major markets in Brazil, leading to decreased prices. As the harvest continues and supply increases, these price trends are expected to persist, offering opportunities and challenges for farmers and traders alike. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for making informed decisions in the agricultural sector.

Source: www.potatoes.news

### Hungary Launches €125 Million Tender to Boost Horticultural Development

#### by AkimKovalev

HUF 50 billion tender (approximately €125 million) aimed at enhancing horticultural infrastructure across the country. Announced by Minister István Nagy, the initiative, titled "Support for post-harvest developments related to horticultural greenhouses and cold storages," is designed to foster the construction and upgrading of essential facilities for fruit and vegetable production.

#### Key Objectives and Focus Areas

The tender encourages collaboration among both large and small-scale producers to undertake significant investments in infrastructure improvements. The primary focus includes:

Greenhouse Construction and Refurbishment: Facilitating the establishment and refurbishment of glass or foil greenhouses to expand cultivation capabilities.



#### News

Cold Storage Facilities: Enhancing cold storage units to bolster the capacity for preserving vegetables and fruits post-harvest.

Processing Equipment Acquisition: Supporting the acquisition of modern machinery and tools for efficient processing of horticultural products.

Additionally, the initiative prioritizes improvements in energy efficiency within these facilities, aligning with broader sustainability goals.

#### Impact and Previous Successes

Minister Nagy highlighted the success of the previous Rural Development Program, which supported 7,300 projects with HUF 190 billion. This funding resulted in significant expansions, including 800,000 square meters of greenhouse space and 465,000 square meters of foil houses. These developments translated into 1.26 million square meters of advanced cultivation space and created approximately 452,000 cubic meters of cold storage capacity.

#### **Future Prospects and Sustainability Goals**

The ongoing tender aims to build upon these achievements, emphasizing the critical role of modern storage solutions in reducing post-harvest losses and food waste. By enhancing infrastructure resilience, Hungary seeks to mitigate the impacts of climate change on crop production and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.



#### Conclusion

Hungary's €125 million tender marks a significant commitment to advancing its horticultural sector through strategic investments in infrastructure and technology. With a strong focus on modernization and sustainability, the initiative is poised to elevate agricultural productivity, strengthen market competitiveness, and support the country's agricultural resilience in the face of evolving climate challenges.

Source: www.greenhouse.news

### Expert Advises Targeting Tuber Blight Protection from Zoospore Movement

Potato crops have endured long periods of weather conditions highly conducive to blight this season. Reports of blight outbreaks submitted for testing with the Fight Against Blight campaign have now topped 135 incidences across the UK, as Aleksandra Cupriak reports for Farmers Guide.

While growers have responded with robust blight control strategies, attention has now turned to protecting tubers from the inevitable high threat of infective spores from reaching tubers, warns Syngenta technical manager Andy Cunningham.

Cunningham advises: "Keeping up with the programme to maintain blight free foliage is still crucial for building tuber yield, especially in crops where wet and cool conditions delayed planting and early growth.

"Turning now to include products that provide specific strong tuber blight protection will further help assure yields and tuber quality."

The expert highlights that the new Evagio Forte from Syngenta combines both the outstanding foliar blight control of mandipropamid with the added strength of amisulbrom to enhance performance and target tuber blight protection.

Potato blight lesions typically produce sporangia that can spread



long distances on the wind during warmer conditions (17 to 24°C), but as conditions cool, below 17°C, they are more likely to produce zoospores that physically move shorter distances in surface moisture that infects tubers.

Source: Farmers Guide

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### China's Potato Industry Advances with Comprehensive Training on Late Blight Prevention and Digital Monitoring

On July 17th, Dingxi city in Gansu province became the epicenter of innovation and knowledge-sharing for China's potato industry. A specialized training event on the green prevention and control of potato late blight and seed potato quality control was held, drawing experts, leaders, and grassroots potato growers from across the region.

The event, organized by the International Potato Center (CIP) Asia Pacific Center in collaboration with local agricultural institutions, aimed to address one of potato growers' most pressing challenges: managing late blight. This destructive disease can wreak havoc on potato crops, threatening farmers' livelihoods and food supply stability. The training was a proactive step towards equipping growers with the tools and knowledge needed to combat this threat in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

Participants from diverse regions, including Beijing, Shandong, Hebei, and Inner Mongolia, and representatives from 17 counties and districts in Gansu province, gathered to learn from leading experts in the field.

The training was not all lectures and presentations—it was a hands-on experience that brought participants to the fields where innovative solutions are being tested and implemented.

One of the event's highlights was the visit to Wuzhu Town in Weiyuan County, where attendees were introduced to a cuttingedge digital monitoring and early warning system for potato late blight. This game-changer system offers real-time data that enables farmers to take timely and precise action to protect their crops.

The visit included demonstrations of comprehensive prevention and control experiments, potato variety display trials, pesticide comparison tests, and even drones for plant protection spraying. It demonstrated how technology and traditional farming practices can be harmonized for better results.

Key figures such as Liu Weihong, head of the Gansu Provincial Plant Protection and Inspection Station, and Zhang Peng, associate professor at Northwest A&F University, were present, underscoring the importance of this initiative.

Their involvement, alongside local government leaders like Lei Lixin, deputy secretary of the county party committee, highlighted the commitment to fostering a robust potato industry in the region.

The training was led by Dr. Zhao Zhonghua, a CCCAP consultant and former director of the National Agricultural Technology Promotion Center. The discussions were rich with insights, ranging from the European Union's stringent quality control system for seed potatoes to innovative green cultivation techniques.

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Experts delved into the theoretical and practical aspects of monitoring and controlling potato late blight, emphasizing the role of new digital tools and bio-pesticides in creating a sustainable agricultural future.

One of the most significant outcomes of the training was the introduction of the ambitious "Implementation Plan for Prevention and Control of Potato Late Blight" for Gansu Province. This plan sets a high target: ensuring that at least 56% of the potato-growing areas in each district and county are engaged in green prevention practices. This is not just about meeting a target but about creating a culture of proactive, informed, and sustainable farming practices that can withstand climate change and disease pressures.

The plan's focus on using legally registered biopesticides and a robust early warning system reflects a shift towards more ecofriendly agricultural practices. It also highlights the importance of data – collecting, analyzing, and using it to guide decisions that will ensure the long-term health and productivity of potato crops in the region.

CIP CCAP Deputy Director XieJianmin, in his summary of the training, emphasized the need to continue building on these foundations. The construction of a comprehensive late blight monitoring and early warning network, coupled with ongoing training and awareness programs, will be Empowering Potato Growers in Northwest China: A Step Forward in Green Prevention and Quality Control.

> Source: International Potato Center (CIP)



by Anju Agnihotri Chaba

### Record Harvest Punjab Farmers Reap Highest Potato Yield This Year Amid Favourable Prices

Potato farmers, who have often been dissatisfied due to the poor and highly fluctuating rates of their crop, are now not only receiving good prices for their produce but are also witnessing Punjab's



highest yield till date this year. Despite marginal changes in cultivated area, the state has seen a significant increase in potato production.

The harvesting season for potatoes has concluded in the state, and data collected by the Horticulture Department from across Punjab reveals a production of 32.50 lakh tonne (LT) of potatoes this year, marking an increase of approximately 94,000 tonne compared to last year's total production. This boost is credited to the availability of good-quality, high-yield seed varieties.

Last year, in 2022-23, the state recorded a production of 31.56 LT, which was about 1.05 LT more than the previous year. This year, potato cultivation covered 1.17 lakh hectares, compared to 1.14 lakh hectares last year, marking a slight increase of 3,000 hectares. Experts attribute the rise in productivity per hectare to the availability of better-quality seeds provided to farmers.

The potato productivity per hectare stands at 27.77 tonne, a slight increase from 27.67 tonne last year. Around 60% of Punjab's total potato production, approximately 20 lakh tonne, is allocated for seed purposes. Punjab's seed is highly regarded nationwide. Out of the remaining produce, nearly 7 lakh tonne are consumed as table potato within Punjab, while approximately 5 lakh tonne table potato are sold to other states by Punjab's farmers.

Around 630 cold stores in Punjab have a capacity to store approximately 23.50 lakh tonne of potatoes.

Popular potato varieties in Punjab include KufriJyoti, Pukhraj, Chipsona, Badshah, Diamond, LR variety, Chandramukhi, and Sultana and sugar-free varieties.

The state supplies seed potatoes to West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and others.

"Cultivation of seed potatoes is labour-intensive, with tuber size meticulously maintained at 30-55 mm, unlike table potatoes, which range from 70-90 mm. In December, the above-ground plant leaves are pruned to prevent overgrowth or virus infestation. Harvested tubers are stored under paddy or wheat crop stubbles for 2-3 weeks until their skins harden, after which they are transferred to cold stores for year-round sale," said a potato grower Gurmail Singh Dhadda of Malsian area in Jalandhar, adding that farmers fetched good price this year.

Potato sowing in Punjab begins in October and harvesting occurs Februaryin March. Additionally, farmers in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district

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engage in 'kutchiPutai' of 60-day-old potato crops by late November, primarily for sale in Delhi markets where demand for small-sized potatoes fetches higher prices. Subsequently, wheat is sown in these fields, covering an area of 12,000 to 13,000 hectares. Punjab's Doaba region, comprising Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, and Nawanshahr districts, is renowned for producing high-quality potato seeds distributed across the nation. Ludhiana, Moga, and Amritsar districts have also seen significant increases in potato cultivation.

According to the Punjab Horticulture Department, potato production in 2021-22 was 30.50 LT, and in 2020-21, it stood at 29.49 LT, covering an area of 1.07 lakh hectares. In 2019-2020, potato production reached 28.70 LT, covering 1.06 lakh hectares. Since 2022, potato production has consistently exceeded 30 lakh tonne. Production figures for 2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17 were 27.24 LT, 25.71 LT, and 25.24 LT, respectively, with a corresponding increase in cultivated area.

From 2004-05 to 2015-16, Punjab's potato production ranged between 14.70 LT to 23.85 LT, while the cultivated area increased from 72,000 hectares to 92,000 hectares. During this period, the area under potato cultivation in the state increased by 62.5%, while production witnessed a 121% increase. Furthermore, the per-hectare potato productivity in Punjab has increased from 20 tonne per hectare in 2004-05 to 27.77 tonne per hectare this season, marking a 38.85% increase in productivity per hectare.

Farmers are selling table potatoes at Rs 10 to Rs 12 per kg, considered a good price, while seed prices range from Rs 12 to Rs 40 per kg, depending on the variety. In Punjab around 4-lakh tonne seed and 7-lakh tonne table potato is consumed and remaining around 21 LT including 16 LT seed potato is supplied to the other states.

#### Source: www.indianexpress.com

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