

International eConference
on
NEW PARADIGMS IN POTATO RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
Widening horizons in food security and industrial applications
23-26th November, 2021

Programme

Day 1	Theme
9.00-11.30	Plant Genetic Resources, Omics and Translational Research
12.00-2.30	New Paradigms in Potato Breeding & Seed Research
3.00-4.00	Oral presentations & Posters
Day 2	Theme
9.00-11.30	Novel Strategies for Biotic Stress Management
12.00-2.30	Physiological Interventions for Post-Harvest Management
3.00-4.00	Oral presentations & Posters
Day 3	Theme
9.00-11.30	AI, ICT and new tools in Precision Agriculture
12.00-2.30	Climate Change and Crop Management
3.00-4.00	Oral presentations & Posters
Day 4	Theme
Workshop on social issues, trade, industry and value addition	
9.00-11.30	Social issues- Important policies and issues related to farmers and other stakeholders
12.00-2.30	Industry- Seed, value chain, cold chain, machinery, potato export processing industry
3.00-4.00	Valedictory function

Organized by

Indian Potato Association
 &
 ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

Event Description

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is the world's third most important food crop after rice and wheat. It is grown globally and produces more food per unit area in comparison to major grain crops. Potatoes are a wholesome food crop because of their high yield potential, edible energy and nutritive value. To highlight its value as a global food, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations declared 2008 as the Year of the Potato, which was celebrated internationally with much fanfare and in India also a Global Potato Conference was organized in 2008 and 2020 in India to mark the event. The worldwide demand for the crop has been growing continuously. It was grown on 17.34 million hectares (ha) globally, with a production and productivity of 370.43 million tons and 21.36 tons/ha, respectively in 2019. India is the second largest producer of potato after China, with an area, production and productivity of 2.17 million ha, 50.2 million tons and 23.10 tones/ha, respectively.

With accelerated economic development world over and change in food habit, there is ample opportunity for more demand of potato in terms of fresh consumption, processing, export, as well as quality seed. This would lead to diversification in production, consumption, utilization, and trade, thereby boosting world economy. To meet the growing demand, potato production need to increase by 89% to 711.5 million tonnes by 2050.

However, increasing cost of cultivation, especially farm inputs, stagnation in productivity, decreasing cultivable land area, more complex biotic and abiotic stresses, inadequate availability of quality seeds and variety, post-harvest loss, inadequate value addition, and the changing climate are posing serious threats to sustainable potato production and utilization.

To meet the future challenges and utilize the opportunities that emerge ahead, further strengthening of research and development network for increasing productivity would be required. In the conference all major researchable issues will be discussed under six themes covering potato genetic resources, potato breeding, omics, disease and pest resistance, physiology and post-harvest management, artificial intelligence, precision agriculture, crop management and climate change.

The conference will have two dedicated sessions on social issues, policy, industry, seed value chain and potato export. The various issues in different potato value chains will be addressed with sound scientific background and the new frontiers needs will be identified in potato research and development.

The “International eConference” is proposed to be held during 23rd – 26th November 2021 to highlight achievements, opportunities and novel strategies to address potato production, trade and industry, and value chain management.