

MIND YOUR POTATOES...

PARTICIPATION AT THE WORLD POTATO CONGRESS 2022
BY AGRI-AGENCIES AND FARMERS ORGANISATIONS



Photo credit: Dennis Onen, potato producers ZODFA, Trias Uganda

AGRICORD





POTATOES

Potato and sweet potato are two rapidly growing value chains in various countries where AgriCord intervenes.

In nutritional terms, both potatoes and sweet potatoes have important strengths. These are a good source of protein, fiber, vitamin C and play an important role in food security. Potato produces more food per unit of water consumed than any other main food crop. Potatoes and sweet potatoes are generally more resistant to climatic hazards. According to the FAO "...the resilience of the potato, its relatively short period of maturity, its nutritional characteristics, and employment and income possibilities make it a resilient crop that can secure livelihoods for vulnerable populations even under the effects of climate change and the changing market environment".

However, these advantages should not mask the difficulties linked to the development of the potato and sweet potato. Access to healthy plants is one of the major constraints mentioned by various of our FO's partners, diseases are a growing problem for growers. Other constraints present relate to soil fertility decline (acidification, compaction, destructuring, etc.), suitable agricultural equipment, access to water (water scarcity, irregular access, water quality and impact on the spread of diseases, etc.), insufficient technical knowledge of producers on the sectors, lack of market structuring and non-existence of policies favourable to the development of the two sectors.

These two sectors also constitute a source of financial income for producers. Farmers Organisations represent an organisational innovation to help potato and sweet potato growers reach not only scale but also local and regional markets and to develop sound partnerships for further wealth creation and employment at the local and national levels.



AGRICORD IS A
GLOBAL ALLIANCE
OF 12 AGRICULTURAL
AGENCIES
MANDATED BY
PROFESSIONAL
FARMERS'
ORGANISATIONS
AND THEIR
COOPERATIVE
BUSINESSES FROM
COUNTRIES IN THE
EUROPEAN UNION,
CANADA, AFRICA,
ASIA AND LATIN
AMERICA.



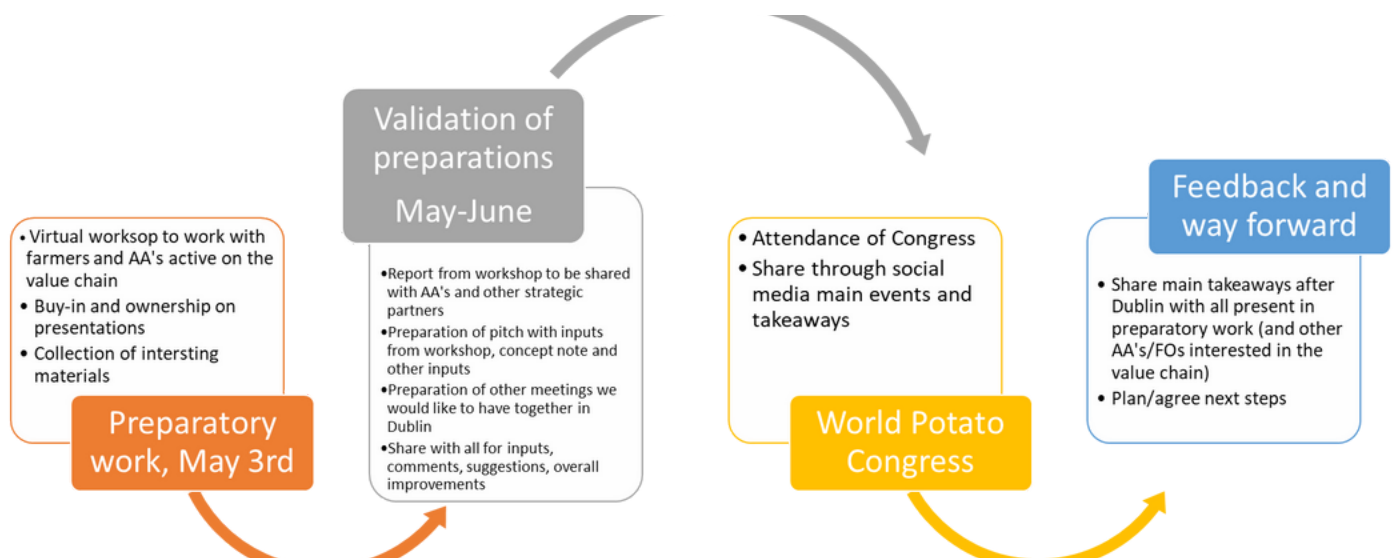


WORLD POTATO CONGRESS 2022 A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The World Potato Congress (WPC) in Dublin, Ireland (30 May – 2 June, 2022) provided a good opportunity to continue forward the strategy development of the potato and sweet potato value chain technically supported and promoted by various agri-agencies (AA's), farmers organisations (FO's) and strategic partners of AgriCord in various regions. Given this opportunity, a process was carried out with Trias, a group of farmers representative of farmer organisations, agri-agencies and strategic partners who work together to position this value chain. The delegation prepared on the one hand, to showcase why potato is so relevant in their respective regions, and on the other hand, they agreed on the key messages to be delivered. After the WPC, the delegation met again -virtually- with a larger group (with farmers and agri-agency staff who were not present in Dublin) to share their experience, main takeaways and plan together the next steps to be taken (see figure below about the process of joint work).



Photo credit: Dennis Onen, potato producers ZODFA, Trias Uganda



PREPARATIONS

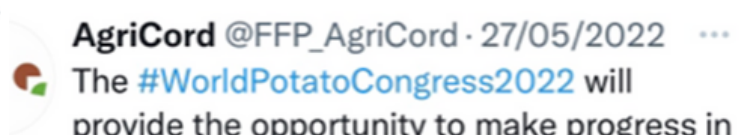
AgriCord and Trias facilitated a preparatory meeting on May 3rd. This virtual gathering allowed to hear first-hand from the farmers about the relevance of the potato value chain, highlight what works and prepare the main statements to be delivered in Dublin. Farmers and agri-agencies staff, also took the opportunity to get to know each other, gain new contacts and understanding of what farmers are doing with the support of the agri-agencies in different regions. The delegation expected from the WPC: to further network with others working on this value chain; share insights, practices and common problems as well as potential solutions; make their voices heard about the challenges on this sector and find international support. Some of the Tweets below show statements about the process.



- networking
- finding international support
- sharing insights, practices and common problems
- making farmers' voices heard for stronger partnerships

We hope the congress meets expectations!

[#WorldPotatoCongress](#)



The [#WorldPotatoCongress2022](#) will provide the opportunity to make progress in the development of the strategy for the [#PotatoValueChain](#). This chain is supported by various agri-agencies (AA's), farmer organisations (FO's) and other strategic partners of AgriCord.

[@wpc2022Ireland](#)



#WeAreAgriCord

The potato value chain is a game changer

Farmers' organisations have a key role to play in impacting farmers' livelihoods therefore multistakeholder public-private strategic alliances are needed to continue unleash this potential

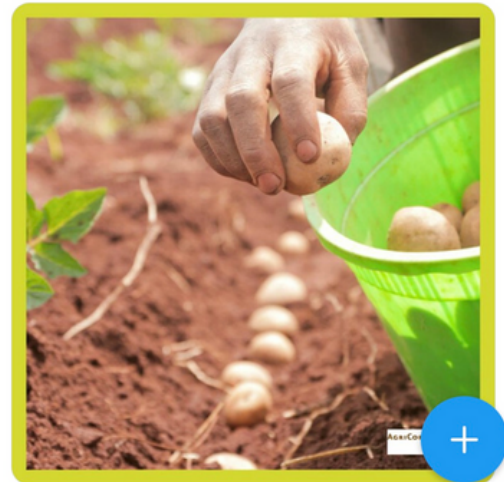
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AgriCord @FFP_AgriCord · 22/08/2022 ...
 What is the global potential of the #potato? 🥔

Potatoes have a short production period and are staples in the diets of two-thirds of the population.

With the rising global population, more potatoes are being produced which, in turn, brings more income to farmers.
 #NADO



AgriCord @FFP_AgriCord · 25/08/2022 ...
 Potatoes are incredibly important crops, largely due to their ability to become any product a consumer may want.

From crisps to chips and of course, the fresh potato- potatoes provide.

What is your favourite form of potato? 🥔



AGRICORD AGRI-AGENCIES



DURING THE WORLD POTATO CONGRESS IN DUBLIN

A delegation of farmers, supported by Trias, from Uganda, Peru, Ecuador, and Tanzania was present in a stand organised by Trias together with the Belgian potato sector, delivered a presentation in the name of AgriCord, showcased and sustained dialogues during the posters session and networked with various other participants in the congress from companies and other private enterprises, researchers to government officials.

The delegation was accompanied by staff from Trias agri-agency and AgriCord Secretariat.



Thanks to the congress we came in contact with companies who can help us further to cope with rising demand. We will now have a new line for potato chips that will enable us to meet this demand.



Silvestre Quispe, Manager
AGROPIA, Peru

KEY MESSAGES

Despite the various opportunities this value chain represents, there are challenges for farmers organisations to unleash the potential of potatoes:

- Climate change adaptation & resilience (improved technologies such as irrigation & diversification of native varieties)
- Access to healthy planting material (i.e. seed)
- Access to suitable agricultural equipments
- Optimization of water management
- Access to reliable soil tests to monitor fertility
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Storage facility and management
- Small-scale mechanization (especially for Women inclusion and Youth attraction to the business)
- Knowledge of market information, added value for differentiated markets

Photo credit: Isabel Corthier 2017 / Farmers on their potato field in Pilahuin Community, Province Tungurahua, Ecuador



AgriCord @FFP_AgriCord · 29/08/2022 ...

One struggle of farmers is branding and packaging the potato to win the market.

Many farmers do not have the resources to do market research to create the best packaging, which is why they need support from financial Institutions, Input suppliers, government, etc.



THE VOICE OF THE FARMERS DELEGATION

Participants gathered in a virtual session after Dublin together with farmers organisations and agri-agencies that did not participate, and articulated their main findings and takeaways as follows:

- They valued the presentation about the challenges and opportunities
- It is relevant to use the potato value chain to link with other value chains
- The opportunity to interact with other farmers was very useful
- There was a lot of technical information; opportunity to learn about the nutritious and other values of the potato (potassium, vitamin C), about control of quality, size, packing, grading, branding potatoes, technical solutions for potato transformation, for storage
- Crucial to discuss strategies to adapt to climate change: potato is very important as it requires less water than rice for instance, so this offers lots of opportunities
- New insights in diversification of potato products (i.e. possible to make potato milk)
- Inspiration to go the extra mile while seeing how others in other parts of the world do things differently
- Use of quality seeds by farmers: inspiration to run capacity building
- As a delegation you join forces, it is more efficient: speakers' opportunity, stand, technical exchange, field visit, networking, profiling



Photo credit: Trias. Farmers delegation with Authorities from the WPC and the Belgium Delegation.

WHAT CAN BE DONE DIFFERENTLY NEXT TIME?

- Elaborate further how to showcase the potato experience per region/country
- Map further in advance who are the other participants, who else will be in the Congress to go further in contacts and deepen relationships
- Be able to promote organic potatoes and get more learnings
- As Agri-agency accompany the farmer organizations in this process, to later also give follow-up and convert the experiences into concrete actions in their local context.
- Bring more to exhibit
- Combine the Congress with field visits and exchange with other farmers of that region.

WHY IS SUCH A CONGRESS INTERESTING FOR AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES?

According to the participants it is important for agri-agencies because you learn about innovations, about new markets and evolutions, bringing farmers together, exchange between farmers directly towards their specific needs.

The congress put a lot of focus on climate change which is important to follow. Also, farmers who usually are not so visible in this world of the potato industry, were supported to be put on stage to showcase in their own voice what works for them, what are the challenges and what are potential solutions.

In a delegation it is possible to gain international visibility and profiling, new contacts, new ideas, new funding opportunities, media coverage, and overall strengthen the positioning of farmers organisations and their work in this value chain.

Potato value chain main strengths



Photo Credit : Isabel Cortiier 2017 / Potato farmer ladies are preparing lunch for their men, who are working on the field. On the road from Andahuaylas to Kichuara, Peru.

- Households food security (off-season when main crops run out)
- Source of protein, fiber, vitamin C
- Potential for creating added value (local processing, partnership with agro-food companies and restaurant value chains)
- Source of financial income for producers



WHAT CAN AGRICORD DO?

AgriCord alliance can add value, with the support of its member agri-agencies, bridging and facilitating the building of partnerships between farmer organisations and other relevant value chain actors to co design strong initiatives and programs to strengthen farmers' organisations working on the potato value chain.

The agri-agencies as professional networks add value by:

- Bringing in expertise, training, farmer-to-farmer approach, exchanges with the private sector, knowledge management
- Collaborate and strengthen cooperative and producers' capacities for enhanced social inclusion and tackling environmental challenges.
- Boost partnerships with economic players (upstream and downstream)
- Facilitate connections with banking or micro-finance institutions for financing agricultural investments (inputs, material investment, storage, etc.).
- Strengthen service provision (seed, phytosanitary products, fertilizers, etc.) according to a logic of win-win partnerships
- Bring about capacities to the farmers organisations to make connections between traders and processors: link the producers with markets to guarantee better prices paid to farmers
- Support and collaborate for better production and market conditions for farmers by means of certification schemes that guarantee tangible benefits for farmers.



Potatoes variety.

WHAT'S NEXT

Agri-Agencies and partner Farmer Organisations will explore what is the further potential of working together around this value chain in order to take stock for possible future opportunities linked to:

- Fine-tuning of a concept note that can be used to pitch the relevance of the potato value chain in addressing the current climate challenges
- Shaping a mobilisation of resources strategy as well as explore other events (i.e. WPC in Australia 2023) where to be present
- Further explore the relationship with CIP Africa and Andes and other possible strategic partners for fundraising opportunities.

“

I was able to talk about challenges in the potato and especially seed potato value chain.

”

Anna Odubi, Zodfa, farmer from Uganda

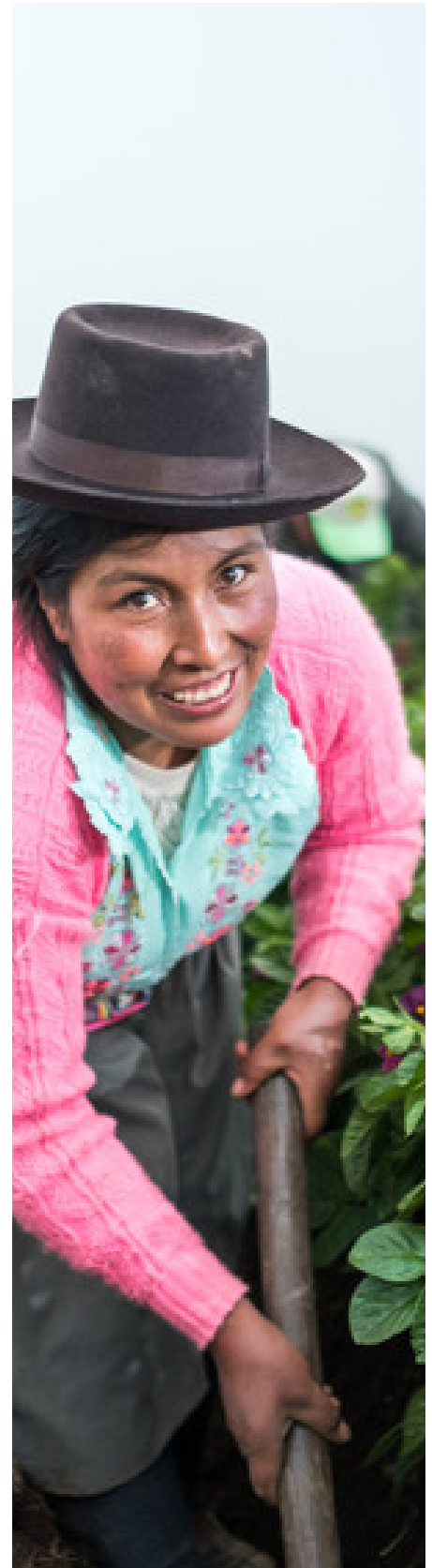


Photo credit: Isabel Corthier. Potato farmers working on their field. New earth is added to the potato heaps. Kishuara.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE POST CONGRESS MEETINGS

- Ernest Ng'umbi, NADO, Tanzania, WPC participant
- Paul Vazquez, Trias, Ecuador, WPC participant
- Adrian Monge, FFD, Finland
- Aleksandra Parcinska, Agricord, Belgium
- Carolina Largo, Trias, Belgium
- Denis Utingcwinyu, Zodfa, Uganda
- Claus Opio, Zodfa, Uganda
- Fella Kourouma, Trias, Guinea
- Luis Montesdeoca, Agropapa, Ecuador, WPC participant
- Azucena Ocana, Agropapa, Ecuador, WPC participant
- René Millimouno, Trias, Burkina Faso
- Riikka Nieminen, FFD, Finland
- Saija Ohriluoma, Pro Agria, Finland, WPC participant
- Silvestre Quispe, Agropia, Peru, WPC participant
- Maria Avila, Agropia, Peru, WPC participant
- Mamadou Kallo + collègues, UGAS, Guinea
- Mouminy Mamadou, Trias, Guinea
- Mour Gueye, Asprodeb, Sénégal
- Richard Nsamba, Trias, Uganda
- Faraja Maguhu, NADO, Tanzania, WPC participant
- Anna Odubi, Zodfa, Uganda, WPC participant
- Pierre Nintije, CAPAD, Burundi



Team that collaborated to lead this process:

Gabriela Quiroga - AgriCord Secretariat
 Eva Verbist - Trias Brussels
 Lieve Van Elsen - Trias Brussels / Ecuador
 Peter Van Erum - Trias Uganda
 Paul Vazquez - Trias Ecuador - South America