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| <b>PROJECT I.D.</b>   |
| 1.1. Acronym: REDEPAPA  |
| 1.2. Project title: Potato improvement and dissemination network  |
| 1.3. Financial backers: INIA and DAPA   |
| 1.4. Participating bodies: INIA-Chile, INTA-Argentina, PROINPA-Bolivia, EMBRAPA-Brazil, INIA-Uruguay, INTA/MAG-Costa Rica, Centro de Agrobiodiversidad-Tenerife, INIA-Peru, CIP-Peru, INIAP-Ecuador, CORPOICA-Colombia, UN-Colombia, INIA-Venezuela |
| <b>NEIKER DETAILS</b>   |
| 1.5. Lead researcher: Stef de Hann  |
| Research team: Jose Ignacio Ruiz de Galarreta, Domingo Rios (12 participating centres)  |
| 1.6. Start date: 1-11-2007  |
| 1.7. End date: 1-11-2010  |

**Summary:**

The main aim of the project is to organise and implement a Latin American network for the improvement and transfer of potato technology.

The specific objectives are:

1. - To define those taking part in the Latin-American Potato Innovation and Transfer Network (RITLAP) and the communications systems.
2. – To adopt a common method for the evaluation and transfer of germplasm between the members of the Innovation Network.
3. – To exchange superior progenitors, advanced clones and varieties between members of the Network.
4. – To share the same tools for the typification of germplasm, applying molecular methods.

Despite successes in certain selected environments, we still do not have proven alternatives that help to transfer new varieties of *papa* (indigenous potato) effectively and make appropriate technologies available to the poorer farmers in marginal and/or isolated environments who are often only organised informally. The development of the country farmers has been uneven, especially in the Andes, where national research systems are still relatively weak, with the highest rates poverty and malnutrition on the continent.

In order to satisfy the needs and demands of Latin American producers, we need to use existing capacities and greater coordination, communication and collaboration between Latin-American countries to develop, evaluate and transfer technologies effectively to those groups of farmers who live in poverty have limited access to technological advances.

We propose to create a technological innovation network aimed at exploring, developing and defining the right routes for the impact, starting with genetic improvement of the *papa*, the delivery of germplasm and a good seed system. The Network will be made up of different partners from the scientific community, development agencies and organisations and the private sector. We will work on the coordinated exchange of germplasm, the development of capacities, systems for delivery, diffusion and adoption, appropriate seed systems, links with successful R+D networks, learning and organisational synthesis and, finally, on income generation activities that ensure the future sustainability of the initiative.

**Results and Impact:**

The most significant result will be the setting up of an innovation network that facilitates, develops and promotes routes towards having maximum impact of the production and industrialisation of the *papa* in Latin America.

The potential impacts will be as follows:

- Increased access to advanced clones, new varieties good quality seed and appropriate information regarding its characteristics, properties and integrated handling thanks to links with local institutions.
- Higher take-up rates for new varieties of *papa*.
- Increased efficiency in the evaluation of productive, rustic and nutritional germplasm by using standardised, comparable and shared procedures, as well as by user-friendly, operational information systems.
- Increased professional capacity in national improvement programmes through greater access to information, technologies and training.
- Enhanced offer of high quality seed of new varieties of *papa* that are financially accessible to small producers.