

Welcome Address

Welcome to all of the participants at this tropical root crop symposium. The International Potato Center (CIP) is very pleased to host this conference and to have the potato included in the concerns of this society.

The commodities being addressed by this society will have to be given greater attention in the future as population growth makes increasing demand on the use of marginal land. The size of farms is already decreasing in Asia, leading to more intensive use of land. Many of the tuber-root crops have a comparative advantage over cereals in intensive agriculture.

Until now, the nutritional value of most tuber-root crops has not received sufficient attention. Their value is well known but has not been publicized, and all too frequently the tuber-root crops have been classified as only starchy foods. The value of their vitamins, minerals, and even protein has been overlooked by a majority of the general public.

You are scheduled later in the week to visit the facilities at CIP headquarters. I hope that many of you can take the time to also visit some of our experimental stations representing the major agroecological zones of the developing world where potatoes are grown.

The highland area around Lake Titicaca, between Peru and Bolivia, is where the cultivated potato originated. Peru is also the birthplace of several other tuber-root crops that are still used in a minor way, but these crops could increase in importance in the future due to population pressures. While you are here, there is opportunity to learn more about the future potential of these minor commodities.

We will do our best to help you have a successful conference. Please let us know if you have special interests that we may help you with while you are here in Peru.

Richard L. Sawyer
Director General
International Potato Center

PROCEEDINGS OF PAST ISTRC SYMPOSIA

Symposia	Venue	Order from	Price
1st 1967	Trinidad	Department of Crop Science University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago	Out of print
2nd 1970	Hawaii	Publications Office College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources University of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 U.S.A	US\$5/2 volumes
3rd 1973	Nigeria	Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center Visayas State College of Agric. Baybay, Leyte 7127 Philippines	
4th 1976	Columbia	International Development Research Center Box 8500 Ottawa, Canada K1G 3 H9	US\$12.00
5th 1979	Philippines	Philippine Council for Agriculture & Resources Research & Development Los Baños, Laguna Philippines	
6th 1983	Peru	International Potato Center P.O. Box 5969 Lima, Peru	US\$20.00