

**PRESERVING THE CORE, STIMULATING PROGRESS** This Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the process in which CIP finds itself immersed: the creation of a new Vision for the Center. We see food security, human and environmental health, and adequate livelihoods as fundamental rights of all people, and our aim is to contribute to their fulfillment as effectively as possible. To do so, we must be selective. The Vision exercise will help us to focus our work and increase our impact on the interrelated challenges we face. Recognition of our core competencies—the pillars of our success—will help us to pinpoint the areas where we can make the biggest difference. At the same time, the analysis of emerging needs and opportunities in the light of these competencies will allow us to identify where we need renewed impetus.

In the following pages, you will read about activities that have been at the foundation of our research agenda from the outset, and also about areas where we are making new headway. Our work in conservation and breeding has paved the way for advances in combating important diseases such as late blight, contributing both to the development of new potato varieties with durable resistance and to the protection of biodiversity in this crop's center of origin (*Late blight research zeros in on a moving target*, page 35). More than 30 years of experience in participatory, integrated crop management has facilitated the application of new ways of dealing with emerging pest problems (*Global cooperation needed to combat leafminer fly*, page 21). And in Africa, two decades of cooperative networking has created a crucial support system for VITAA (Vitamin A for Africa), a food-based approach to combating vitamin A deficiency that is offering hope to millions (*Neighbors helping neighbors*, page 11). Meanwhile, CIP researchers are developing innovative modeling tools for systems analysis that support sound decision making on technological change and resource investment (*New modeling tools simplify decision making in complex mountain ecosystems*, page 27). In Asia, a fortified regional approach promises to help us realize the enormous potential of root and tuber crops for responding to urgent food and income needs (*Scientists prepare for new era of CIP–China cooperation*, page 45).

We are pleased to share these accomplishments with you on behalf of all of our many stakeholders: the donors, researchers, agents of change, policy makers, and farmers throughout the world who we labor side by side with to make it all work, and to make it work for all.