

NEWS FROM CIP



Re-connecting

There is no doubt that one of CIP's greatest assets is people – that community of people committed to CIP's mission, who have come through the doors of the center since they first opened in 1971, or had contact with CIP in one way or another. In my travels over the past several years, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you who joined the CIP community before I arrived in 2002. And, a good number of you have told me that you feel disconnected from CIP through a lack of communication. So, with a primary objective of reconnecting with our community, it gives me great satisfaction to send you this first issue of CIP's re-launched newsletter, which we will simply call **News from CIP**.

CIP is an international research institution working on potato, sweetpotato and other root and tuber crops, and on the improved management of natural resources in mountain areas. This newsletter, which will be published quarterly in electronic form, will contain stories about CIP's research and impact, as well as news about CIP itself, aimed at the CIP community.

Who is this community that has been created over the past 35 years? To prepare for the distribution of this first issue, the staff in my office have started working on a database (which we will need your help to complete). We have reviewed the historical files to create a CIP Board Alumni List. Since 1971, we have had 64 Board members from 27 countries. We have also created a CIP Staff Alumni List. The Center's Program is built upon a foundation that has been created by professionals from 40 of the world's nations.

This newsletter will also go out to all 632 of CIP's current staff members in the 14 countries in which they are posted. The Newsletter also aims at informing essential collaborators like our principal donor, research and development partners of the progress of our work. CIP's re-launched website (www.cipotato.org) will also play a leading role in communicating with our primary audiences.

Because this will be a re-introduction to CIP for many of you, the content of this first newsletter is an overview of the Center today. We will introduce you to the CIP Board and Staff, explain the CIP Program, share the current Vision (entitled Preserving the Core: Stimulating Progress) and ask you to look at the new strategy (entitled Strengthening our Assets: Enhancing our Impact).

One additional reason for re-connecting the CIP community now is to prepare for the upcoming celebration of International Year of the Potato, which the United Nations has declared for 2008. There is much to celebrate, and even more to be done.

I hope you enjoy News from CIP. Please let me know what you think about it, and what you would like to see in future issues.

Pamela K. Anderson
Director General



Developments at CIP

In recent years, CIP has been going through some major changes in strategic direction and management. Longer term research planning by a Center can only be done effectively if there is a vision for the center. In times of change, a well-articulated vision is also critical to provide guidelines for decision making and to avoid compromising long-term strategic needs and responsibilities in the face of immediate, external pressures.

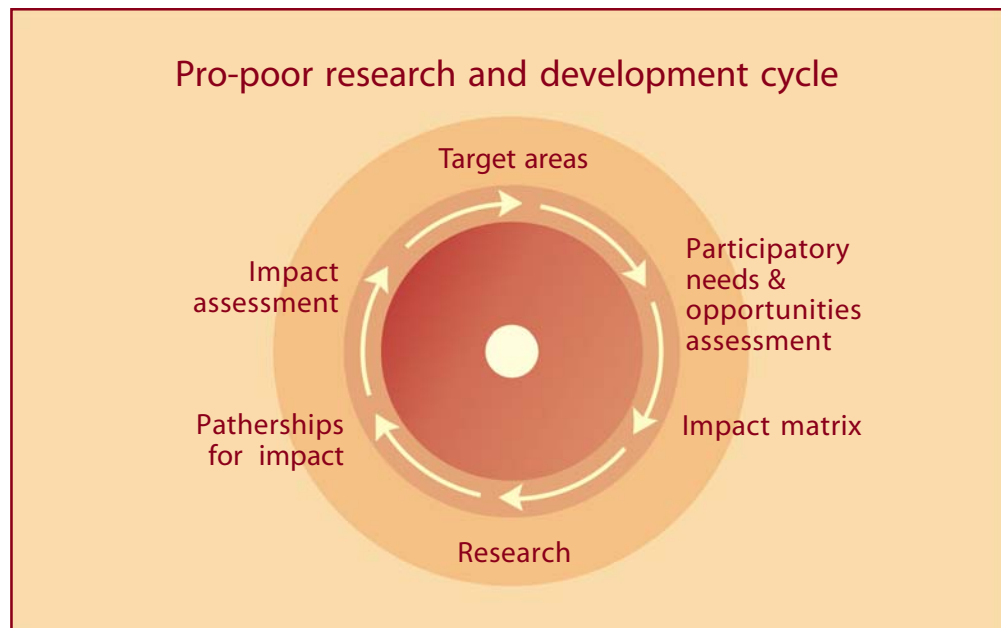
In June 2002, with the endorsement of the Board of Trustees, CIP's Director General mandated the Office of Research to carry out a Visioning Exercise. The outcome of the Visioning Exercise challenged CIP to develop a research agenda that aims to contribute significantly to eight of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A Vision Statement was also developed to reflect these research and development challenges.

CIP's Vision

The International Potato Center (CIP) will contribute to reducing poverty and hunger; improving human health; developing resilient, sustainable rural and urban livelihood systems; and improving access to the benefits of new and appropriate knowledge and technologies. CIP will address these challenges by convening and conducting research and supporting development partnerships on potato, sweetpotato, Andean root and tuber crops, and other commodities in mountain systems and the other less-favored areas where our mandate crops can contribute to the achievement of healthy, sustainable human development.

The Visioning Exercise resulted in a new research structure that consists of six Research Divisions and a series of Partnership Programs that are hosted and coordinated by CIP. Urban Harvest, CONDESAN and the Global Mountain Program are CGIAR Systemwide and Ecoregional Programs. PapaAndina, VITAA, PRAPACE and UPWARD are CIP-organized partnership platforms in Latin America, Africa and Asia (see http://www.cipotato.org/cip/global_contacts.asp).

The Vision document (CIP Vision: Preserving the core, stimulating progress, <http://www.cipotato.org/research/docs/CIPVISION04.pdf>) introduced CIP's research and development paradigm called the Pro-poor Research and Development (R&D) Cycle (see diagram). This R&D Cycle is a continuous iterative process with a number of clearly defined stages for generating a focused research agenda, producing outputs and outcomes, and following through to tangible impact on the livelihoods of the poor.





In April 2005, Hubert Zandstra retired as Director General of CIP and Pamela K. Anderson took over as CIP's Director General. Dr Anderson had been responsible as the Deputy Director General for Research for the Visioning Exercise. Dr Charles Crissman joined the management team as the DDG-R and carried on with the development of the CIP Strategic Plan for Research and Development.

CIP's Strategy (see [http:// www.cipotato.org/cip/strategy.pdf](http://www.cipotato.org/cip/strategy.pdf)) implements the Pro-poor R&D Cycle through a number of research and development themes that are grounded in regional realities. CIP was able to identify a series of key themes that create a logical connection between its research program and its contribution to the MDGs, in fact representing pathways to impact. These themes are: reducing temporal and chronic hunger in vulnerable communities; linking farmers to markets; improving access to safe and nutritious food; sustainable use of biodiversity; sustainable intensification of potato- and sweetpotato-based farming systems; sustainable and healthy horticulture in and around cities; and institutional learning for pro-poor change.

The Strategy follows from CIP's Vision to ensure that research outputs are translated into outcomes and impacts that improve the livelihoods of the poor. The development of both documents was extremely participative, with CIP staff, Board and stakeholders engaged throughout the process. The Strategy proposes a 10-year planning horizon, but perhaps the greatest value of the plan is in building consensus around a road map of where we want to go and in renewing our commitment to improving the livelihoods of the world's poor through agricultural research.

Observations and feedback on the Strategy are welcome. Please address comments to cip-dg@cgiar.org.





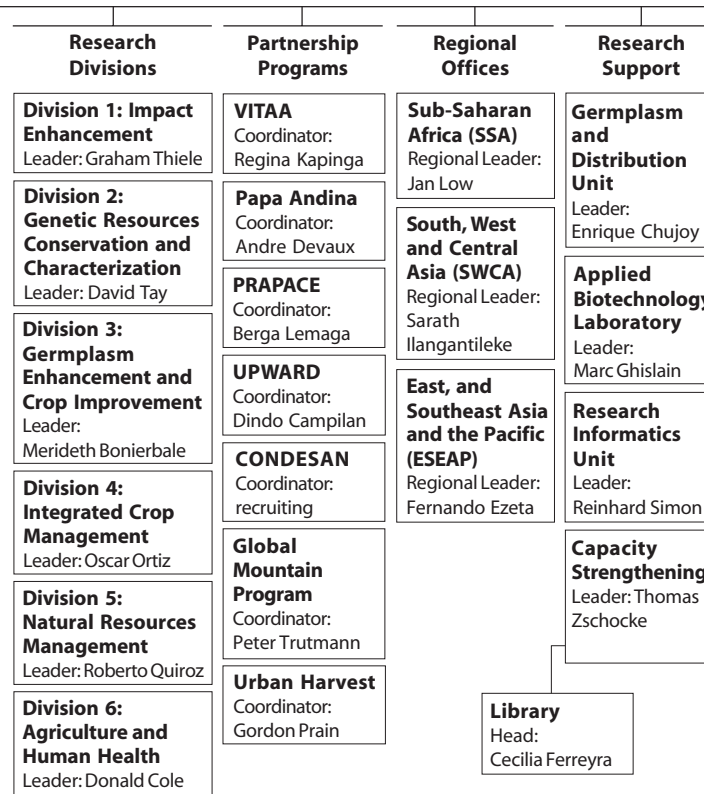
CIP's Program and principal staff

Board of Trustees

Office of the Director General

Director General
Pamela K. Anderson

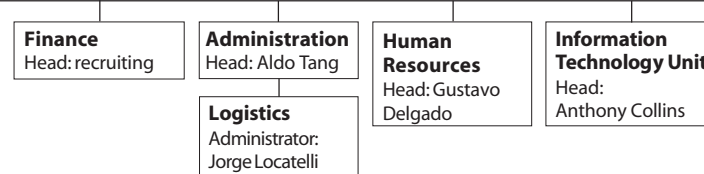
Deputy Director General for Research
Charles Crissman



Director of Finance and Administration
Carlos Alonso

Communications and Public Awareness Dept
Head: Paul Stapleton

Resource Mobilization Unit
Head: Kirsten Johnson

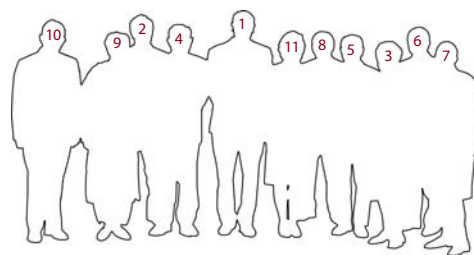




CIP's Board

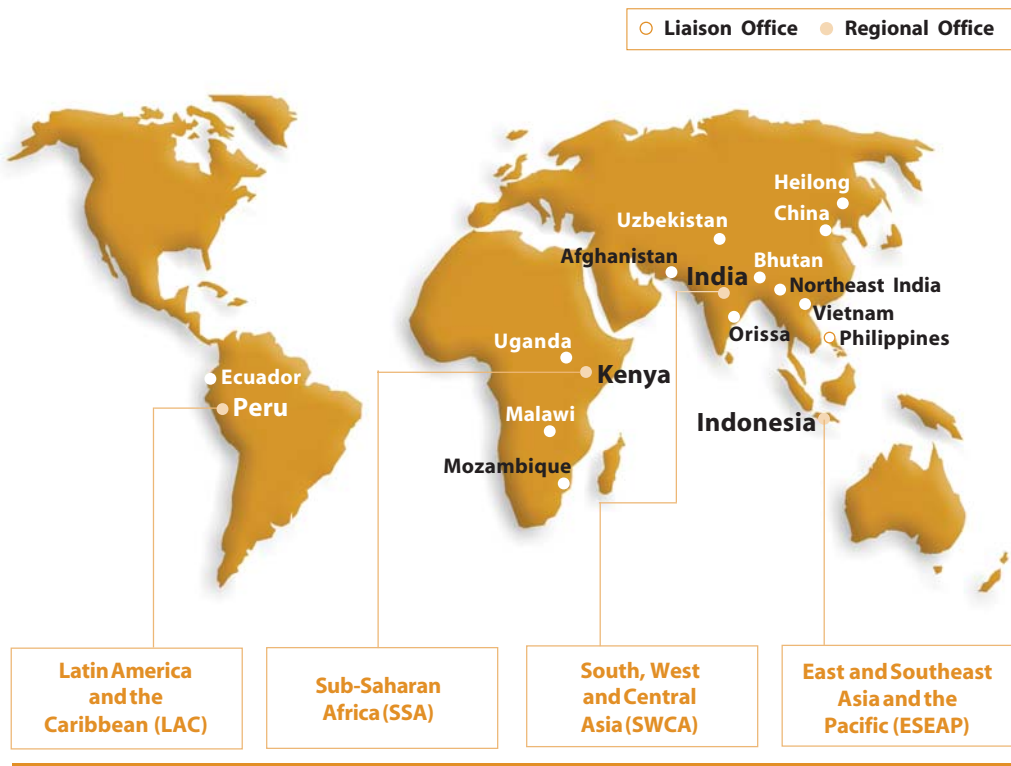


- 1. Mr. James Godfrey (Chair)**
United Kingdom
- 2. Dr. Alexander Boronin**
Institute of Biochemistry
and Physiology of
Microorganisms, Russian
Academy of Sciences
Russia
- 3. Dr. Ruth Egger**
Intercooperation
Switzerland
- 4. Dr. Kang-kwon Kim**
College of Natural Science,
Konkuk University
Republic of Korea
- 5. Dr. Orlando Olcese**
Universidad Nacional
Agraria La Molina
Peru
- 6. Dr. Victor Palma**
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- 7. Dr. Pauline Kuzwayo**
Medical University of
Southern Africa
South Africa
- 8. Dr. G. Edward Schuh**
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Institute of Public
Affairs
U.S.A.
- 9. Dr. Madhura Swaminathan**
Indian Statistical Institute
India
- 10. Dr. Song Jian**
Chinese Academy of
Engineering
China
- 11. Dr. Pamela K. Anderson**
International Potato Center
Peru





CIP in the world



CIP has 61 internationally recruited and 434 other staff stationed in HQ in Lima, Peru and across the world in regional and liaison offices.

Two CIP scientists decorated on Peru's National Day of the Potato

Two well-known researchers of the International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima, Peru were decorated with the Order of Merit of the Diplomatic Service of Peru José Gregorio Paz Soldán by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Dr. Oscar Maúrtua De Romaña, on 30 May 2006 during celebrations to mark the National Day of the Potato.

Professor Carlos Ochoa Nieves and Ir. Alberto Salas López are both plant taxonomists of international renown. "It turns out just as the ancient Peruvians adapted and developed this tuber in the Andean world, Peruvian scientists today are continuing with that same objective," said the Minister of Foreign Affairs in his address. "That is to say, they are developing varieties with higher yields and greater resistance to diseases or extreme environmental situations."

Professor Ochoa has devoted more than 40 years to the search for the ancestors of the potato and has discovered almost a third of the known species of wild potatoes. Due to this singular personal crusade, in the scientific circles he is known as the "Indiana Jones of the potato."

Dr. Salas has been a researcher at CIP for more than 35 years. He is an expert in identifying wild and cultivated species of potato and has participated in many expeditions collecting potato germplasm throughout the Andes, Central and North America. He has discovered six new species of potato and rediscovered another eight that were believed extinct.

The ceremony was carried out in the headquarters of CIP, which this year was the scene of the principal celebrations carried out in Peru to mark its National Potato Day. An exhibition in the grounds demonstrated the work that the Center does in Peru, as well as the impact it has had in increasing the uses and attributes of the potato.



Dr. Oscar Maúrtua De Romaña, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, with awardees Professor Carlos Ochoa Nieves and Ir. Alberto Salas López



The almost 150 guests were able to sample a variety of delightful and innovative dishes based on this noble tuber prepared by three of the most prestigious schools of cuisine in Lima. The largest chain of supermarkets in Peru, Wong, also participated in the exhibition with a display of various varieties of native potato that are on sale in its stores, especially the gourmet varieties sold under the trademark of T'ikapapa.

CIP researcher selected as a 'Scientist of the CGIAR'

Dr. Mohinder Singh Kadian, a CIP agronomist based in the India Regional Office, has been honored as a "Scientist of the CGIAR" for two years' hard work as one of the principal players in the efforts of the CGIAR to rehabilitate the farming economy of Afghanistan. Dr. Kadian assisted in introducing into Afghanistan fresh supplies of certified seed and provided training to local agricultural technicians and farmers on how to multiply and maintain quality seed at the farm-level. He also introduced into Afghanistan, for the first time, potato cultivation in the autumn season.

"I am proud to work with CIP and pleased with the impact we've enjoyed through our work on potato," he said. "The interaction with farmers is what has been most gratifying to me. I've learned a lot from them in all these years of work and extensive travel."

World potato industry honors CIP Board Chair

CIP's Chair of the Board, James Godfrey, has been chosen to receive one of the prestigious World Potato Congress Awards, presented at the congress in Idaho in the USA in August 2006.

Mr. Godfrey is a former chair of the UK Potato Marketing Board, the Scottish Crop Research Institute, Mylnefield Research Services Ltd and founder and first chairman of the Branston Potato Producers Group, which grows potatoes for the Tesco supermarket chain.

The award is made to individuals who have made substantial contributions over a number of years to potatoes and the potato industry.

Jim Godfrey is currently chair of CIP and also chair of the Alliance of the 15 centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Mr. Godfrey said, "[The award] is a great honour and I am thrilled to be recognized by my peers from around the world. I am very lucky and grateful for the support of my family, friends and business colleagues. This has allowed me the opportunities to work with so many interesting people both in the UK and worldwide."

"In the developing world, potatoes are an important food crop to some of the most disadvantaged people on the planet. The International Potato Center is doing some excellent work in improving nutrition, reducing infant and maternal mortality and raising living standards through its work on improved varieties, agronomic advice and sustainable use of resources."

Potatoes are the world's fourth most important food crop and will play an increasingly important role in feeding the rising world population.

The World Potato Congress started in 1992, and has previously been held in Canada, England, South Africa, Holland and China. Some 24 people have so far received awards.



Mohinder Kadian (wearing the CIP cap) at a meeting with Afghan farmers



2008 declared the International Year of the Potato

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2008 as the International Year of the Potato. This major event will present many opportunities to raise the profile of potato among civil society as an important world food staple. The potato is the fourth most important food crop in the world, with great potential as a food source for future generations. The Year also provides an invaluable opportunity to raise the profile of the potato in contributing to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UN Resolution affirms the need to focus world attention on the role that the potato can play in providing food security and eradicating poverty in support of achieving internationally agreed development goals.

CIP, representing the CG system, will be collaborating closely with FAO to plan, develop and implement the UN's activities to mark the Year. The Center will also be taking the lead in coordinating and implementing CGIAR activities, taking advantage of other centers' experience of previous Years.

The Government of Peru was responsible for nominating 2008 to the UN as the International Year of the Potato, so CIP will be working with its host Government in developing national activities. CIP will also be working closely with its collaborating institutions and donors to highlight the importance of the contribution that the potato can make to poverty alleviation, food security and human health. In particular, CIP will be organizing a ground-breaking conference on the future of the potato during 2008, as well as other, high-profile events in selected countries around the world.

CIP has established a preliminary web page (<http://www.cipotato.org/pressroom/iyp.asp>) that will develop into a primary resource as the agenda develops.



Native Andean potato varieties

Can you help?

If you have a contact email or address for any of these past collaborators of CIP, please send it to m.altet@cgiar.org

CIP Board Alumni

Brandolini, Aureliano
Couto, Flavio
Jinpu, Shen
Joshi, Atmaran
McClung, Colin
Mensah, Moise
Muturi, Stachys
Rigney, Jackson
Rives, Max
Sastrapradja, Setijati
Takase, Noboru
Thomas, Joab
Umaerus, Magnhild
Valverde, Carlos

CIP Staff Alumni

Acasio, Richarte
Aeschlimann, Daniel
Bertschinger, Lukas
Bezencon, Nicole
Campell, Joseph K.
Campos, Francisco
Dayal, T. R.
de Lekeu, A.M.H.
Eguchi, Yoshihiro
El-Nashaar, Hossien Mahmoud
Evans, Kenneth

Gass, Thomas
Guillen Sanchez, Francisco
Haguerod, Angellique
Henfling, Jan
Hohl, Hans R.
Hollister, Abigail
Hooker, William
Hopmans, Christianus
Hunt, George
Kaltenbach, Renato
Karmacharya, Bharat
Keller, Stefan
Kiflewahid, Berhane
Kloos, Jeroen
Luescher, Robert
Meerdink, Michiel
Meyer, Raymond
Monares, Anibal
Morpurgo, Riccardo
Mulholland, Mary Ellen
Muñoz, Francisco
Niezen, Palmera
Nydegger, Ursula
Odaga, Adhiambo
Page, Orville
Paladines, Osvaldo
Parker, Joanne

Payton, Frederick
Peterson, Linda
Proudfoot, Kenneth
Rao, Rama
Raymundo, Severino
Rizvi, Anwar
Rowe, Roger
Sato, Norio
Schafer, Rolf
Scheuch, Federico
Semel, Maurie
Shaw, Roy
Skoglund, Linea
Stewart, Veronica
Strohmerger, Anna
Thompson, Norman
Tribble, Stephanie
Turner, Caroline
Velicovickch, Djorde
Vessey, John
Watson, Greta
White, Jeffrey
Wright, Julia
Wurster, Richard

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