

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - Original version

Item 15.4: Proposal for an International Day of the Potato

Member Name	Comments
Colombia (Saturday, 10 June 2023 — 12.18)	<p>Colombia expresa con agrado su apoyo la propuesta para un Día Internacional de la Papa. Este alimento tiene una importancia fundamental para el sistema agroalimentario colombiano, pues no es solo uno de los alimentos más consumidos, sino también más cultivados. Colombia cuenta con 850 variedades de papa que representan el 3.3% del PIB agropecuario y generan anualmente miles de empleos. Además, está muy posicionada en la dieta y preparaciones de los colombianos, que consumen en promedio 57 kilos de papa per cápita al año.</p> <p>Colombia también reconoce la importancia de ayudar a los agricultores en pequeña escala, quienes mayoritariamente se encargan del cultivo de este alimento, para aumentar la sostenibilidad de sus cultivos, incrementar sus ingresos, proteger el medio ambiente y generar una mayor equidad social. Además, resaltamos la importancia que el Comité de Agricultura le ha dado a tener un Día Internacional de la Papa, enmarcado en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible #1 (Fin de la pobreza), #2 (Hambre cero), #8 (Trabajo decente y crecimiento económico), #12 (Producción y consumo responsables), #15 (Vida de ecosistemas terrestres) y #17 (Alianzas para lograr los objetivos).</p> <p>Finalmente, y teniendo en cuenta los retos que ha planteado la crisis económica causada por el COVID19 y otros factores económicos sobre este alimento, Colombia considera que un Día internacional de la Papa será una herramienta de gran utilidad para generar consciencia sobre su relevancia y llevar a cabo diferentes iniciativas que fomenten su cultivo sostenible y su conservación.</p>
Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)	<p>En el marco del procedimiento de comentarios escritos, establecido para abordar temas específicos de la agenda del 43º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de FAO, la Representación Permanente de la República Argentina tiene a bien compartir los siguientes comentarios.</p> <p>La Argentina da la bienvenida a la propuesta del Gobierno del Perú para establecer la celebración, en el marco de Naciones Unidas, del Día Internacional de la Papa.</p> <p>Es innegable la relevancia mundial de este alimento, en diversas dietas regionales, para contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, al igual que sus aportes al comercio internacional, la creación de empleo y el bienestar social. Así, la Argentina apoya el proyecto de Resolución para esta Conferencia sobre la celebración anual del Día Internacional de la Papa el 30 mayo y adelanta su compromiso para contribuir a la sensibilización de la importancia de este alimento.</p>

<p>Canada (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 10.21)</p>	<p>Canada recognizes the immense importance of the potato as a global food crop and the challenges and opportunities related to potato production and consumption that can be highlighted by way of an official International Day of Potato. Canada endorses the draft Resolution proposing an International Day of Potato.</p>
<p>Philippines (Wednesday, 14 June 2023 — 14.05)</p>	<p>The Philippines supports the endorsement of the draft Resolution, being proposed by the government of Peru, on the observance by the UN system of an "International Day of Potato" on 30 May every year. We look forward to the comprehensive platform that could be created from such an initiative to assess the problems and dynamics of sustainable potato production, particularly by smallholder farmers, and to come up with solutions to transform agrifood systems, with the support of the International Potato Center (CIP) among other stakeholders. In the Philippines, there is potential to develop its local seed production system to improve farmers' productivity and profitability as local demand for the potato tuber crop continues to increase, and as a means to contribute to biodiversity use and conservation and support efforts to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty. The Philippines hopes that this initiative can foster further cooperation in generating collaborative solutions to the problems of smallholders and sustainable potato production including through South–South Cooperation.</p>
<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, San Marino, and Serbia align themselves with this statement. In many countries worldwide, potato crop has contributed to food security and nutrition for a long time. However, the full expression of the potato crop's yield capacity has not yet been achieved. More can be done in terms of making use of the wide range of potato varieties, of its functions in agricultural and ecological systems, and in terms of its nutritional qualities. Improvement is needed in terms of widespread access to locally adapted and appropriate mechanization and equipment, responsible and sustainable use of inputs, and implementation of agronomic practices. Similarly, high-quality potato plants production, in-situ and ex-situ variety conservation, and the continued development and availability of varieties, in particular those that are tolerant of and resistant to abiotic and biotic threats such as potato late blight and drought, must be increased for family farmers around the world. The International Day of Potato can be a driver to accelerate global work on potato, including the implementation of scientifically supported methods to cope with production challenges and climate-change impacts on rural communities. Involving researchers, breeders and others relevant stakeholders, including the farmers themselves, with a view to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is key. Recognising the expected growth of the world's population, an International Day of Potato can highlight the "power" of potato-based systems to feed people. It should help to raise awareness of the potential of potato to transform food systems and contribute to the resilience of local communities, as well as being a catalyst for discussions on the potential economic levers for family farmers in rural communities. We underscore the need for diversification of farming systems, including the safeguarding of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with potato. We endorse the call to request the Director-General to present the draft Resolution to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and the President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for information purposes; and we support the request to FAO Members to take the requisite steps to ensure consideration of the</p>

	Resolution to observe 30 May as the International Day of Potato at forthcoming sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.
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