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## Book Review

**Potatoes for the Developing World.** International Potato Center, Lima Peru, 1984. Pp.x+150.

The International Potato Center (CIP) is a scientific institution which was established to develop and disseminate 'knowledge for greater use of the potato as a basic food'. This book is a result of a self evaluation by the CIP after about 12 years of being involved in potato research. Based on the information provided, readers are invited to draw their own conclusions as to the impact of the research and training being undertaken by the CIP. Potato industry people who are acquainted with the more technical annual progress reports of the CIP may be disappointed if they expect this book to contain detailed discussion of current research; it is written in a form to appeal to a wider audience.

The book is divided into six parts, concluding with selected references. It is very easy to read and well presented with an attractive layout, appropriate tables and figures, and includes both black and white, and coloured plates. However, the labelling of a few figures and plates was a little confusing. Part 1 is a precis of the book. It introduces and highlights; a very useful feature to direct the reader through the book if used in conjunction with the contents table.

Part 2 is entitled 'Potatoes in the Developing World' and discusses the nutritional value of the potato, potato production, distribution and use, and potato growing in the developing areas. This is an extremely informative section showing the importance of potatoes as a staple food in developing countries, and concludes by introducing four areas identified for technological improvement, being; varieties, seed systems, pest control and post harvest technology. In Part 3 the International Potato Center itself is described. Sections include CIP Mandate, CIP Program and Budget, Regional Programs, etc.

In Part 4, CIP's strategies to involve institutions and scientists from throughout the world in research and training while keeping its own program modest are described. The overall method of research planning and review, five forms of collaborative research and development links, and the training programs and training accomplishments are the main areas covered. In Part 5 research programs and their results are briefly described. In this, the most technical section of the book, the CIP have achieved a very broad coverage of research undertaken while maintaining a reasonable balance of technical terms and descriptive text. The inclusion of the results and applications adds significantly to the readers perception of the worth of the programs.

Part 6 contains seven illustrative studies. They have been included to depict how collaborative efforts between the CIP and national programs have solved problems of potato production, storage and use. These studies provided very interesting reading and if the reader's purpose was to evaluate the CIP, then this section provides the means to do so.

At the outset of this review it was noted that the reader is invited to assess the impact of the CIP's research and training programs, but does this book enable the reader to do this? It was written by the CIP about the CIP, it contains quotes and illustrative case studies selected for this purpose, and as such the reader is led to the inescapable conclusion that the CIP is a successful research institution. One cannot help but be impressed by the reported impact of the research and training programs that the CIP are involved with, but the book gives the impression of a public relations exercise advertising the benefits of the CIP and demonstrating the value of the research and training programs undertaken.

For those familiar with the CIP the book provides a reassuring report of the CIP's operations, one which may encourage continued or stimulate increased involvement with the CIP.

The book contains a brief insight, valuable for all scientific research institutions, as to what strategies were employed to achieve the success described, and for the reader not familiar with the CIP, but interested in such topics as development economics, research aid, training programs, or potatoes, the book will be read with keen interest as it contains much enlightening information presented in a very acceptable form.

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