

Rwanda

The potato came with German soldiers and Belgian missionaries to Rwanda in the early 20th century. Today, potatoes are the country's second most important crop, after plantains, and in the sub-Saharan region Rwanda is the third largest potato producer after South Africa and Malawi.

Since 1961, Rwanda's potato output has risen from less than 100 000 tonnes to a record 1.3 million tonnes in 2005. The harvest in 2006 was only slightly smaller. Potatoes grow well in several parts of country - mainly above elevations of 1 800 m - and some areas grow two crops a year. Most of potato sector consists of small family farms that intercrop potato with beans and maize, and yields average almost 10 tonnes per hectare.

The potato underpins Rwanda's food security. Annual consumption is a very high 124 kg per person, making potato the country's second most important source of calorie intake after cassava.

Further details from CIP's **World Potato Atlas**



Ibirayi, Potato, Pomme de terre

Year
2006
Production
1 285 149 t
Harvested area
139 750 ha
Yield
9.19 t/ha
Source: FAOSTAT