



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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### POTATO - PERU'S "BURIED TREASURE"

#### VIDEO

AYMARAN COMMUNITY BAND  
PLAYING

VILLAGE CHIEF WITH COCA  
LEAF THANKS "PACHABAMBA"  
FOR POTATO HARVEST

POTATO FESTIVAL BAND AND  
DANCERS

VILLAGERS GATHER AROUND  
MANY VARIETIES OF POTATOES  
ON GROUND

VILLAGERS FARM POTATOES

ALIPIO CANAHUA ON CAMERA

#### AUDIO

*NAT SOUND: music*

#### NARRATION

Coca leaves and wine are offered to Mother Earth. Four thousand metres up, near Lake Titicaca in Peru, this Aymaran community shows its gratitude to "Pachabamba" for the potato harvest, and asks for plentiful produce next year too. (15")

The community of 300 families depends on the potato, which has been growing in this part of the Peruvian Andes for around 8,000 years. More than 1,500 varieties grow here. (18")

ALIPIO CANAHUA MURILLO: (Spanish) **M**

*"In these peasant communities, the potato is one of the most important foods and sources of nutrition. A soup, or a meal without potato, is like a heart without a soul." (9")*

	<u>NARRATION</u>
ALIPIO TALKS TO VILLAGERS AT COMMUNAL POTATO LUNCH	Now climate change is threatening some of the native species with extinction. Local agronomist Alipio Canahua works with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which is supporting villagers in the reintroduction of ancient cultivation techniques better suited to extremes of climate. (19.5")
PEOPLE DIG RAISED FURROWS WITH ANCIENT TOOLS	
RAISED FURROWS AND PONDS	This system of raised furrows was used by the Incas. As well as irrigating and regulating temperature extremes, the water acts as a barrier against pest infestations. (11")
HARVESTING POTATOES	Ancient native varieties have also been reintroduced as they cope better with climate fluctuations. (6")
	<u>ALIPIO CANAHUA:</u> (Spanish) <b>M</b>
ALIPIO CANAHUA ON CAMERA	<i>"There are frost-resistant potatoes, drought-resistant potatoes and potatoes that withstand pests and diseases."</i> (5.5")
	<u>NARRATION</u>
RACKS OF POTATO SEEDLINGS IN INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTRE / SCIENTISTS WORK WITH SEEDS	The seeds were provided by the International Potato Centre in Lima, the world's largest gene-bank of potato seeds. Almost 5,000 varieties of potato seed are stored here, where scientists experiment to improve strains. The Centre is now exporting seeds all over the world and has seen a sharp increase in demand for the potato in recent years. (23.5")

POTATO IN PRODUCTION LINE

WHEAT FIELDS

COOKING POTATOES IN THE  
GROUND

Since it was first brought from Peru in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the potato has been a dietary staple across Europe and the developed world. Until recently, it wasn't a major ingredient in the cuisine of much of the rest of the planet. Now, as wheat and rice prices soar, the potato is being rediscovered globally as a cheap source of nutrition to feed increasingly hungry peoples. The current global food crisis is pushing the potato to the forefront. (29")

DR. WILLY ROCA ON CAMERA

DR. WILLY ROCA: (Spanish) **M**  
*"The potato is now the third most important crop in the world, after rice and wheat. It's overtaken maize."* (6.25")

DR. WILLY ROCA IN SEED  
LABORATORY WITH LIQUID  
NITROGEN

PEOPLE FARM IN FIELD BY LAKE  
TITICACA

#### NARRATION

Dr. Willy Roca, at the International Potato Centre, says that potatoes are now grown in 130 countries worldwide and feed around a billion people. But it is in the developing world that production has increased most rapidly, now accounting for more than half the world's potato produce. (19.75")

WOMEN EAT POTATOES

DR. WILLY ROCA: (Spanish) **M**  
*"Above all because it's a crop that is easily adapted and cultivated, and is very important from the point of view of nutrition, especially for the poorest people in the world."* (7.5")

	<u>NARRATION</u>
WOMAN EATS POTATO	The United Nations' General Assembly declared 2008 the International Year of the Potato; focusing world attention on the role the potato can play in defeating hunger and poverty. (12")
COMMUNAL LUNCH	It seems that <i>gold</i> was not the only treasure that the Spanish conquistadors brought from Peru to the rest of the world. (6.5")
	<u>ALIPIO CANAHUA:</u> (Spanish) <b>M</b>
ALIPIO CANAHUA ON CAMERA	<i>"The potato is an important product for this region, for the country and for humanity as a whole"</i> (5.5")
	<u>NARRATION</u>
COMMUNAL LUNCH CELEBRATION – LONG LINE OF VILLAGERS EATING / VILLAGERS DANCE WITH BAND	As they have done for centuries, the villagers of Caritamaya sit down for the annual potato feast. Now their native spud is enjoyed by peoples on all sides of the globe. Cause for celebration indeed... (13.5")
UN LOGO	This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4)