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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Project name:

Mongolian Potato Project – Exit
Phase

Duration:

2012 – 2015

Implementing agency:

Mongolian Farmers' Association
for Rural Development

Target group / beneficiaries:

- Small scale potato producers
- Commercial potato growers
- Licensed potato and vegetable seed producers
- Agricultural Research Institute

Budget:

CHF 2.8 million

SDC's strategic objective:

To contribute to equitable and sustainable social and economic development in Mongolia.

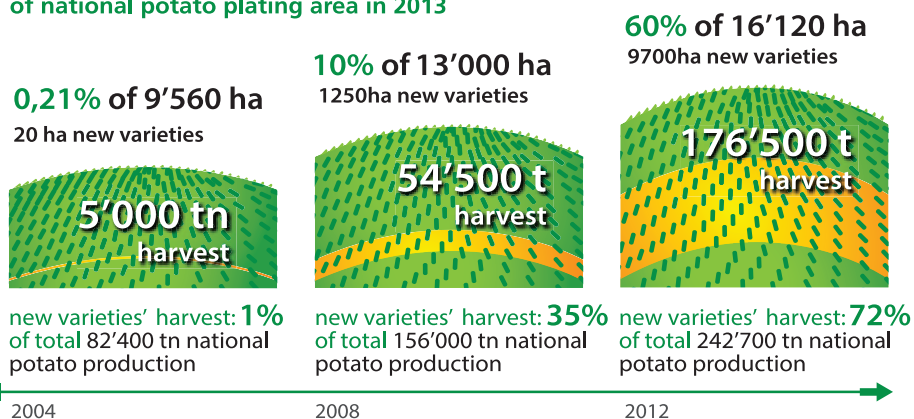
Background

Potatoes are an important source of nutrition in Mongolia. Potatoes are a small farmers' crop and are an important livelihood strategy for the rural poor. The average per capita consumption of potatoes is quite high, however a weak domestic market system and the lack of storage facilities remain obstacles in improving consumption among the rural population.

In 2013, 1193 companies and 63,235 households in 21 provinces were engaged in potato and vegetable production, and cultivated 15,000ha of potatoes and 7007ha of vegetables, contributing to more than 100 percent national self-sufficiency in potatoes and 51.0 percent in vegetables.

Key results and insights from previous phases (2005-2012):

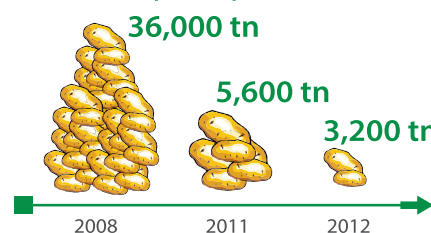
High quality, new varieties introduced by MPP represents 80 percent of national potato planting area in 2013



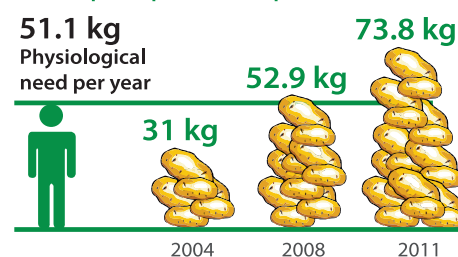
More than 80 percent of the total potato yield in 2013 was comprised of new varieties introduced by the Mongolian Potato Programme (MPP). Mongolia's potato production has significantly increased since 2004:

- Potato yields increased by 57 percent and potato-growing areas by 54 percent.
- Overall potato production has more than doubled (242 percent).
- The annual average of per capita consumption has increased from 31kg to 73.8kg in the past six to seven years.
- National self-sufficiency increased from 60 percent to 100 percent in 2011.

Decreased imported potatoes



Annual per capita consumption has increased



Success story: Tuv aimag is the largest potato-producing province in Mongolia, accounting for 42 percent of Mongolia's total land for potato production. Having witnessed a huge 500 percent increase in potato production (from 20,047 tonnes in 2004 to 100,700 tonnes in 2012), the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture is crediting the potato industry for having significantly increased sustainable development in the region.

EXIT PHASE

Main goal

'Improved food security, better-balanced nutrition and higher income of the population through increasing the productivity of the Mongolian potato and vegetable sector'.

Key outputs of the phase

- Certified potato and vegetable seeds available, a seed certification system functioning.
- New technologies and new techniques for potato and vegetable seed production introduced.
- Farmers trained in seed production technologies.

POTATO SEED PRODUCTION AND MARKETING /2013/

In 2013, the MPP distributed a total of 980 tonnes of high-quality potato seeds to farmers throughout the country for spring planting.

A total of 42 farmers received financial support to construct and rehabilitate underground potato storage facilities.

The MPP has organised promotional sales every spring since 2006 to increase consumers' awareness of high-quality potatoes.

The MPP, in collaboration with researchers from the Agriculture Research Institute, has tested sprout-inhibiting agent CIPC for use in table potato storage to extend the storage period of ware potatoes. The application of

this organic agent will allow table potatoes to be stored until July, extending the availability of ware-potatoes on the market for an additional two months.

The MPP has introduced the early-maturing potato variety Solist which, depending on weather conditions, can be supplied to markets as early as 20 July - two to three weeks earlier than traditional harvested potatoes.

Beginning on 20 July, 2013, the first early harvest potatoes were available on the consumer market in Bulgan, Selenge, Tuv, Darkhan-Uul and Sukhbaatar aimags, which is the result of introduction of early-harvest technology.

VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION

In 2013, vegetable variety testing involved more than 156 varieties of 34 vegetable species.

The MPP introduced for vegetable growers selective herbicides for onion and beetroot, which are included in the official list of approved chemicals.

Hand-planters, plastic greenhouses, tunnels, irrigation equipment, original vegetable seed and new pesticides for vegetable production were delivered to vegetable seed producers. In addition, vegetable seed multipliers received financial support to rehabilitate storage facilities.

A total of 1540kg of locally produced onions of the "Stuttgarter Riesen" variety have been delivered to farmers at a 40 percent lower price, compared with imported onions.

World-renowned vegetable seed company Bejo supplied seed of 20 varieties and four different types of vegetables for variety testing. The resulting yield impressed Bejo specialists during their visit to MPP project sites in September.

KEY PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Industry and Agriculture
- Plant Science, Agriculture Research Institute
- Research Institute for Plant Protection,
- General Agency for Specialised Inspection
- CIP - International Potato Centre
- VNIISOK - Russian Research Institute of Vegetable Breeding and Seed Production

Project address:

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