



Roots, Tubers, and Bananas for Food Security and Income

Strategies to reduce the risk of food shortages and malnutrition must include increased yields and stronger, more diversified crop systems. This program gathers an unprecedented level of collaborators and stakeholders to exploit the underutilized potential of root, tuber, and banana crops for increasing food security, improving lives, and fostering gender equity.

Why focus on roots, tubers, and bananas (RTBs)?

- **RTBs are major food security staples.** They are among the 10 most consumed food crops, offer cheap sources of energy & key nutrients, and provide 14-60% of daily calories of many of the world's poor.
- **RTBs offer great potential for higher yields and increased system productivity.** Improved varieties and the ability to grow RTBs in marginal areas, in rotation or intercropped with other crops mean more food, more diversity, and more efficient systems.
- **RTBs are often grown by women, and among the poorest of the poor in marginal areas.** Enhanced productivity and access to value market chains can improve lives for vulnerable populations.
- **RTBs are relatively insulated from global price fluctuations.** They can buffer against market shocks and serve as crisis mitigation crops.

Research themes

Seven interconnecting themes reflect the major scientific and programmatic entry points for maximizing impacts across the RTB research-for-development continuum, as identified by stakeholders and partners.

1. Conserving and accessing genetic resources
2. Accelerating the development and selection of varieties with higher, more stable yield and added value
3. Managing priority pests and diseases
4. Making available low-cost, high-quality planting material for farmers
5. Developing tools for more productive, ecologically robust cropping systems
6. Promoting postharvest technologies, value chains, and market opportunities
7. Enhancing impact through partnerships



What's new about this research program?

New synergies from crop commonalities, exploring new ways of working together and research breakthroughs to take advantage of complementarities and synergies between RTB crops and partners.

Focus on partnerships to inform research priorities, boost innovations, and improve delivery pathways for ensuring higher product impacts.

Gender mainstreaming to improve production, processing, or marketing systems and promote equitable benefits for women, men, and families.

Root, tuber, and banana hotspots



Impacts

By 2021, RTBs will play an enhanced role within a diversified global food security system, reduce risks of food shortages and nutritional shortfalls, and improve incomes benefiting 200 million women, men, and children.

Partners



and a wide spectrum of research-for-development stakeholders & partners

Contact

<https://sites.google.com/a/cgxchange.org/roots-tubers-bananas/home>

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