



Science For A Better Life

GLOBALG.A.P.
certification achieved
thanks to proactive
support



food chain partnership



How it all started

Around 85,000 hectares of potatoes are cultivated in Colombia – for both seed and consumption purposes. Potatoes are one of the country's most important crops, with 99.7% of Colombian households eating potatoes on an everyday basis. The majority of potatoes grown in Colombia are for domestic consumption and around 90,000 families are dependent on this crop. Potatoes grown for consumption have to comply with specific quality standards in terms of size and phytosanitary criteria. Those destined for industrial use are additionally required to meet criteria such as soluble solids and frying quality. Potatoes grown for seed are governed by regulations laid down by the national authority ICA – the Colombian Agricultural Institute.

In mid-2007 Bayer first proposed a differentiating service to Plantar de Colombia. It was the first step towards developing this Food Chain Partnership project. Plantar de Colombia was convinced about Bayer's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) portfolio featuring no toxicity category I (Tox I) crop protection products, so that the scope of the project contained for Plantar de Colombia to become the first Colombian potato producer to be certified under an international protocol, such as GLOBALG.A.P.. The main objective of Plantar de Colombia with such an international certification was to strongly differentiate their production to offer to the national consumption an excellent certified potato seeds.

What we aimed to achieve

The goals of this Food Chain Partnership project were to support potato production without Tox I crop protection products and to achieve GLOBALG.A.P. certification for Plantar de Colombia.



Who is involved

Plantar de Colombia S.A. is one of the biggest potato producers in Colombia and plants around 250 hectares per year with potato seeds as well as potatoes for consumption with the country's most important varieties (Diacol capiro, *Solanum pureja*).

Bayer CropScience Colombia with years of experience in the country's agricultural area has proven competence in growing potatoes without Tox I crop protection products and expertise in the implementation of good agricultural practices.



The integrated crop solution

Bayer CropScience developed a complete non-Tox I IPM program for Plantar de Colombia's potato crop. The key diseases affecting the potatoes were controlled by the following CPPs:

- *Phytophthora infestans*: Infinito®, Trivia®, Antracol®, Fitoraz®
- *Premnotypes vorax*: Regent®, Alsystin®, Connect Duo®
- *Tecia solanivora*: Alsystin®, Larvin®

In addition, Bayer ran training courses for technicians and crop protection product operators since a GLOBALG.A.P. audit includes interviews with the people responsible for sprayings. Over a period of three years, Bayer trained the course attendees once a month on topics such as safe use, personal protective equipment, IPM, first aid, pictograms and residues, and once a year on application techniques. In this way Bayer personnel provided regular practical support during the audits to support Plantar de Colombia in achieving GLOBALG.A.P. certification.

A number of sustainability measures were also implemented: IPM, empty container management, final disposal of waste (e.g. lubricants, plastics), crop rotation for improved soil management, and fertilizer programs based on soil analyses. The physiochemical properties of the soil and water and the residue levels were analyzed, while official inspections were conducted on the seeds during the plantation, harvest and post-harvest periods.



What we achieved

The achievements of this Food Chain Partnership project were excellent:

- Potato production without Tox I crop protection products
- Reduction of crop protection costs – 12 % lower than Plantar's traditional spraying program
- GLOBALG.A.P. certification for Plantar de Colombia – the only potato producer in Colombia to be thus certified
- Greater demand for potatoes grown by Plantar de Colombia
- Better management of Plantar de Colombia's internal processes leading to optimized production

Next steps

This Food Chain Partnership project is not only continuing but also being extended to carrots, maize, lettuce and peas, where the goal is also to achieve GLOBALG.A.P. certification for these vegetable crops.



left:
Beatriz Eugenia Arrieta A.
Andean Stewardship Responsible
at Bayer S.A. Colombia

right:
Alejandro Estévez O.
General Manager
of Plantar de Colombia S.A.

food chain partnership



Consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of the need for healthy nutrition. Food Chain Partnerships help to supply consumers with high-quality fresh produce, which forms the basis of a healthy diet. But such partnerships can only succeed if they involve every player in the food chain – from the farmer and processor to the exporter or importer and retailer. Bayer CropScience has the global experience and cutting-edge expertise to create a successful partnership at every level.



Bayer CropScience

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