

Foreword

The Global Initiative on Late Blight (GILB) was launched in 1996 as a way to bring people together with the aim of increasing and enhancing both the efforts devoted to solving the problem of late blight in potato and to increasing the resources to do so. Forty-one participants from developing and industrialized countries met at a Project Design Meeting at the International Potato Center in Lima, Peru, March 17 – 20, 1996. A three-phase, ten-year program was planned with specific priorities and a mode of operation was established for GILB.

On March 16 – 19, 1999—almost exactly three years after the Lima meeting, a second conference was organized by GILB. The conference, titled “Late Blight: A Threat to Global Food Security”, was held in Quito, Ecuador for the purpose of bringing together late blight experts from all over the world, under the umbrella of the GILB, to learn about the current status of technology development and implementation, and to review the course for further concerted action. The results of that conference are presented in two volumes. **Volume I: The Proceedings of the Conference** includes the formal oral and poster presentations, as well as a full list of participants. **Volume II: Future Directions for GILB** contains the results of participatory workshops and interactive discussions among all participants to set the future course for GILB and to maximize its contributions to global efforts to eliminate late blight. All comments or suggestions regarding the GILB Conference and/or documentation of its results are very welcome and may be directed to gilb@cgiar.org.

GILB Steering Committee