

Preface

The heavy losses caused by potato late blight threaten the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in the Andean region. During this international workshop researchers and extensionists, principally from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, working to resolve this problem, came together. The workshop was a unique experience for the members of the GILB regional linkage group of Latin America involved in late blight control. Most meetings and workshops concerning this disease in the past have been centered on disease resistance in potato cultivars. This was the first time that prominence was given to management activities that complement host resistance to late blight. This was done, not because the organizers considered that resistance was unimportant, but rather to redress the balance, as in other workshops resistance is given priority over other management tactics against this disease.

Topics on integrated pest management of late blight presented in this workshop include several related to fungicides, such as timing of treatments, application methods and fungicide resistance, and others, such as plant nutrition and host diversity, as well as decision support systems. Contributors also emphasized the importance of farmers' understanding of how late blight management strategies are developed. Finally, a European collaborative model for the regional organization of concerted and coordinated research was presented to provide a prototype to stimulate the Latin American GILB linkage group into developing similar efforts in Latin America. Readers interested in integrated blight management will find valuable references in this document.

The workshop organizing committee was composed of:

Antonio Gandarillas, General Manager – PROINPA,
Julio L. Gabriel, IPM-Late Blight Project – PROINPA,
Graham Thiele, Andean Potato Project (Proyecto Papa Andina CIP-COSUDE),
Greg Forbes, Late Blight Project, CIP-Quito and
Patricio Malagamba, Training and Communication Unit, CIP-Lima.

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