Potato
A world production, a European business

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A world production

- Figures in 2008 (FAO)
  - 18 millions hectares
  - 314 millions tonnes

- Potato is grown on all continents

- Potato is the 3rd most important food crop in the world after rice and wheat
Areas of cultivation

North America
23 M t

Latin America
16 M t

EU (27)
62 M t

Russia/Ukraine/Belarus
57 M t

Central Asia
15 M t

India Subcontinent
46 M t

Africa
19 M t

South Pacific
1.7 M t

China
57 M t
Highlights on potato production
International trade
European leadership for table potatoes

North America
1,5 M t

Latin America
0,3 M t

EU
12 M t

Africa
0,4 M t

Other Europe
0,7 M t

Asia
0,8 M t

2008 : 16 M t – 3,3 billion €
### Top 5 importing/exporting countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Imports</th>
<th></th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>24 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>19 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>11 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>7 %</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7 %</td>
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Potato seeds

- FAO figures (2008): 31 millions tonnes
- Most farmers still plant next season’s potatoes using part of last season’s crop
- Need for planting material
  - With high yield
  - With better resistance to pests and diseases
- European breeders are world leaders
Potato seeds production in Europe

Propagation area in EU 27: 110,000 hectares

- **Germany**: 17%
- **UK**: 16%
- **Denmark**: 4%
- **Belgium**: 2%
- **Belgium**: 2%
- **Others**: 8%
- **Holland**: 37%
- **France**: 16%
- **Germany**: 17%

Main countries in eastern Europe: Poland, Czech Republic, Romania
International trade
European leadership for potato seeds

2008: 2 M t – 930 million €
### Top 5 importing/exporting countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>7 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>7 %</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Challenges for tomorrow

• World demography
  – Growth of the world’s population
  – Growth of urban dwelling
• Change of consumption patterns
• Climate change, environmental issues
• Pests and diseases
• Storage