

Bio-Fortified Potatoes

August 4, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Bio-Fortified Potatoes Latest News

India is taking a significant step in tackling micronutrient deficiencies and improving agricultural sustainability by introducing bio-fortified potatoes with enhanced iron content, developed by the International Potato Center (CIP) based in Peru.

What are Bio-Fortified Potatoes?

- **Bio-fortified potatoes** are a new variety enriched with **higher iron content** aimed at addressing iron deficiency and hidden hunger. These are developed using **conventional breeding and biotechnology** without altering taste or yield.
- The initiative is led by the **International Potato Centre (CIP)**, based in The CIP is a **global research leader in tuber crops** and is working actively to promote **nutritionally improved potatoes** in India.

About Bio-Fortified Sweet Potatoes

- Bio-fortified **sweet potatoes enriched with Vitamin A** are already available in **Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal, and Odisha**. Plans are underway to expand their access to more farmers across India.
- The current focus is on **iron-fortified potato varieties**, for which **germplasm has been shared** with **ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla**.
- A variety has already been released in **Peru** and is currently under **evaluation and adaptation** for Indian agro-climatic conditions.
- CIP is establishing a South Asia regional centre in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, acknowledging the **Indo-Gangetic plains** as the **world's largest potato-producing region**. This centre will boost regional R&D and seed access.
- ICAR has released **biofortified seed varieties** across **61 crops**, including **34 field crops** (cereals, pulses, millets, oilseeds) and **27 horticultural crops** (tubers, vegetables, medicinal plants).
- **Examples of Biofortified Crops**
 - **CR Dhan 416**: Salinity-resistant rice variety with multiple pest resistances.
 - **Durum Wheat**: Adapted to irrigated areas, rich in **zinc (41.1 ppm)** and **iron (38.5 ppm)**, and contains **12% protein**.

About Biofortification

- **Biofortification** is the process of **enhancing the nutrient content** of crops using **conventional breeding, agronomic techniques, or modern biotechnology**.
- It helps increase **vitamin and mineral levels** in staple crops.

Source: **TH**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/bio-fortified-potatoes/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.