

RWANDA POTATO VARIETY DESCRIPTION GUIDE



CIP
INTERNATIONAL
POTATO CENTER



Rwanda Inspectorate,
Competition and Consumer
Protection Authority





RWANDA POTATO VARIETY DESCRIPTION GUIDE

Key Contributors





Rwanda Potato Variety Description Guide

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DOI: 10.4160/cip.2025.03.001

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Citation

Borus, D.; Mendes, T.; Ndacyayisenga, T.; Nduwayezu, A.; Niragire, I.; Niyonteze, G.; Nshimiyimana, J. C.; Uzamushaka, S. 2025. Rwanda Potato Variety Description Guide. International Potato Center. 53 p. DOI: 10.4160/cip.2025.03.001

May 2025

CIP thanks all donors and organizations that globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders



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CONTENT

FOREWORD	<u>08</u>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<u>09</u>
RWANDA INSPECTORATE, COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (RICA)	<u>10</u>
ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS	<u>11</u>
DEFINITIONS OF TERMS	<u>11</u>
SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ATTRIBUTES OF POTATO VARIETIES IN RWANDA	<u>14</u>
RWANDA AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT BOARD (RAB)	<u>58</u>
AGRITERRA-RWANDA	<u>60</u>
SPF JOINT VENTURES LTD (SPF IKIGEGA)	<u>60</u>





RELEASED POTATO VARIETIES AND DESCRIPTION

1. CHALLENGER	<u>20</u>	11. NDAMIRA	<u>40</u>
1. CRUZA	<u>22</u>	12. NDEZE	<u>42</u>
3. GIKUNGU	<u>24</u>	13. NKUNGANIRE	<u>44</u>
4. GISUBIZO	<u>26</u>	14. PANAMERA	<u>46</u>
5. IZIHIRWE	<u>28</u>	15. ROSI	<u>48</u>
6. JYAMBERE	<u>30</u>	16. SEKA	<u>50</u>
7. KAZENEZA	<u>32</u>	17. TAURUS	<u>52</u>
8. KEREKEZO	<u>34</u>	18. TWIGIRE	<u>54</u>
9. KINIGI	<u>36</u>	19. TWIHAZE	<u>56</u>
10. KIRUNDO	<u>38</u>		

FOREWORD

This **potato description guide** is the first of its kind in Rwanda, providing a comprehensive reference on all officially released potato varieties. It describes each variety's target market segment, tuber characteristics, maturity period, potential yields, and level of resistance to diseases of economic importance including late blight, potato virus Y (PVY) and potato virus leaf roll (PLRV).

The need for this description guide for Rwanda was identified by potato stakeholders during the stakeholder's engagement forum highlighting the demand for a reliable resource on potato varieties. In response, the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB), took the lead working in collaboration International Potato Center (CIP) and other partners- to develop this potato variety description guide.

Designed as a **quick and practical reference**, the variety description guide helps users identify different potato varieties grown in Rwanda- understand their characteristics, attributes, and determine the optimal conditions suitable for their growth and use.

Potato was introduced to Rwanda around 1900 by German soldiers and later by Belgian missionaries. The most likely places of earliest cultivation were in the gardens of the missions near Gitarama and Butare (Durr, 1983). In 1962, the Rwandan Institute for Agricultural Sciences (ISAR), operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, assumed responsibility for agricultural research and development. In 1979, the National Program for Potato Improvement (PNAP) was established within ISAR (now the RAB) in cooperation with the CIP.

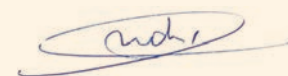
Between 1983 and 2020, thirty-one distinct potato varieties were developed and released by the RAB in collaboration with the CIP and other research institutions. There are three distinct periods when these varieties were released in Rwanda: between 1983 - 1989, 1992 - 1996, and 2019 - 2020. Out of the older varieties released in 1980s, Kinigi, Cruza, and Kirundo, are among the current most preferred varieties. Eleven potato varieties were released in 2019/2020.

Potato is a major food and cash crop grown throughout Rwanda. Most of its production is concentrated in the high-altitude region: highlands of volcanic soil, Buberuka and the Congo/Nile Divide located in Southwest and North of the Country. The Region accounts for more than 80% of the national potato production, while the rest of the potatoes are produced under marginal cultivation throughout the country.

The development of the potato variety description guide aims at enhancing awareness about the released varieties and helping create the links between seed growers and ware potato farmers. Potato growers, potato traders, potato processors, and potato consumers need to know the varieties available, their characteristics, attributes, and the suitable agro-ecological conditions for their production, such that the decisions made by the actors and stakeholders are evidence- and science-based.

I extend sincere appreciation to the International Potato Center (CIP) for financial support, under the two-year (Oct. 2022 - Dec. 2024), USAID funded project: Partnership for Seed Technology Transfer in Africa (PASTTA II), and AGRITERRA funded project (Aug. 2024 - March 2025) which made the development of this variety description guide possible. I also express our gratitude to all actors and stakeholders for their valuable contribution, insights, and participation in bringing this resource to life.

I strongly recommend this **potato variety description guide** for use by all actors and stakeholders across the potato value chain as an essential tool for making well-informed decisions.



Dr. Ndabamenye Telesphore

Director General, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board

May 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This **potato variety description guide** for Rwanda provides a summary of information on all the potato varieties grown in the country. The bulk of information is in tabular form for quick overview and differentiation of varieties. This is complemented by detailed descriptions of each variety, with respective pictures showing the plant morphological characteristics (size and color of stems and leaves), flowers (flowering ability, intensity and color), growth habits, tuber characteristics (tuber size, shape, skin and flesh color, eye depth) and the color and shape of the sprouts.

Potato researchers from CIP and RAB were consulted for information on the morphological characteristics, performance and utilization of the different varieties grown in Rwanda. Potato fields from RAB, Musanze station were visited for physical observations and examination of the identified varieties, focusing on agro-ecological requirements.

Tubers of each selected variety were cut-open for internal examination of flesh color. Pictures were taken for external and internal tuber appearance; tuber sprouts and flowers of each variety.

This guide describes potato varieties in terms of variety use, growth characteristics, tuber features, maturity and dormancy period, potential yields, dry matter content and resistance levels to diseases and pests. These descriptions will make it easy to identify each variety, targeting specific agro-ecological zones, use and market segment.

This description guide contains potato varieties still in use in the seed system in Rwanda including some which were introduced by ISAR in 1980's for their special attributes as required by farmers and other potato stakeholders in Rwanda.

The development of this potato variety description guide was supported by CIP under the two-year (Oct. 2022- Dec. 2024), USAID funded project: Partnership for Seed Technology Transfer in Africa (PASTTA II), and the AGRITERRA funded project (Aug.2024 -March 2025). The description guide contributes to target outcomes of the **fifth Government Rwanda's Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA 5, 2024- 2029)**, by enabling potato growers and consumers select varieties adapted to their agro-ecological zone, market preference and intended use. Potato is one of the six priority crops forecasted to increase by 73% by the end of PSTA5.

By creating awareness of improved varieties and certified seed producers, it aligns with the **new CIP 2030 strategy** to enhance farmers' access to quality disease-free seed potato.



Dr. Dinah Borus

Project leader, Partnership for Seed Technology Transfer in Africa (PASTTA II), and the AGRITERRA funded project (Aug. 2024-March 2025).

May 2025

RWANDA INSPECTORATE, COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AUTHORITY (RICA)



The Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority (RICA), established by the Law N° 31/2017 of 25/07/2017, is a regulatory institution in Rwanda's agricultural and trade landscape. Since its inception in early 2020, RICA has taken on critical responsibilities, including seed inspection and certification, previously managed by the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB). In this endeavor, RICA oversees the registration, licensing, and quality control of seeds, ensuring compliance with national and international standards to bolster Rwanda's agricultural productivity and market access.

In the potato value chain, seed quality assurance is paramount. High-quality seeds are the foundation of robust yields, disease resistance, and market competitiveness, directly impacting farmers' livelihoods and the national economy. RICA's meticulous inspection and certification processes guarantee that only seeds meeting the required standards reach the market, mitigating risks of poor germination, pest susceptibility, and substandard produce. This description guide serves as an essential tool in this endeavor, providing a comprehensive reference for seed inspectors to verify varietal identity, characteristics, and compliance during certification.

Beyond its utility for inspectors, the potato variety description guide plays a vital role in promoting internal quality control within seed production. By detailing approved potato varieties and their standards, it empowers seed producers to align their practices with regulatory requirements, fostering consistency and traceability across the supply chain. This, in turn, enhances the reliability of Rwanda's seed systems. Moreover, this description guide strengthens RICA's service delivery by streamlining inspection processes, improving stakeholder awareness of certified varieties, and supporting export promotion through assured quality. Through such initiatives, RICA reinforces its commitment to advancing Rwanda's seed sector and agricultural excellence.

We call upon all stakeholders; **farmers, seed producers, inspectors, and traders, to actively utilize this resource to ensure quality and compliance in the potato seed sector.** To ensure its ongoing relevance, RICA, through the Registrar of Plant Varieties, will update it whenever new varieties are released or additional information emerges, keeping it a dynamic resource for agricultural progress.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the International Potato Center (CIP) for spearheading this potato variety description guide development, with support from the USAID-funded Partnership for Seed Technology Transfer in Africa (PASTTA II) project (October 2022–December 2024) and the AGRITERRA-funded project (August 2024–March 2025).

Antoinette MBABAZI, MSc.

Ag. Director General

May 2025

ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

CIP	International Potato Center
ISAR	Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Rwanda
PNAP	Programme Nationale pour l'Amélioration de la Pomme de terre
RAB	Rwanda Agricultural and Animal resources development Board
RICA	Rwanda Inspectorate, Competition and Consumer Protection Authority

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Apical dominance	After dormancy, a single sprout with apical dominance starts to develop from the tuber. The apical sprout can be taken off to favor the development of more lateral sprouts. This should not be done more than once.
Basic Seed	Approved progeny of pre-basic seed produced by seed growers authorized by the competent authority (Seed Law, 2016).
Breeder seed	Seed directly controlled by the plant breeder whose production complies with the plant breeding principles from which all other seed classes are produced (Seed Law, 2016).
Certified Seed	Seed tuber is produced from the multiplication of basic seeds whose quality has been approved through a legally recognized certification process (Seed Law 2016).
Dormancy	Is the stage immediately after harvest when no sprouts develop even under conducive environment to plant growth.
Dormancy period	Time period taken by a potato tuber from time of harvest to time of sprout initiation and growth (germination).
Dry matter content	Solid composition of the potato tuber including starch, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals.
Improved variety	A product of formal breeding programs that have undergone testing and a formal release process.
Landrace	Cultivars that have been traditionally grown mainly for food security.
Maturity period	Time period taken by a crop from planting to maturity stage, ready for intended use.
Minituber	A progeny tuber produced from vitro-derived plantlets or microtubers. These microtubers are characterized by their size, being smaller than conventional seed tubers but larger than in vitro microtubers cultivated under aseptic conditions on artificial media. Minitubers may be produced in conventional, aeroponics, or sandponics screenhouses.

Plantlet	A product of plant tissue culture. It is a starter planting material for seed potato production. The plant tissue culture or micropropagation serves to multiply disease-free planting materials (Seed Law, 2016).
Pre-basic Seed	Seed of the generation directly derived from breeder seed under the direct control of the plant breeder or his duly accredited representative (Seed Law, 2016).
Processing potato	Potato that will undergo value addition, including chips, crisps, flour, starch, dextrose, and other industrial uses.
Quality Declared Seed	Seed tubers produced from basic or certified seed, are declared by the producer as being in conformity with technical, identity, and quality standards governing seed production and approved by the competent authority after the verification of the quality (Seed Law, 2016). This usually happens when a registered seed field is downgraded for failing to meet all the requirements for certified seed.
Seed potato	Potato that has undergone the certification process and is intended specifically for planting.
Table potato	Potato in which fresh tubers are directly used for boiling, roasting, mashing or in stew.



SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ATTRIBUTES OF POTATO VARIETIES IN RWANDA

N°	Variety	Utilization			Maturity period (days)	Yield potential (t/ha)	Tuber characteristics			Level of disease resistance (1) Tolerant, (2) Moderately tolerant, (3) Susceptible.			
		Table	Chips	Crisps			Skin Colour	Eye Depth	Flesh Colour	LB	PVX	PVY	PLRV
1	Challenger	x	x		120-150	13.5	Yellow	Shallow with light yellow eyes	Light yellow	3		3	
2	Cruza	x			120	20-30	White with purple spots	Shallow with purple eyes	Light yellow	1	2	2	2
3	Gikungu	x	x		100-120	30	Red	Shallow with purple eyes	Yellow	1			
4	Gisubizo	x	x		120-150	35	Red	Deep with purple eyes	Yellow	1	1		
5	Kerekezo	x	x		90-110	30	Red	Shallow with light green eyes	Yellow	1	1		
6	Izihirwe	x	x		90-120	52	Red	Shallow with purple eyes	Light yellow	1	1		
7	Jyambere	x	x		100-120	25	Red	Shallow with purple eyes	Yellow	2	2		
8	Kazeneza	x	x		90-120	29	Cream	Shallow with light green eyes	Cream	1	1		
9	Kinigi	x	x		110-120	20-30	Red	Deep with purple eyes	Yellow	2	3	3	3
10	Kirundo				100-120	30	Cream	Shallow with light green eyes	Light yellow	2			

N°	Variety	Utilization			Maturity period (days)	Yield potential (t/ha)	Tuber characteristics			Level of disease resistance (1) Tolerant, (2) Moderately tolerant, (3) Susceptible.			
		Table	Chips	Crisps			Skin Colour	Eye Depth	Flesh Colour	LB	PVX	PVY	PLRV
11	Ndamira	x	x		90-100	35	Light pink	Shallow with purple eyes	Light yellow	3			
12	Ndeze	x	x		90-120	24	Cream	Shallow with light green eyes	Cream	1	1		
13	Nkunganire	x	x	x	90-120	32	Red	Shallow with purple eyes	Yellow	1	3		
14	Panamera	x	x		120-150	20.2	Yellow	Shallow with light yellow eyes	Light yellow	2	2	3	2
15	Rosi	x			120-150	16	Red	Shallow with light yellow eyes	Cream	3	2	3	
16	Seka		x		100	30	Cream	Shallow with pink eyes	Cream	1	1		
17	Taurus			x	120-150	14	Yellow	Shallow with light yellow eyes	Light yellow	2		2	
18	Twigire	x	x		90-110	30	Cream	Shallow with purple eyes	White cream	1	1		
19	Twihaze	x			100-120	56	Cream	Shallow with light green eyes	Cream	1			

*All varieties are susceptible to Bacterial Wilt (*Ralstonia Solanacearum*)







RELEASED **POTATO VARIETIES** **AND DESCRIPTION**



1 CHALLENGER

CODE

RZ- 96- 98

Synonyms/Other Names | No

Breeder/Owner | HZPC Research B.V.

Year of Release | 2022

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	--
Main Use	Table and chips
Yield potential	13.5 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	120-150 days
Dry Matter	22.1 %
Tuber dormancy (days)	57 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Susceptible to late blight and potato virus Y



Tuber Features

Size	Large
Shape	Oblong to long oblong
Skin color	Yellow
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light yellow eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Medium erect



2 CRUZA

CODE

CIP720118

Synonyms/Other Names | Cruza I48

Breeder/Owner | CIP/PNAP-Rwanda

Year of Release | 1985

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Table and chips
Yield potential	20-30 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	100-120 days
Dry Matter	24%
Tuber dormancy (days)	100 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Tolerant to late blight and potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	White with purple spots
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	White, purple
Plant stand	Very tall, ground cover

3 GIKUNGU

CODE
CIP38I233.23

Synonyms/Other Names | Gikungu

Breeder/Owner | ISAR-Rwanda

Year of Release | 1992

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Chips Consumption and Processing
Yield potential	30 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	100-120 days
Dry Matter	-
Tuber dormancy (days)	85 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight



Tuber Features

Size	Large
Shape	Round to oblong
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers

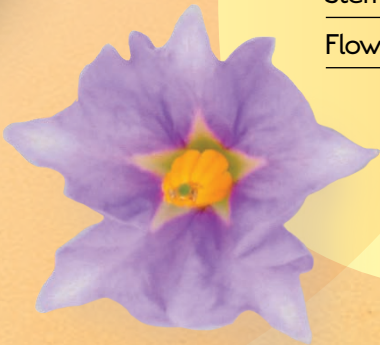


Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thick, dark green
Flower	Purple



4 GISUBIZO

CODE
CIP378699.2

Synonyms/Other Names | Gisubizo

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability

Highlands

Main Use

Chips Fresh consumption
and processing

Yield potential

35 tonnes/ha

Maturity period (days)

120-150 days

Dry Matter

20%

Tuber dormancy (days)

60 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Mid resistant to late blight and Potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size | Large

Shape | Round

Skin color | Red

Flesh color | Light yellow

Eye depth
and color | Deep with
purple eyes



Tubers

Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Purple
Plant stand	Tall, decumbent



5 IZIHIRWE

CODE

CIP396018.241

Synonyms/Other Names | Izihirwe

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2019

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Table and chips
Yield potential	30-50 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	52 days
Dry Matter	24%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight and potato virus X

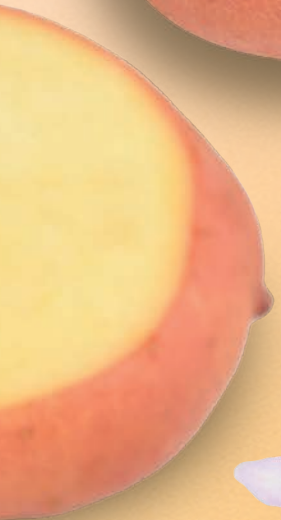


Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Small, light green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Medium erect light green



6 JYAMBERE

CODE
CIP3946II.II2

Synonyms/Other Names | Jyambere

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Table and chips
Yield potential	25 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	100-120 days
Dry Matter	24%
Tuber dormancy (days)	100 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Tolerant to late blight and potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	White, purple
Plant stand	Very tall, ground cover

7 KAZENEZA

CODE
CIP393077.I59

Synonyms/Other Names | Wanjiku (Kenya)
and Kazeneza (Rwanda)

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2019

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Table: Fresh consumption and processing (Chips)
Yield potential	29 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	90-120 days
Dry Matter	19%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90-120 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight and Potato Virus X



Tuber Features

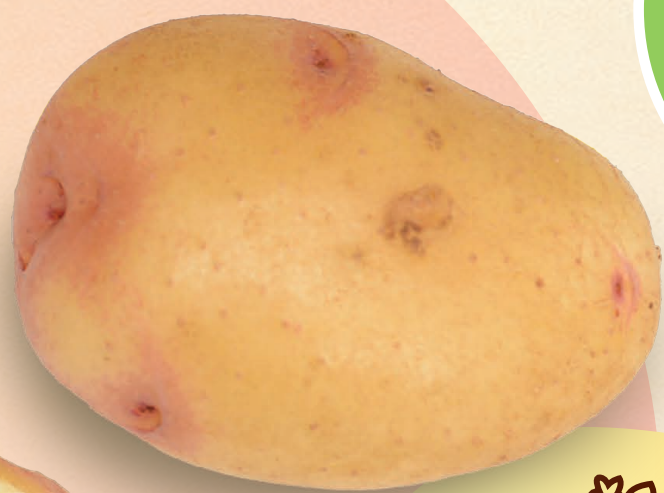
Size	Large
Shape	Round
Skin color	Cream
Flesh color	Cream
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light green eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Large, light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Medium, semi-erect



8 KEREKEZO

CODE
CIP392797.22

Synonyms/Other Names | Cyerekezo, Unica (Kenya)

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Moderate lands and highlands
Main Use	Table and Chips Good chips quality combining flavor, texture, and appearance.
Yield potential	30 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	90-110 days
Dry Matter	21%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90 days

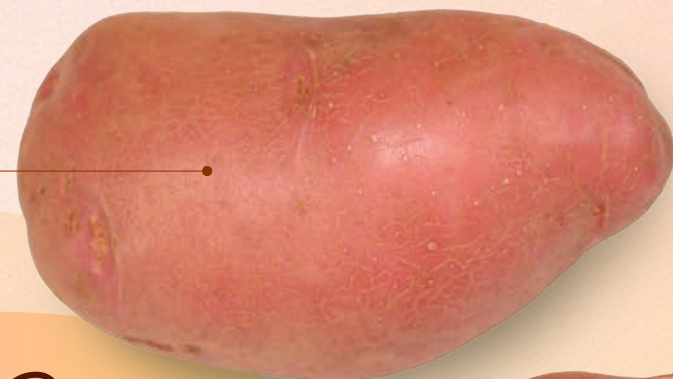
Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Mid-resistant to late blight and Potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size	Very Large
Shape	Round to oblong
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light green eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Large, Light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Medium, semi-erect



9 KINIGI

CODE
S/C

Synonyms/Other Names | Kinigi

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 1983

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability

Highlands

Main Use

Chips/French fries and table (mealy/floury, good for boiling and mashing)

Yield potential

20-30 tons/ha

Maturity period (days)

110-120 days

Dry Matter

20.30%

Tuber dormancy (days)

85 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance

Late blight: Moderately tolerant
• Viruses: Susceptible to PLRV, PVX and PVY



Tuber Features

Size | Large

Shape | Round

Skin color | Red

Flesh color | Yellow

Eye depth and color | Deep with purple eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Dark purple
Plant stand	Medium, Semi-erect



10 KIRUNDO

CODE

RW 8212-5

Synonyms/Other Names | Kirundo

Breeder/Owner | ISAR-Rwanda

Year of Release | 1989

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	-
Yield potential	30 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	100-120 days
Dry Matter	-
Tuber dormancy (days)	40 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Mid-tolerant to late blight



Tuber Features

Size	Very large
Shape	Round
Skin color	Cream
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light green eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Large, Light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Tall, erect



11 NDAMIRA

CODE
unregistered

Synonyms/Other Names | Shangi

Breeder/Owner | KALRO-Kenya

Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Chips, Table
Yield potential	35 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	90-100 days
Dry Matter	21.40%
Tuber dormancy (days)	<30 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance	Ndamira is moderately susceptible to Late blight
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Tuber Features

Size	Large
Shape	Round to oblong
Skin color	Light pink
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Small light, green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Decumbent tall

12 NDEZE

CODE

CIP398I90.6I5

Synonyms/Other Names | Ndeze

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2019

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Midlands and highlands
Main Use	Table: fresh consumption and chips
Yield potential	24 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	90-120 days
Dry Matter	24%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90 days

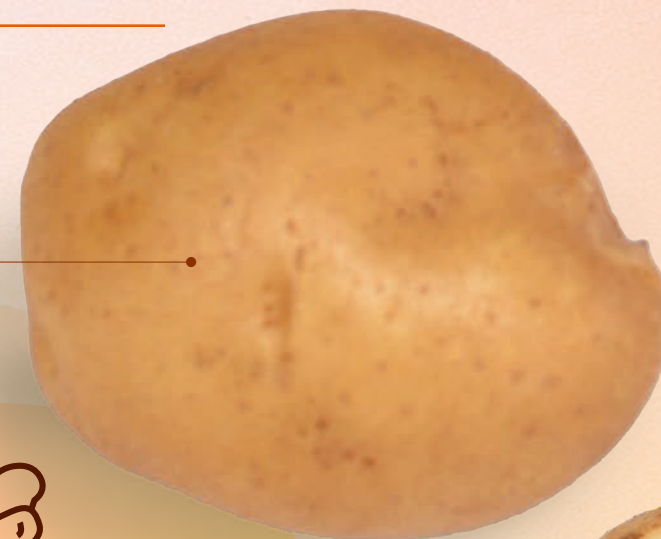
Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight and Potato virus X

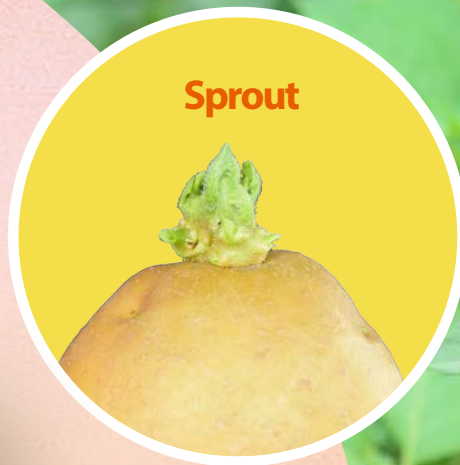


Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	Cream
Flesh color	Cream
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light green eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Small, very light green
Stem	Thin, very light green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Short, semi-erect



13 NKUNGANIRE

CODE

CIP393280.64

Synonyms/Other Names | Nkunganire

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2019

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Highlands
Main Use	Fresh consumption and Chips and Crisps
Yield potential	32 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	90-120 days
Dry Matter	20%
Tuber dormancy (days)	> 120 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight and potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Large, light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Medium erect



14 PANAMERA

CODE

VDW 01- 69

Synonyms/Other Names | No

Breeder/Owner | Van der Werff sr. Y.P.

Year of Release | 2022

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	--
Main Use	Table and chips
Yield potential	20.2 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	120-150 days
Dry Matter	20.2 %
Tuber dormancy (days)	72 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance	Mid-resistant to late blight Mid-resistant to Potato Virus X
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Tuber Features

Size	Very large
Shape	Oblong
Skin color	Yellow
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light yellow eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thick, green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Very tall, ground cover



15 ROSI

CODE

HZD 02-I489

Synonyms/Other Names | No

Breeder/Owner | HZPC Research B.V.

Year of Release | 2022

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	--
Main Use	Table potato
Yield potential	16 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	120-150 days
Dry Matter	20.8%
Tuber dormancy (days)	71 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance	High resistance to common and powdery scab Tolerance to Potato Virus X
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Tuber Features

Size	Very large
Shape	Oblong
Skin color	Red
Flesh color	Cream
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light yellow eyes

Tubers





Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, light green
Stem	Thick, dark green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Medium erect

16 SEKA

CODE
CIP398I90.89

Synonyms/Other Names | Seka

Breeder/Owner | CIP

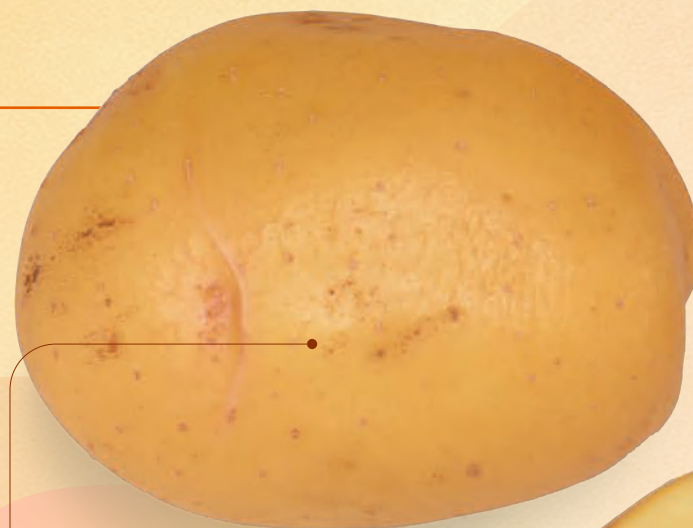
Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Midlands and highlands
Main Use	Processing (chips)
Yield potential	30 tons/ha
Maturity period (days)	100 days
Dry Matter	21%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance	Heat tolerant, resistant to late blight and potato virus X
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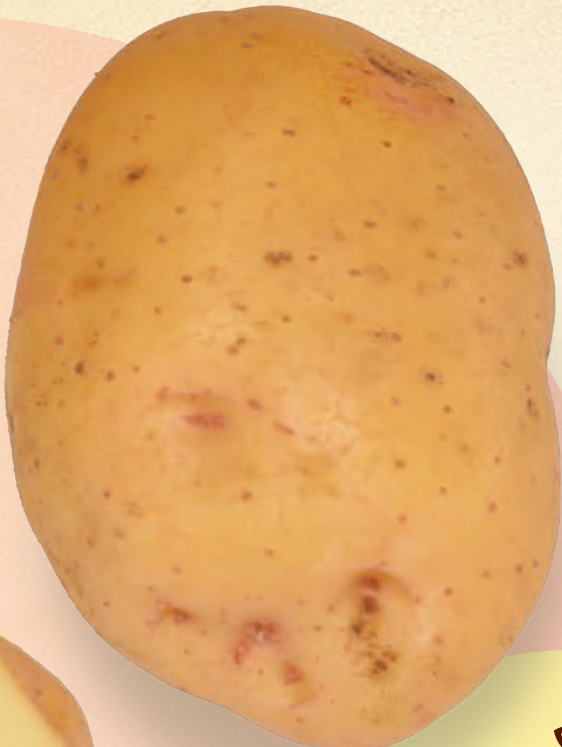


Tuber Features

Size	Large
Shape	Round to oblong
Skin color	Cream
Flesh color	Cream
Eye depth and color	Shallow with pink eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Small, light green
Stem	Thin, light green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Medium semi-erect

17 TAURUS

CODE

RZD 96-2092

Synonyms/Other Names | No

Breeder/Owner | HZPC Research B.V.

Year of Release | 2022

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	--
Main Use	Crisps
Yield potential	14 tonnes/ha
Maturity period (days)	120-150 days
Dry Matter	23.2 %
Tuber dormancy (days)	97 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Mid-resistant to late blight and potato virus Y



Tuber Features

Size	Large
Shape	Round
Skin color	Yellow
Flesh color	Light yellow
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light yellow eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thin, dark green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Tall, ground cover



18 TWIGIRE

CODE

392657.8

Synonyms/Other Names | Twigire

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2020

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability

Highlands

Main Use

Table: fresh consumption and Chips

Yield potential

30 tones/ha

Maturity period (days)

90-110 days

Dry Matter

21%

Tuber dormancy (days)

90 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight and Potato virus X



Tuber Features

Size | Medium

Shape | Round

Skin color | Cream

Flesh color | White cream

Eye depth and color | Shallow with purple eyes



Tubers



Sprout



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, dark green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	Light purple
Plant stand	Tall, semi-erect



19 TWIHAZE

CODE
CIP393371.58

Synonyms/Other Names | Twihaze

Breeder/Owner | CIP

Year of Release | 2019

Features

Agro-ecological adaptability	Midlands and Highlands
Main Use	Fresh consumption
Yield potential	56 tones/ha
Maturity period (days)	100-120 days
Dry Matter	23%
Tuber dormancy (days)	90 days

Diseases resistance

Level of disease resistance/Tolerance | Resistant to late blight



Tuber Features

Size	Medium
Shape	Round
Skin color	Cream
Flesh color	Cream
Eye depth and color	Shallow with light green eyes



Tubers



Plant Description

Leaves	Medium, light green
Stem	Thick, light green
Flower	White
Plant stand	Medium, semi-erect



RWANDA AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT BOARD

<https://www.rab.gov.rw/>

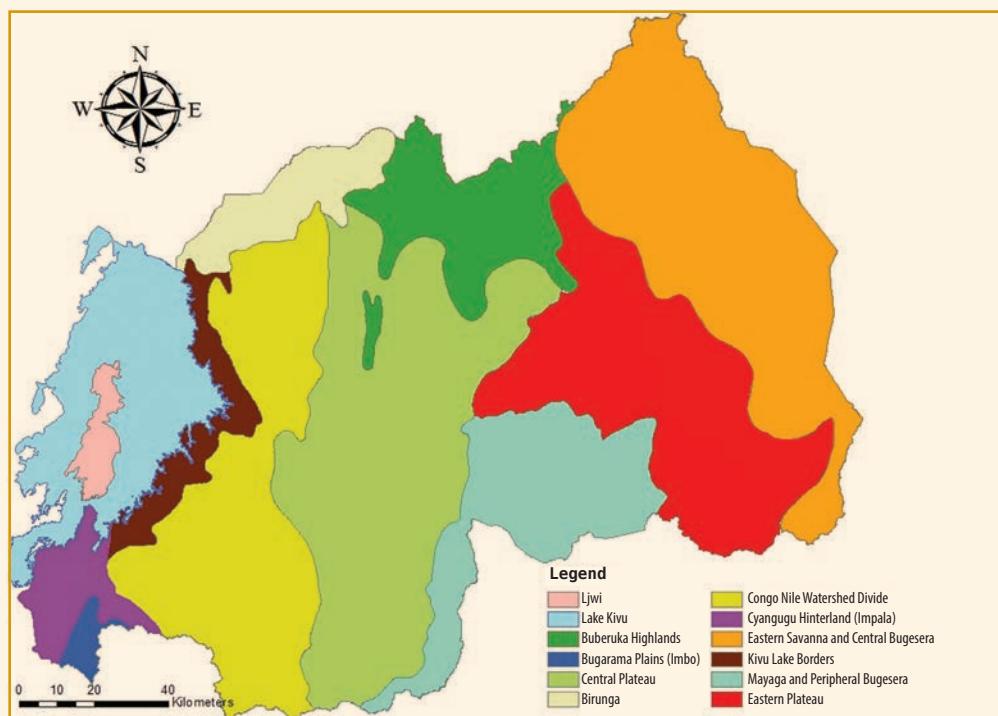
Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) is a national governmental research organization under the Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources; established by Law N°38/2010 of 25/11/2010 as an autonomous body with headquarters in Huye district, Southern Province of Rwanda.

Our vision

Improved food security and livelihoods of all Rwandans by transforming agriculture from subsistence into modern farming through generating research and extension innovations that generate sustainable crop, animal husbandry and natural resource management”.

RAB programs are organized in broad commodity research-based programs - Cereals (Maize, Rice, Wheat and Sorghum); Pulses and Seed oils (Beans, Soyabean, Peas, Sunflower, Ground nuts); Roots and tubers (Cassava, Potato, Sweetpotato); and livestock (large stock, small stock). The individual crop commodities make the sub programs.

Extension service is decentralized at the RAB zones in the East, West, North and Southern region based Provincial Administration. These are closely aligned with the main four ecological cropping regions of high, mid, mid-low and low altitudes that range from about 800 – 2500 meters above sea level (masl).



Potato Cultivation in Rwanda

Irish potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) crop is grown throughout Rwanda, but most of the production is concentrated in the high-altitude region. This region includes the highlands of volcanic soils, Buberuka and the Congo/Nile Divide located in Southwest and North of the country (ISAR 2008). The region accounts for more than 80% of the national potato production; while the rest of the potatoes are produced under marginal cultivations throughout the country (Munyemana and von Oppen 1999). In this region, potato serves as a staple food with more than 60% of the production being used directly for home consumption (Crissman 2002).

Seed potato production

The early generation seed (EGS) potato is produced in the RAB stations located in different agro ecologies, Table 2.

Table 2. List of Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) stations producing early generation seed potato (EGS)

N°	Names of RAB station	Agro-ecology zone	District
1	Rwerere	Buberuka	Burera-Gicumbi
2	Kinigi	Birunga	Musanze-Nyabihu-Rubavu
3	Tamira	Birunga	Nyabihu-Rubavu
4	Gishwati	Congo Nile Divide	Nyabihu-Rutsiro
5	Gakuta	Congo Nile Divide	Karongi
6	Sigira	Congo Nile Divide	Nyamagabe-Nyaruguru

AGRITERRA-RWANDA

<https://www.agriterra.org/rwanda-eng/>



AGRITERRA is an agri-agency founded and governed by farmers' organizations, dedicated to strengthening farmers' organizations in developing countries towards rural transformation. It has a vision that professional cooperatives and farmers' organizations are key for sustainable economic development. Strong cooperatives contribute to a stable and prosperous agricultural sector, fostering economic resilience. Agriterra strengthens farmer ownership, ensuring vibrant rural economies driven by empowered farmers' organizations that are used, owned and controlled by entrepreneurial farmers.

With operations in Rwanda since 2017, Agriterra has had a large impact on the development of the potato value chain. As chain supporter, Agriterra has partnered with key farmer's organizations and farmer-led enterprises, as well as with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, universities, relevant NGOs and private sector. The availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of quality seed potatoes are considered key elements in farmer household resilience in the potato sector and vital conditions when striving for potato-based private sector development.

Agriterra has and continue to support farmer-led initiatives to increase volumes and improve flow of early generation seed potatoes in Rwanda, which has led to significant improvements in Rwanda, with spill-over effects in the wider region. The development of this first ever seed potato variety description guide was partially supported by Agriterra in partnership with International Potato Center (CIP) and financial support from The Government of The Kingdom of The Netherlands

SPF JOINT VENTURES LTD (SPF IKIGEGA)



SPF-Ikigega is a farmer-led agribusiness company established in 2015 by local seed potato producers, ware potato producers and potato farmer cooperatives to address the key challenges in the seed potato sub-sector in Rwanda. The primary issue was the disappearance of quality seed from the seed value chain, leading to consistently low use of certified seeds and a dominance of informal seed sources. This problem arose because quality seed potatoes were sometime sold as 'ware' potatoes for immediate consumption instead of being stored for the next planting season. In addition, SPF IKIGEGA was founded by farmers to strengthen business linkages among seed potato value chain actors by fostering a more structured seed potato sub-sector.

Our Mission

To ensure stable availability and accessibility of quality potato seeds in Rwanda and neighboring countries.

Our Vision

To become a professional potato seed trader in the seed potato business by working and serving local and regional farming communities.



The International Potato Center (CIP) was founded in 1971 as a research-for-development organization with a focus on potato, sweetpotato and Andean roots and tubers. It delivers innovative science-based solutions to enhance access to affordable nutritious food, foster inclusive sustainable business and employment growth, and drive the climate resilience of root and tuber agri-food systems. Headquartered in Lima, Peru, CIP has a research presence in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

www.cipotato.org

CIP is a CGIAR research center, a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land and water systems in a climate crisis. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers/Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

www.cgiar.org

For more information, please contact CIP Headquarter. Av. La Molina 1895, La Molina. Apartado 1558, Lima 12, Peru.

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CIP thanks all donors and organizations that globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders



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