

# Training and Technical Assistance for Seed Production of Native Potatoes in Perú

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In the Andes of Peru, farmers grow hundreds of varieties of native potatoes, both for their own use and for the markets. The native varieties have an inestimable genetic value. The demand for native potatoes is increasing, but productivity is low. This is mainly due to lack of quality seed. Diaconía (www.diaconiaperu.org), a social program of the Lutheran Church in Peru, provides assistance in the cultivation of native potatoes for producer associations in the Peruvian Andes in the Provincia de Huamalíes, Departamento de Huánuco, at ~ 4000 m altitude.

In interactive workshops, farmers specify their problems in growing potatoes in writing and organize them according to importance. In theoretical classes and in field practices, we clarify the problems.

Conclusion from the workshops - among others: Agriculture requires training throughout lifetime.

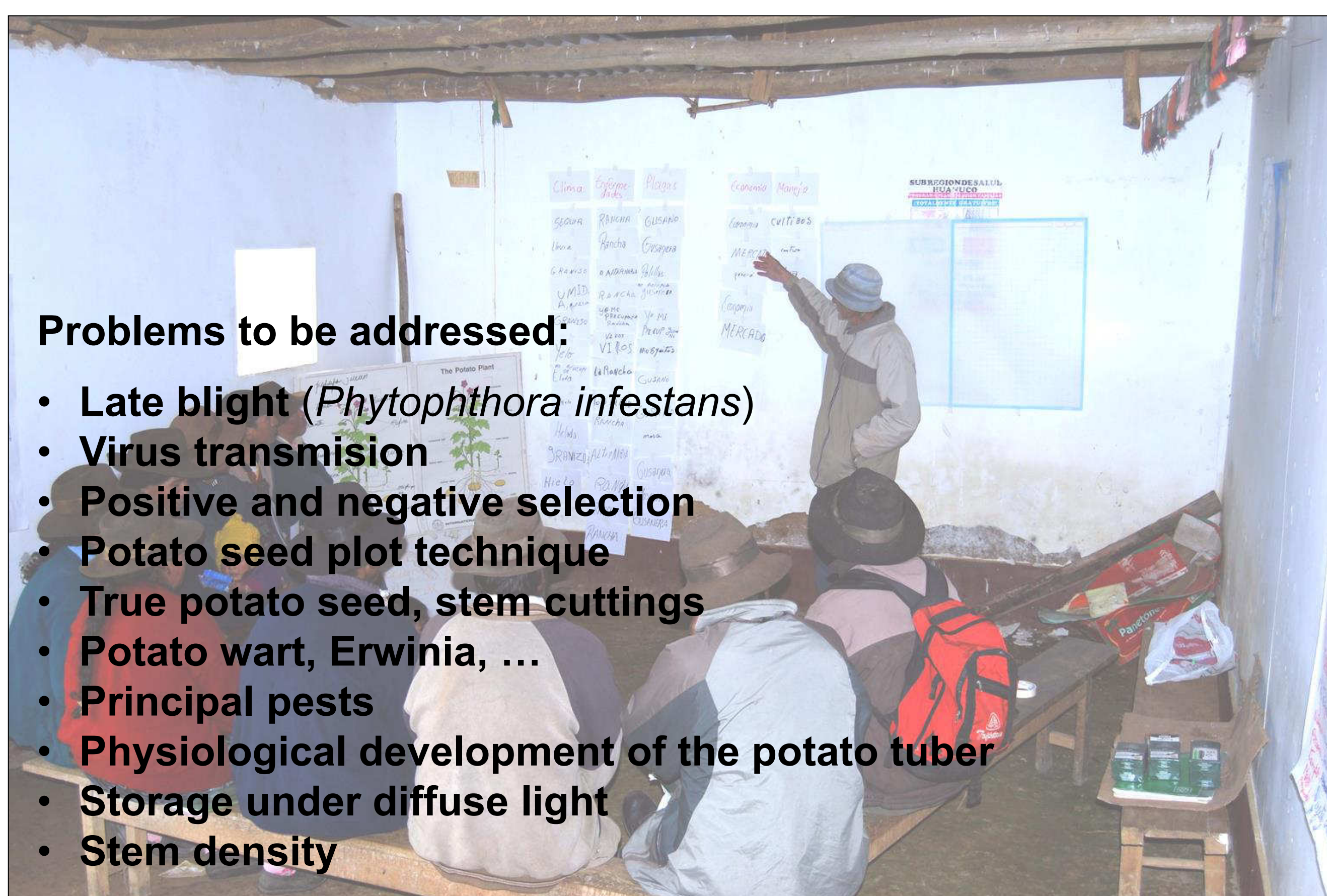


Native potato (Carhuapata)



What are the major problems  
in potato cultivation?

Farmers specify their problems in writing ... (Jircacancha)



## Problems to be addressed:

- Late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)
- Virus transmission
- Positive and negative selection
- Potato seed plot technique
- True potato seed, stem cuttings
- Potato wart, Erwinia, ...
- Principal pests
- Physiological development of the potato tuber
- Storage under diffuse light
- Stem density

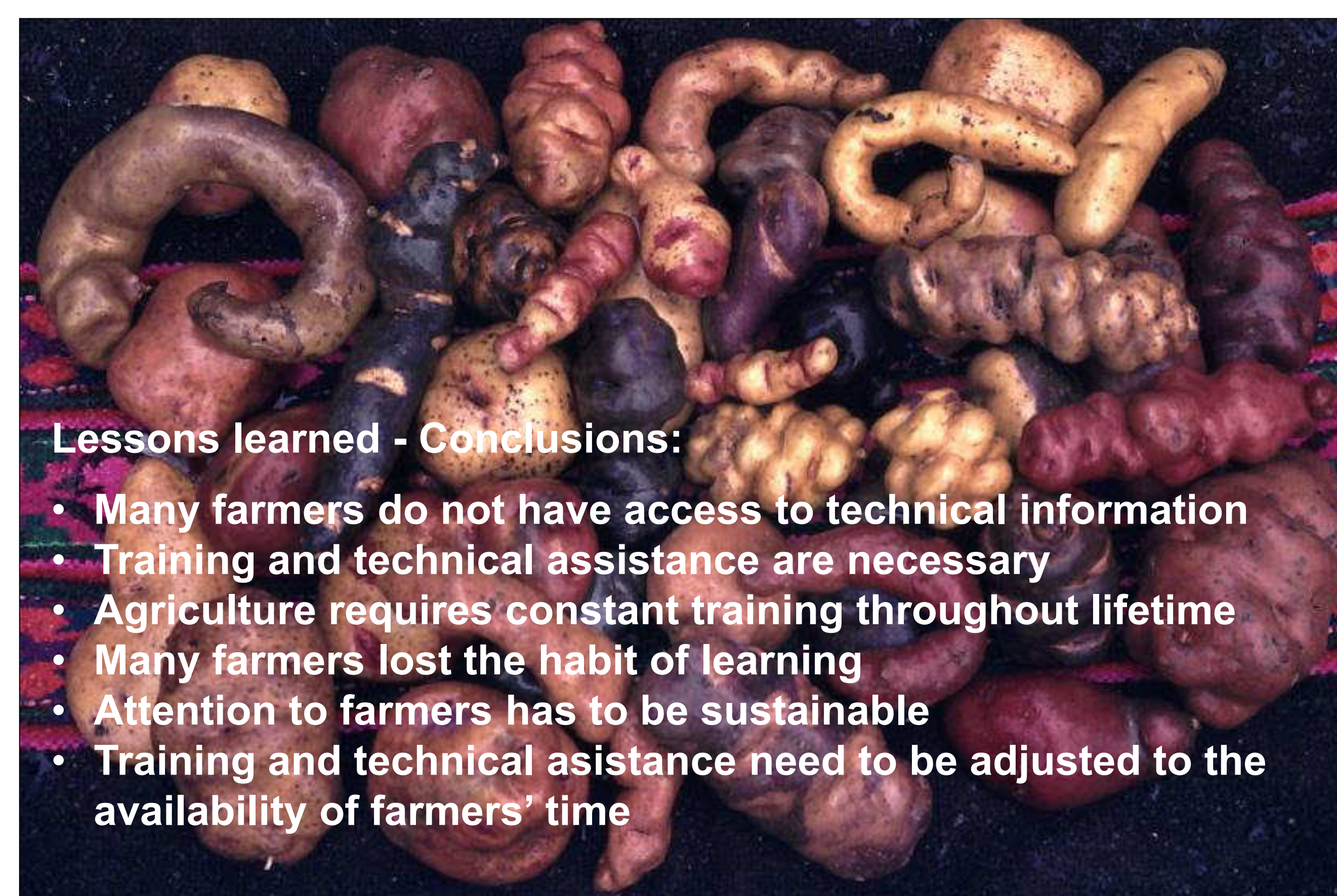
... and organize them according to importance (Jircacancha)



In theoretical classes ... (Nueva Granada)



... and in field practices we clarify the problems (Sogobamba)



## Lessons learned - Conclusions:

- Many farmers do not have access to technical information
- Training and technical assistance are necessary
- Agriculture requires constant training throughout lifetime
- Many farmers lost the habit of learning
- Attention to farmers has to be sustainable
- Training and technical assistance need to be adjusted to the availability of farmers' time

Native potatoes