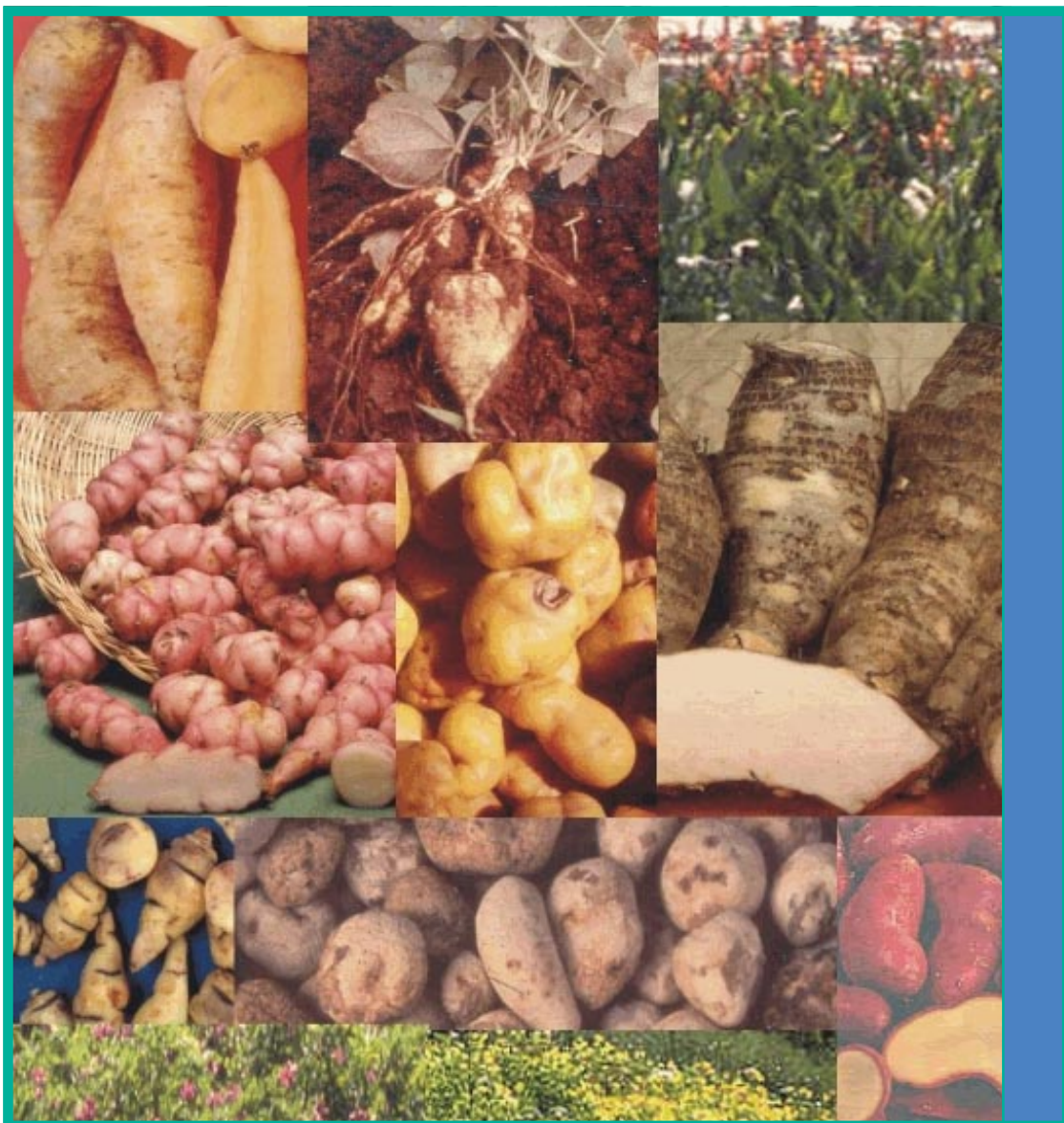




International Plant Genetic Resources Institute

Bibliography on **UNDERUTILIZED ROOTS AND TUBERS CROPS**

Dimary Libreros, compiler



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Americas Group

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*compiled by
Dimary Libberos*

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INTRODUCTION

Roots and tubers crops are present in the diet of people almost all over the world, the best known being the potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) and cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz), both of which are of South American origin but are now widely distributed. The potato was domesticated in the Andean region, but there are several species of roots and tubers which originated there and which are still of importance to Andean people, such as yacon (*Polymnia sonchifolia* Poeppig & Endlicher), white carrot (*Arracacia xanthorrhiza* Brancrof.), mauka (*Mirabilis expansa* Ruiz & Pavón), maca (*Lepidium meyenii* Walp.), achira (*Canna edulis* Ker Gawler), oca (*Oxalis tuberosus* Molina), mashua (*Tropaeolum tuberosum* R. & P.) and ulluco (*Ullucus tuberosus* Lozano). These species are little known to farmers and investigators outside the Andean region, and even to some within the region. They are species that have perhaps not been fully exploited or whose potential has not been fully taken advantage of, possibly because their cultivation is restricted and their use localized. Some of these species have a nutritive value and other characteristics that make them very promising candidates for more extensive use. For example, oca and mashua have a high energy value, maca and white carrot contain high levels of iron and calcium, and the sugar content of yacón is so high that it has potential for agroindustrial alcohol production.

The results of the relatively limited research that has been carried out on these underutilized species by national and international agricultural research institutions, non-governmental organizations and universities is the starting point for future research. This bibliography is a compilation of such results, reflecting the state of knowledge on diverse research subjects and also what still needs to be done, for example in areas such as entomology and pathology.

The bibliography contains 451 references, with citation and Agrovoc descriptors. Records are organized in 8 subjects, that is taxonomy and evolution (102), chemical composition (50), crop management and production (66), plant propagation (50), plant pathology (32), plant physiology (41), entomology (7) and plant breeding (103).

We hope this bibliography will be a valuable tool for researchers and other professionals working with Andean root and tube crops. For further contributions and updates, please contact Ms. Dimary Libreros, Information Assistant, IPGRI-Americas Group, d.libreros@cgiar.org.

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PLANT PROPAGATION

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