

True seeds Solynta true seeds



Ministry of Economic Affairs

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Dutch National Icon 2014:

# Hybrid potatoes



Potatoes produce more nutritious food more quickly, on less land, with less water and in harsher climates than any other major crop. Therefore, it should be excellently positioned to solve world's needs for more yield with lower inputs.

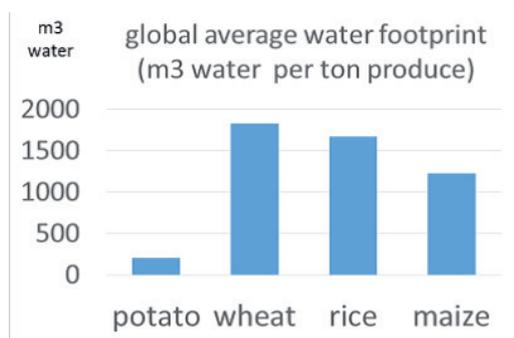
Solynta has introduced a breakthrough technique which allows genetic material to be diversified and improved. This makes it possible to grow potatoes from true-seed instead of seed-tubers and makes targeted breeding possible.

## Great prospects for application

Potatoes are a highly recommended food security crop that can help low-income farmers and vulnerable consumers ride out extreme events in world food supply and demand.

With Solynta's hybrid technology, a healthy potato can be developed with doubled nutrition quality.

It is ideally suited to regions where land is limited and labor is abundant, conditions that characterize much of the developing world.



## Potato potential finally unlocked

Hybrid potatoes from true seeds make it possible to boost the nutritional value of potatoes and to cultivate different varieties.

### Yield more under harsher conditions

Excellent starting material (true-seed instead of seed-tubers) will make yield doubling possible in large parts of developing world.

### Far less pesticides and fungicides

Potato growing uses high amounts of pesticides. By combining natural resistance existing in the potato species, the applications of fungicides and pesticides are reduced five fold.

### Efficiency in storage and transport

True potato seeds are much easier to transport and store compared to perishable and bulky potato seed-tubers: 30 grams of Solynta true-seeds compares to 2500 kilo seed-tubers.



## Contact

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## About the Dutch National Icons

Dutch National Icons are groundbreaking, innovative projects that help address the global societal challenges that we face. Through the National Icon competition, the Dutch Government aims to inspire the country to keep innovating and to show the world what we are capable of.

## Seeking funding, experience and resources

Solynta lacks sufficient funding to develop, trial, produce and introduce hybrid varieties for developing world.

Solynta lacks the experience and resources to educate, train and implement behavioral and economic change in developing societies.

## New varieties within 3 years

The growing world population is in need of a highly productive agriculture with lower use of chemical inputs and fresh water.

The hybrid technology can develop and introduce new improved varieties much faster, in 2-3 years compared to more than 15 years.

The multiplication can be done by repeated crosses between homozygous parents, which requires only one generation (six months) to build enough seeds of a new variety to fulfil the needs of the market.

## Ambassador

Each of the National Icons has been assigned a minister to support their further development and to serve as an ambassador for the project for the next few years. The idea is to remove as many obstacles as possible to allow the National Icons to realize their potential and achieve their ambitions, both in the Netherlands and beyond. Sharon Dijkma, Minister for Agriculture, is the ambassador for the hybrid potato.

