

# BREEDING BETTER POTATOES

As the most widely grown and consumed vegetable in the U.S., potatoes can have a huge impact on the economy, the environment, and human health. Potatoes are a popular food choice because they are filling, palatable, nutrient-dense, and affordable, and the international market for frozen potatoes, French fries, and potato chips is booming. The value of potato production in the U.S. totals over \$4.3 billion each year, with over \$1 billion in exports.

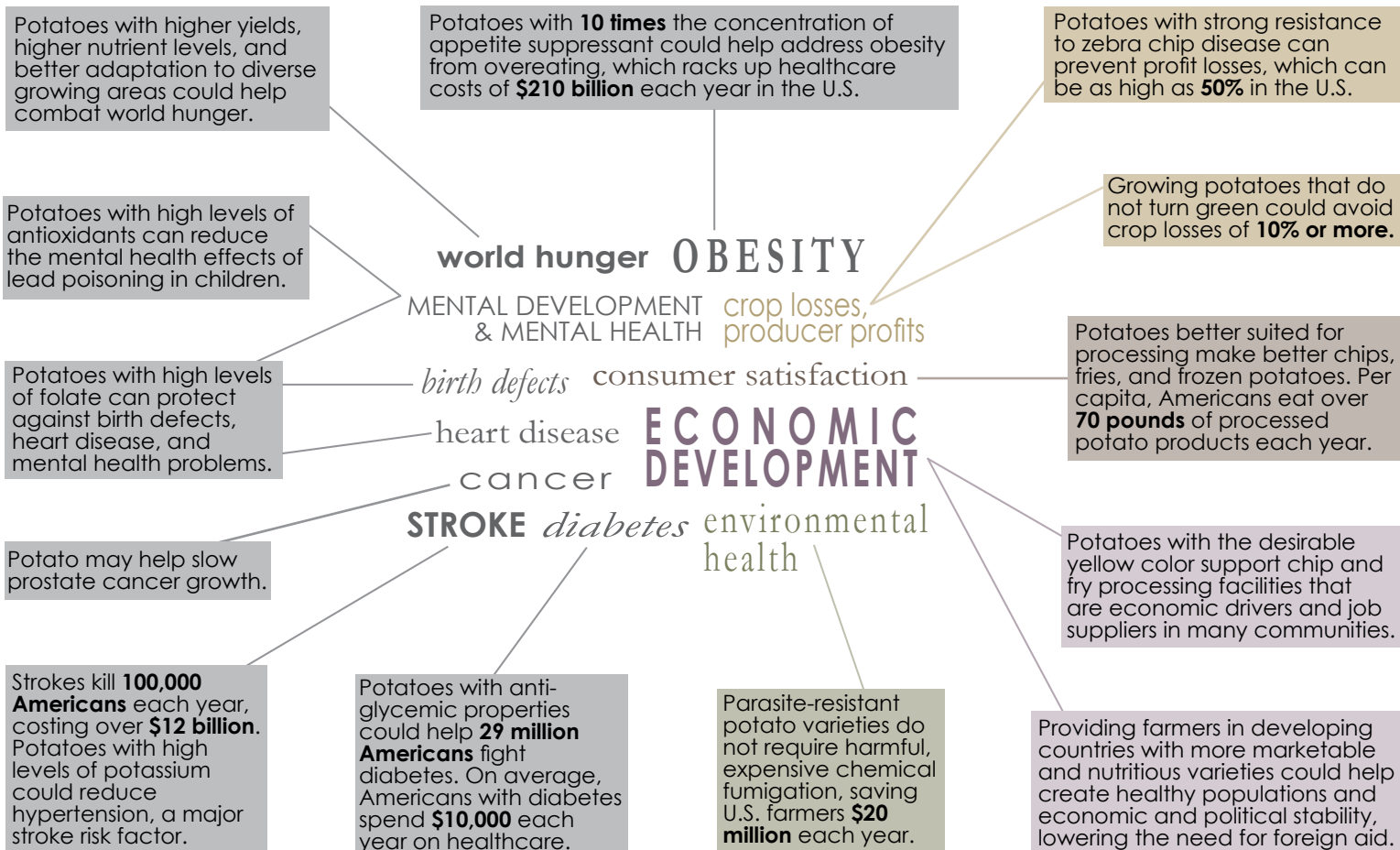
Improving potato varieties is key to sustaining this important crop. Since 1947, researchers, breeders, and farmers have used seeds and data from the U.S. Potato Genebank to conduct potato research and cultivate new, desirable potato varieties. A group of researchers coordinates the genebank and supports its efforts by improving techniques and tools for collecting, analyzing, and preserving potato specimens from around the world. A diverse genebank means that researchers, breeders, and farmers will have the resources they need to overcome potato production challenges and sustain the crop for future generations.



Genebank users in 2015



## Benefits of Genebank Research & Potato Varieties



## Want to know more?

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