

**Title: Biocultural Heritage Rights and Economic Empowerment: Launching the Potato Park “Sumac Kawsay” Native Potato Seed Cooperative**

**Organizers:** Parque de la Papa, Asociación ANDES, Swift Foundation, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**Languages:** English, Spanish, Quechua

This event celebrates the launch of the Potato Park's Indigenous-owned "Sumac Kawsay" Native Potato Seed Cooperative. Rooted in biocultural heritage, it directly empowers communities, upholds Farmers' Rights, UNDRIP, and relevant national legislation, and ensures equitable benefit-sharing. A community-managed trademark, regional markets, agroecotourism, and women-led gastronomy enterprises expand native potato reach and income. Attendees will savor a "Papamanka" native potato tasting, launch the "Taqesqa" catalog, and discuss community seed production and Indigenous knowledge associate to PGRFA protection, highlighting Indigenous systems' vital role in global agrobiodiversity.

**Program:**

- **13:00 – 13:15:** A memorable Native Potato Tasting & Biocultural Gastronomy experience by the Potato Park "Papamanka" Restaurant, setting a sensory stage for the discussions.
- **13:15 – 13:20:** Welcome remarks and a comprehensive Introduction to the pioneering Sumak Kawsay Cooperative.
- **13:20 – 13:30:** Keynote Speech by Kent Ndiozi, General Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- **13:30 – 13:45:** Traditional Ceremony of the official Launch of the “Sumak Kawsay Cooperative”
- **13:45 – 14:55:** Launch of the “**Taqesqa**” **Native Potato Catalog**, an invaluable new resource documenting the rich diversity and stories of these ancestral crops.
- **13:55 – 14:15:** An engaging Panel Discussion on Community Seed Production & Protecting Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) through Biocultural Catalogs, highlighting Indigenous systems as crucial global models.
- **14:15 – 14:30:** An interactive Q&A session and Closing Remarks, fostering direct engagement.