

COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION AND USE OF THE BIODIVERSITY OF ANDEAN POT AND TUBERS (CIP – SDC) 1993 – 2003: THE CASE OF THE LAKE TITICACA WATERSHED, THE ALTIPLANO OF PERÚ AND BOLIVIA

Roberto Valdivia¹, Miguel Holle², Victor Iriarte³, Nestor Arce¹, Cecilia Inohue², Giovanna Perazo² and Corine Hayano²

¹ Centro de Investigación de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente CIRNMA, Puno Perú.

² Centro Internacional de la Papa CIP, Lima Perú

³ Programa de Investigación y Promoción de Productos Andinos PROINPA, Cochabamba, Bolivia

The present study in the Provinces of Yunguyo (Peru) and Copacabana (Bolivia) was developed between 1993 and 2001. These areas are a geographical, cultural and environmental continuity, having direct influence of Lake Titicaca in the Andean Altiplano (Highlands). In these areas, called Microcenters of Conservation, we worked with communes and within them with rural families carrying out an inventory of their Andean tuber agrobiodiversity. We registered varietal names as named by the farm families themselves at seeding and harvest. These varieties formed their “mixtures”. The destiny of production between harvest and the next seeding is selfconsumption, market sale, home processing, and seed. This made it possible to analyze the dynamics of conservation for families, years and the relation that take place from the plot to the market place. The central hypothesis is “the more use, the greater conservation.” The main lessons learned refer to the understanding of the complexity of these processes, where the strategies that the farm families practice in time are the basis for the conservation. At this time, the market is apparently not influencing conservation of agrobiodiversity in the area under study.