

What is PATAFEST?

PATAFEST is a research project funded by the European Commission aimed at protecting potato crops, focusing on sustainable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to treat and control the presence of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* pest and its vector in plant, and address the incidence of soil-borne pathogens during potato post-harvest storage.

PATAFEST seeks to tackle the challenges encountered by the potato industry:

- Addressing emerging plant health risks.
- Adopting proactive measures.
- Promoting eco-friendly solutions.

Partners



PATAFEST

Driving Sustainable
Potato Protection
& Postharvest Excellence

Overall project budget: € 6 097 603,75
Start date: **1 June 2023**
End date: **31 May 2027**
Total months: **48**

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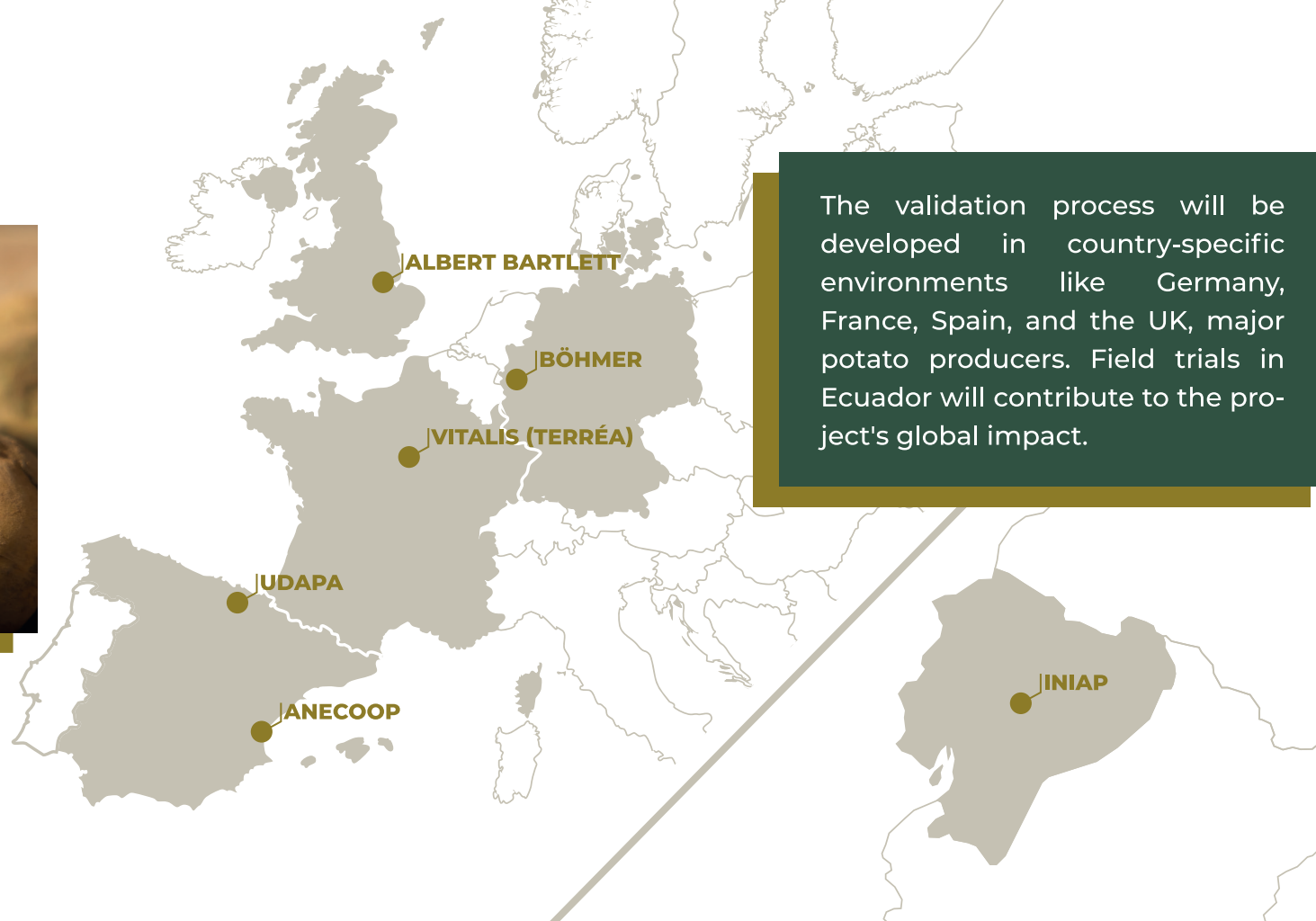
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Cultivating Resilience



IPM strategies to safeguard potato crops:

- 🌿 To study molecular pest spread pathways, identifying disease-resistant genes and developing precision-targeted solutions.
- 🌿 To implement innovative preharvest solutions adopting real-time diagnosis tools and AI algorithms for early detection and proactive protection like mobile app image analysis and AI predictive models. This will empower farmers to protect their crops proactively.
- 🌿 To revolutionize postharvest technologies, applying eco-friendly practices to curb the spread of pests and diseases. For example, including biocontrol coatings and VOC sensors to control soil pathogen incidence during storage, preserving potato quality.



The validation process will be developed in country-specific environments like Germany, France, Spain, and the UK, major potato producers. Field trials in Ecuador will contribute to the project's global impact.

Impacts:

Science

Advance the understanding of potato Resistance Genes (RGs) and key pests + develop a sustainable disease management strategy for Zebra chip disease (ZC) without relying on chemical pesticides in line with EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

Economy/Technology

IPM strategies: prevention, early detection, surveillance methods for potato pests and postharvest diseases. (EU goal of reducing chemical pesticide use)

Society

Engagement of citizens and farmers through citizen science activities, fostering long-term adoption of IPM practices and promoting collaborations.