

## Foreword

This book is one among various outputs of the long lasting collaboration between the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD) and the International Potato Center (CIP). It represents the fruitful relationships between the two organizations sharing common interests and missions in advancing the use of potato and sweetpotato for human welfare. The two partner organizations have undertaken various efforts before reaching the current status of achievement. Many papers presented in this proceedings provide the readers with the most recent progress made by the two parties in improving the production and utilization of the two crops through research and development.

In addition to the several research institutes within IAARD, the activities have also involved other institutions such as the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and Mitra Tani, a non-government organization working in agricultural and rural development. This indicates our interests to encourage other parties to be involved in such noble efforts. We believe that our heavy tasks will be more easily accomplished through joint efforts by many actors.

These efforts have involved many experts with various scientific disciplines and historical backgrounds. This approach is imperative since most of the problems in the potato and sweetpotato production and utilization require the contribution from various disciplines and skills. The activities may have been carried out in different laboratories, screen houses, experimental farms and farmers' fields. However, the people behind the collaborative work have a common goal: betterment of human livelihoods through better varieties, cultivation, processing and marketing of the two crops.

Most of the activities are not final. They require further effort and investments by the various institutions already involved in earlier efforts and other institutions sharing common views and missions with them. This book will help both the current partners in deciding on the follow-up actions and the prospective partners in determining the types of involvement or scope and areas of work. I fully believe that there are any such prospective partners waiting for the opportunities to contribute to our rewarding endeavors.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the efforts and achievements of many scientists in improving potato and sweetpotato production and utilization in Indonesia and for the continuous support of CIP in our intellectual and moral investment.

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Djoko Budianto  
Director General  
Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development