

**SECTION 4 GROUP DISCUSSION - PANEL OF EXPERTS**

**POTATO: Production figures and yields per hectare compared in 2019/20** Potatoes have a firm place in German households. Even in winter and spring. Where do they come from, how are they produced and what area do the fields require? How efficient is cultivation in the producing countries?

data 2019/20, www.faostat.org		Potatoes - Production and Yield					
Country / Allocation	Country Area in [1.000 ha]	Area harvested		Production in [t]	Yield		
		in [1000 ha]	in [%]		hg/ha	kg/ha	t/ha
Brazil	851.577	117	0.014	3767769	321337	32134	32.1
China	959.696	4218	0.44	78236596	185474	18547	18.5
Egypt	100.145	179	0.18	5215905	292031	29203	29.2
Germany	35.759	274	0.77	117151000	428340	42834	42.8
India	328.726	2158	0.66	51300000	237720	23772	23.8
Israel	2.238	142	6.34	498868	351712	35171	35.2
Italy	30.134	47	0.16	1434650	302988	30299	30.3
Latvia	6.459	9	0.14	181100	213059	21306	21.3
Poland	31.270	226	0.73	7848600	347683	34768	34.8
Russian Federation	14.452.664	1178	0.008	19607361	166432	16643	16.6
South Africa	122.104	68	0.056	2546996	373257	37326	37.3
Spain	50.597	65	0.13	2051830	313735	31374	31.4
USA	982.668	370	0.04	18789970	507933	50793	50.8

TASKS:

Based on SECTION 1-3, discuss the numbers in this table:

11. Compares acreage with production figures and yields.
12. Produces meaningful graphs via Excel or Numbers. Uses the data set for this purpose.
13. Which producer country operates very efficiently, and which does not?
14. What are the reasons? Collects reasons (climate, soil conditions, water availability, pests).
15. Prepares group findings in a presentation.

Hektogramm pro Hektar  
 hg/ha = 1 hg = 100 g = 0,1 kg  
 ha = 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>  
 1 km<sup>2</sup> = 100 ha

Overview of arguments pro / contra potatoes from regional cultivation or from the desert	
<b>Ecological reasons</b>	
Land consumption	The prerequisite is nutrient-rich soil, erosion
Water consumption	Plant must not dry out: regionally, rain is enough, in desert much maintenance and irrigation technology is required, deep water lets wells dry up
other	Moist cultivation require high use of pesticides and herbicides
	Potatoes need fertilizer
<b>Health</b>	
World population, hunger	Starch, Vitamine C
Allergies	No allergenes
other	
<b>Economic reasons</b>	High-priced product for poor growing countries, but....
	....Plant makes high demands on soil, moisture and
	nutrient supply