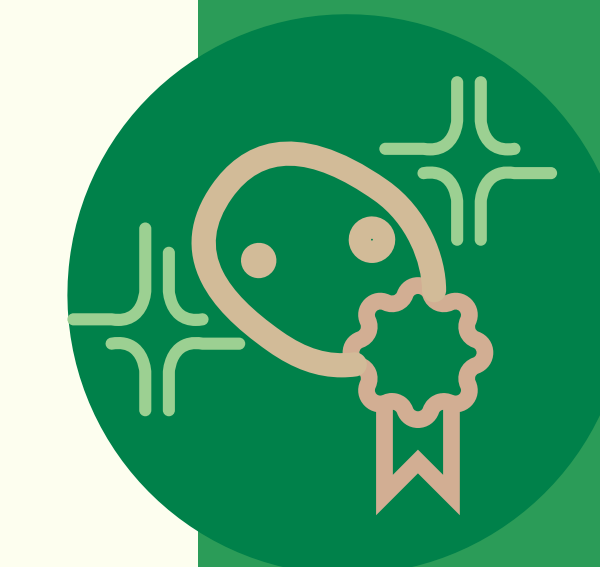




Deploying nutritious climate-smart potatoes

Context

- Many of the 4 million potato farmers in Ethiopia struggle to feed their families.
- Rising temperatures, rainfall variability, pests and diseases further threaten yields.
- Improved potatoes and better agricultural practices could help farmers adapt to more challenging growing conditions.
- Potato is ideal in difficult conditions: water efficient, matures quickly and can be harvested during the hungry season.



Approach

The International Potato Center works directly with small-scale farmers in the Amhara; Oromia; Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples (SNNP) and Tigray regions. Its teams strengthen capacity of national researchers to undertake:

- Demand-driven varietal development, adaptation and dissemination through a quality seed production and distribution network.
- ‘Training of farmer trainers’ on good agricultural practices.
- Supplemental training for cooperatives to address seed-health related quality issues.
- Monitoring to ensure equal access to seed and knowledge for women.
- Coordination and knowledge sharing through multi-stakeholder innovation platforms, workshops, fairs, training, etc.

Outcomes

1. Rising incomes

- More productive and adapted potato varieties, with crop yields up by >100%
- Commercial seed producers very successful, driving youth employment.

2. Increasing adoption of improved varieties

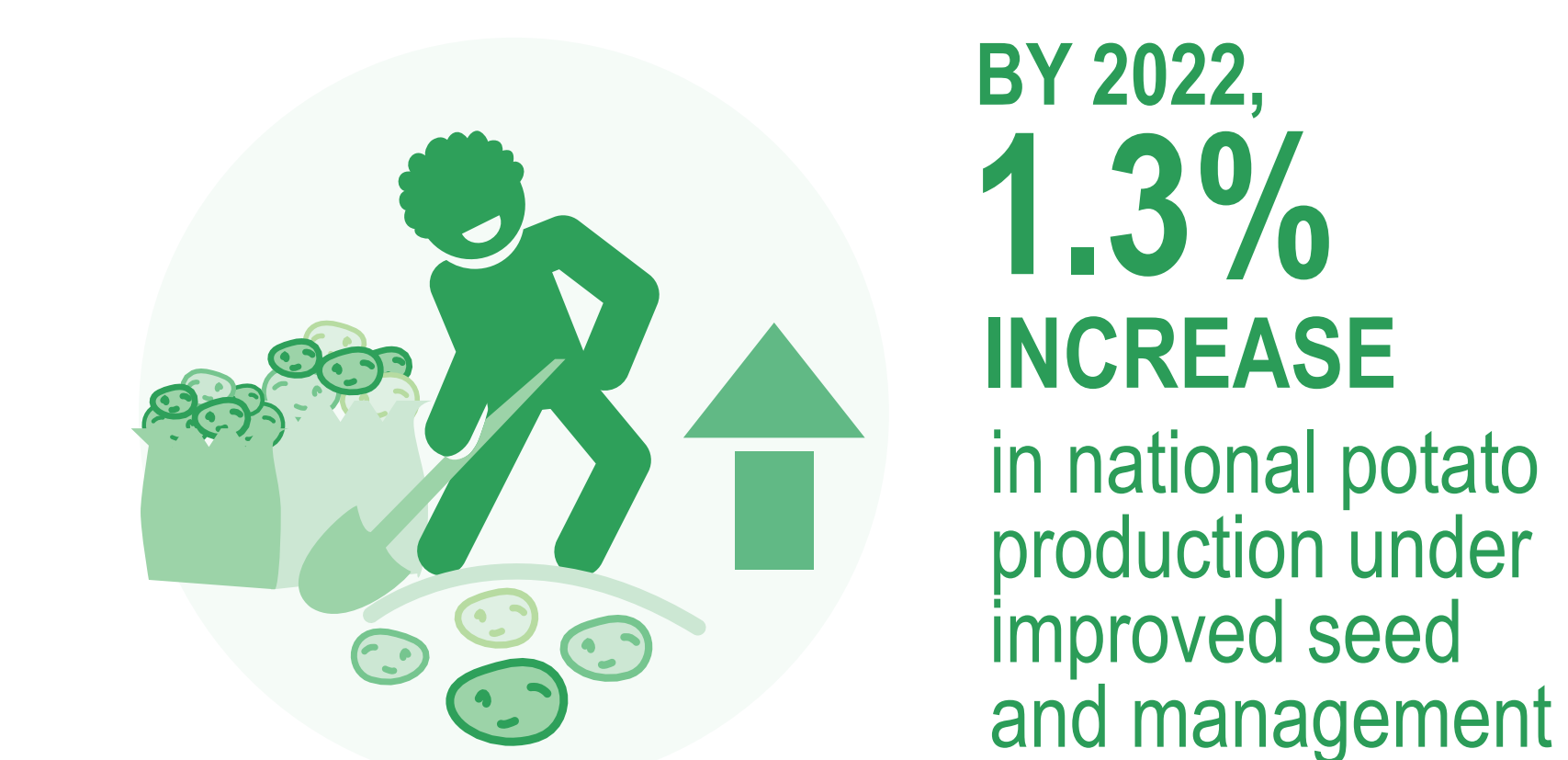
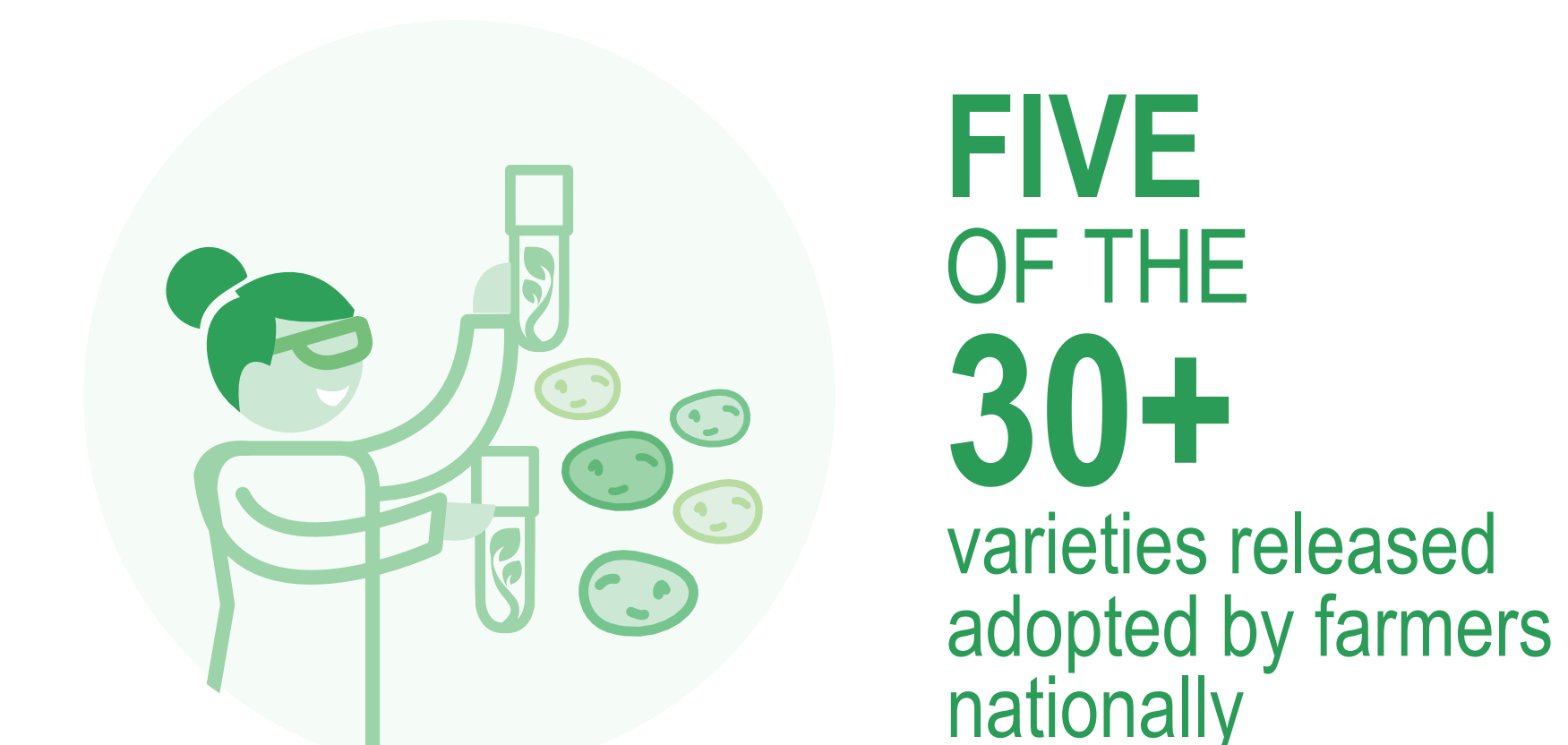
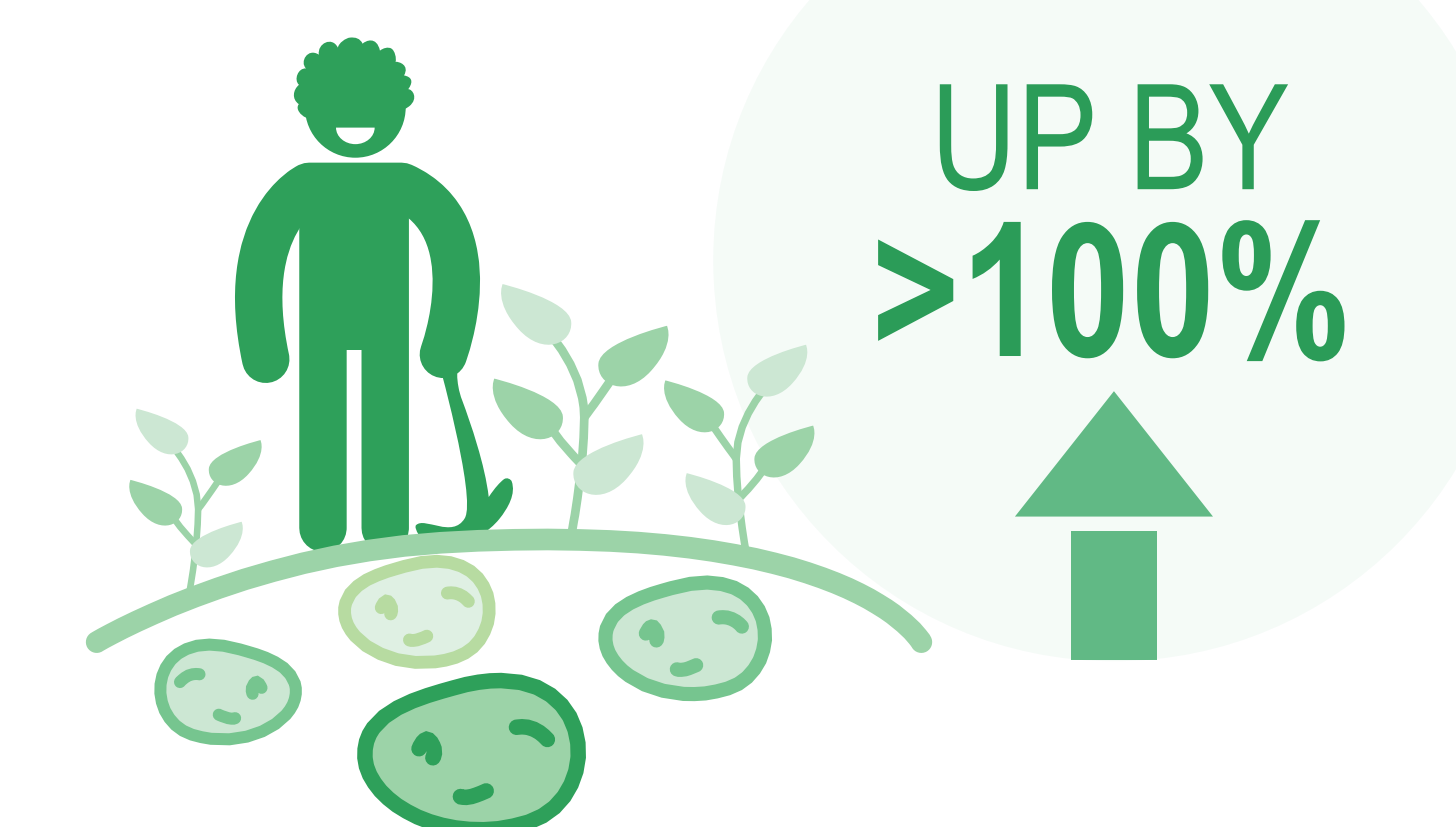
- Five of the 30+ varieties released have been adopted by farmers nationally.
- Farmer-preferred crop traits added to varietal selection criteria, speeding up adoption.
- Drought-tolerant and heat-resistant varieties currently being tested with farmers.

Expected outcomes by 2022

- Further >40% increase in potato yield using newly selected late blight resistant clones.
- ≈ 60,000 households adopting improved varieties.
- ≈ 20,000 households improving food security during the ‘hunger months’.
- >1.3% increase in national potato production under improved seed and management.



More productive and adapted potato varieties, with crop yields



Future steps

- With national partners, increase provision of affordable, improved potato technologies equitably to men and women farmers.
- Strengthen national capacity for varietal development supporting climate-resilience of farmers.

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