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## Advances on nutritional characteristics of zinc and zinc biofortification in potato

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**Abstract** Zinc is an essential microelement for plants and human body. For a long time, zinc deficiency has been a global public health problem and one of the important factors leading to human disease and death. At present, more than 2 billion people worldwide are facing the health problems caused by zinc deficiency. The population of zinc deficiency in developing countries is particularly serious, and there are as many as 100 million zinc-deficient populations in China. 76% zinc in human body comes from plant food, and low content of zinc in crops is an important cause of zinc deficiency in human body and various symptoms of zinc deficiency or diseases. Therefore, eating natural zinc-rich plant foods is considered to be the basic way to solve the problem of zinc deficiency in human body. Potato is the fourth largest food crop in the world following rice, wheat and corn. It has high yield and rich nutrition. It is cultivated worldwide and is one of the important food sources for human beings, it also has great potential in zinc biofortification. In 2015, China began to implement a potato staple food strategy, aiming to ensure the national food security and adjust the dietary structure of the residents to promote human health. In this context, it is of great significance to study nutritional characteristics of zinc and zinc biofortification in potato to achieve zinc-rich potatoes, and then to improve human zinc nutrition and health through dietary supplements. The nutritive function of zinc in potato, the status of soil zinc in potato production areas, breeding and agronomic fortification was summarized and prospected in this article. It is proposed that zinc plays an important role in growth, yield and quality formation of potato. Agronomic fortification is currently the main technical measure for fortifying zinc nutrition in potato. Breeding fortification requires further discovery and utilization of elite germplasm resources to lay a good germplasm foundation for producing zinc-rich potatoes.

**Keywords** potato; zinc deficiency; zinc-rich potato; zinc biofortification technology; potato staple food; agronomic fortification; breeding fortification

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