

Strengthening the potato value chain in Kenya



The situation

In Kenya more than 30% of the population is considered to be malnourished and about 40% have to live on less than 1,25USD a day. Agriculture is the most important economic sector in Kenya and provides employment and income opportunities for more than 70% of the population. However, the mainly small-scale farms are not capable to produce enough food for the growing population in Kenya.

In Kenya potato is the second most important staple food after maize and an important source of

income for about 800.000 farmers, one third of whom are women. In addition, the potato market is increasingly diversifying and offers possibilities of generating value and income in local potato supply chains. Its high yields, short growth periods (90-120 days), and its nutritional qualities (carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, minerals like potassium) makes the potato an important food to achieve food security in Kenya and to meet the growing demand for food.

Activities in Kenya

- Field of action 1, improving productivity and quality in potato production, aims at increasing yields and income from a sustainable potato production in the long-term. Through the promotion of innovative, resource-saving, adapted cultivation and production methods as well as through strengthening entrepreneurial capacities this shall be reached.
- Field of action 2 wants to enhance families' knowledge about nutrition in order to contribute to the improvement of the nutritional situation of malnourished people. This will be supported through community dialogues, where trainings on topics like cooking and hygiene will be conducted.
- Measures in field of action 3 seek to strengthen the public-private sector dialogue at national and regional level. For this, national dialogue platforms will be supported with the participation of political decision-makers, local and international research institutions, and the private sector.

Objective

The objective of the global program is to support smallholder farmers in order to increase their potato yields and contribute to the improvement of the nutritional situation of malnourished people in Kenya.



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Region(s)

Kenya (Counties of Nyandarua and Bungoma)

Project duration

01/2016 – 06/2021

Budget

5 Mio €

Implementing partners

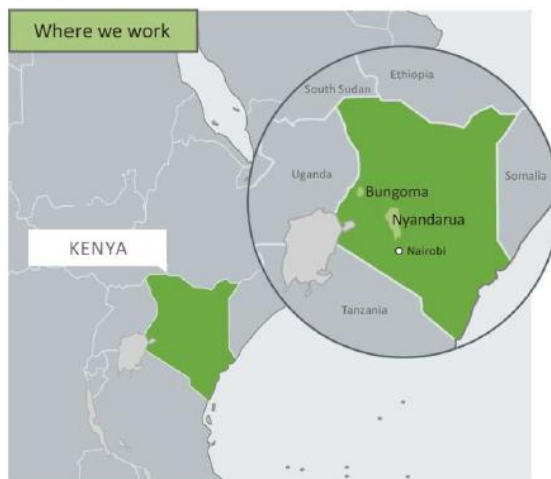
Departments of Agriculture of the counties Nyandarua and Bungoma, National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK), International Potato Centre (CIP), local and international companies

Political partner

Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF)

Target group

Small-scale farmers, malnourished people



How we work in practice

GIZ could already gain important experience within the potato sector in Kenya that is of great use for the implementation of the global program. In a pilot project new technologies for potato production were tested. The focus was on modern cultivation methods and Good Agricultural Practices. This included soil cultivation, harvest and post-harvest methods, integrated pest management, and certified seed potatoes. The application of the new technologies on nine test fields was independently accompanied and results were documented through the International Potato Center (CIP). Moreover, at planting, cultivation, and harvest farmer field days were conducted which offered a learning platform for modern technologies for interested farmers. More than 2.500 famers, almost 50% of them were women, participated to exchange their views on modern potato production and Good Agricultural Practices.



Impact

The results of the field trials show that the application of certified seed potatoes can contribute to the increase in yields, if additionally, machinery, adapted fertilizer, and appropriate plant protection measures are applied. Yields were up to four times as high as yields reached with traditional cultivation methods.

The results show furthermore, that the use of machinery saves time and costs. Harvest losses could be reduced from 33% to only 2.5% with the application of machinery.

Imprint

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