



NPCK FEBRUARY 2018, E-NEWSLETTER

2018 EASTERN AND CENTRAL REGION POTATO TRADE FAIR

National Potato council in partnership with the County government of Nyeri organized for the Eastern and central region Potato trade fair under the theme Enhancing technologies in Potato value chains for food security and agribusiness, at Wambugu Farm Agricultural Training Centre in Nyeri. The event held on February 16th 2018 brought together various stakeholders in the potato value chain. The players included seed potato producers, fertilizer companies, organic farming input providers, financial institutions, value addition and soil testing companies among others.

The objectives of the trade fair were:

- i. To create awareness on technologies and innovations.
- ii. To provide a networking platform for service providers and other stakeholders.
- iii. Enlighten stakeholders on potato policy, regulations, and standards.

Different potato varieties and seed potato technologies were showcased on the 19 potato demonstration plots while 36 exhibitors from across the value chain, displayed their products and services under the following themes;

1. New Innovation and technologies in seed potato production

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 24th - 25 May 2018: National Potato Conference at KALRO-HQ Loresho
2. June 22nd 2019: South Rift potato fair Nakuru
3. 28th September 2018: North region Potato fair Eldoret

NPCK COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

a) **Potato Events**

As part of our efforts to transform the Potato Industry, NPCK has established fora for information sharing, showcasing technologies and innovations and for business-to-business interactions. These initiatives are aimed at increasing awareness and sharing knowledge, establishing and/or strengthening market linkages, improving productivity e.t.c, which aims to transform the potato subsector. Please find our calendar of events [here](#).

Partners platform

2. New and improved Potato Varieties for better yields
3. Methods of Farming and Input application
4. Soil and crop Nutrition
5. Organic Farming
6. Crop Financing and insurance

The trade fair was officially opened by the Director of Agricultural Schools, Dr. Henry Ndege who represented the Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Hon Mwangi Kiunjuri. The event was graced by 34 partners, over 1,000 farmers, County executive member in charge of Agriculture from Nyandarua County and the potato consortium. Among the development partners who supported the trade fair were Grow Africa, Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization and the County government of Nyeri. The event was officially closed by the Governor of Nyeri County, Hon Mutahi Kahiga.

SOIL CLINIC 2018 BY SOIL CARES LTD.

Soil plays an important role in food production and agriculture. In this regard, Soil Cares Limited held a one day soil clinic training on the 1st of February 2018 at Karen Country house inn. The objectives of the forum were to share new developments of soil testing tools, discuss possible partnership areas and offer refresher courses for scanner and 'Lab-in-a box' users in Africa. In attendance were international NGOs in agriculture, government representatives, and

The Potato subsector has experienced tremendous growth in the recent past with many development partners supporting a number of initiatives at different levels of the Value Chain in different counties. NPCK centralizes this information through the partners' activities page in its website. The page provides basic information on the projects and partners initiatives. This initiative aims at creating a cohesive industry where key players can share information, engage on regular basis to monitor the development of the sector and help consolidate support necessary to trigger success. There are 14 partners currently listed on the page of which five are fully detailed while the others are awaiting review and approval. We appeal to all partners and stakeholders participating in potato value chain to liaise with NPCK for more information.

Viazi Soko Platform

Stakeholders and partners are invited to disseminate short advisory messages through NPCK's viazi soko platform. This service was developed to enhance exchange of information on seed and ware potato marketing and also disseminate advisories messages from NPCK and partners. The platform was one of the major discussion points at the just concluded Eastern and Central region potato fair. The

local and international franchises.

SEED POTATO AVAILABILITY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018

The table below summarizes available potato seeds from registered seed potato merchants for the month of March 2018. It details the current varieties available; location and contacts of each seed producer. For more information, customers can get in touch with the companies through the contacts provided.

Seed company	Variety available	Location	Contacts
ADC Molo	➤ <i>Tigoni</i>	Nakuru Molo	0721202565
Kisima farm	➤ <i>Panamera and Dutch robijin</i>	Timau, Meru	0716968766
Benjamin Cheruiyot	➤ <i>Dutch robjin</i>	Uasin Gishu	0726619426
Leah Rono	➤ <i>Dutch robjin</i>	Nandi	0722-662037
Singus Enterprises	➤ <i>Shangi (certified and clean)</i>	Nakuru	0722691245
Syngenta E.A	➤ <i>Jelly and Rumba</i>	Nakuru, Mau Narok	0729347163
Agrico E.A	➤ <i>Markies, Rudolph, Destiny, Manitou</i>	Nakuru	0741788380
Stockman Rozen	➤ <i>Minitubers of Unica, Dutch robjin, Konjo, Tigoni</i>	Naivasha	0720603990

eligibility of using the system, its goals and actual process were explained and demonstrated to the participants. The process advocates for buying and selling of potatoes in Kilograms. Upon collection the potatoes are packed in 50 kg's bags and instant payments made through the Safaricom connected farmer system. Currently the platform has 12,678 registered potato farmers with the number increasing daily.

Monthly e-newsletter

The NPCK monthly newsletter is aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector. The initiative started in September 2016 and has been on-going since then. The newsletter covers industry news, developments, potato seeds, project news and upcoming events. In order to enrich the newsletter, the Council invites stakeholders involved in the Potato value chain to use the platform to disseminate potato related information.

The Annual Potato Magazine

The preparation for development of this year's magazine is ongoing and is expected to be released in November 2018. The annual magazine is a strategic initiative aimed at creating awareness about the activities of the sub-sector

SUPPORTING THE WARE POTATO MARKET CHAIN IN KENYA

The challenges facing the smallholder potato farmers in Kenya is ‘how to increase competitiveness’ in accessing premium markets directly such as high-end hotels and processing companies for chips, crisps, dehydrated products etc. The factors that prevent farmers from accessing and reaping from the high value markets are many and varied. Existing markets are fragmented and crowded with exploitative cartels that contribute to high transaction costs and high supply risks. This in turn affects the nutritive and economic value of what the final consumer gets. The problem is further exacerbated by little coordination, poor information flow and barriers of entry to organized markets. Barriers are brought about by factors such as varietal or size demands of produce, legal requirements such as group accounts and tax compliance certificates. [Read more](#)

KENYA POTATO STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Kenya potato stakeholder meeting organized by TechnoServe, titled the ‘Kenya potato subsector transformation initiative’ brought together various stakeholders in the potato value chain with the goal of identifying solutions for commercialization and opportunities for growth and grass root wealth creation. The project which is supported by AGRA aims at catalyzing potato value chain transformation to increase income and improve food security for 83,000 farmers. It was noted that potato is critical for the economy and key in food security and creating wealth for smallholder farmers. [Read more](#)

POTATO MARKETING AT A GLANCE

Potato prices in the month of February ranged between Ksh. 25 and Ksh.34 per kilogram for the Shangi variety in Nairobi. Having been majorly grown under the short rains which were

where stakeholders and partners are requested to provide articles that cover a wide range of interests in the sector. The magazine aims to cover seed technologies, supportive regulations in the industry, mechanization, marketing and storage of potatoes, crop protection, organic farming, insurance and financing amongst others. It will also feature corporate profiles of businesses in the subsector and helps share the outcome of the workshops and trade fairs organized by NPCK throughout the year. Any article in the magazine is attributed to the contributing author and the organization she/he works for.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRISPACE CENTRE IN KENYA

Strathmore Business School in collaboration with *Water Watch* from Netherlands and VITO from Belgium aim to set-up AgriSpaces centre in Nairobi. AgriSpaces is a centre of excellence, which purpose to develop and accelerate satellite data applications to match the information needs of farmers and other parties within the Agricultural value chain in Kenya. The development of the application also aims at helping farmers increase their yields and income and reduce use of pesticides, fertilizers and water. Through the CEO, Mr. Wachira, NPCK provided expert input on the

generally inadequate, the tuber sizes have been smaller compared to the ones grown under the long rains harvested in the months of June and July. Supplementing the short rains with irrigation can go a long way in increasing the tuber sizes which generally fetch a higher price in the market.

Potato prices are generally expected to go higher as we get into the scarcity season expected to last until May. Going by experience heavy rains are expected in March and this is expected to increase the cost of transportation of the bulky crop which also contributes to higher prices during the period.

most pressing information needs that potato farmers and other parties in the value chain face and if addressed, could help the farmers to improve yields, expand income and minimize costs.