



## NPCK FEBRUARY-MARCH 2017,E-NEWSLETTER

### NYANDARUA COUNTY POTATO FAIR: 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2017

The NPCK in partnership with the Nyandarua County government held the Nyandarua Potato Fair on 3rd March 2017 at ATC Ol Jororok under the theme "*Enhancing technologies in Potato value chains for food security and agribusiness*". The event was graced by H.E honorable Waithaka Mwangi the Governor of Nyandarua County and Dr. Andrew Tuimur, the P.S., State Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries

*The objectives of the fair were:*

- *To create awareness on available technologies and innovations.*
- *To demonstrate on the available Potato technologies.*
- *To provide a networking platform for service providers and other stakeholders.*
- *Enlighten on potato policy, regulations, and standards.* [Read more](#)

### REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORIZATION /PRIVATE ACCREDITATION OF SEED CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN KENYA

KEPHIS has been reviewing the guidelines for authorization of seed certification activities where NPCK and other seed stakeholders participated. The objective of reviewing the guidelines for private accreditation is to complement KEPHIS efforts in enhancing efficiency in seed certification process and to create enabling environment for effective participation of both public and private sectors in the production, inspection

### SEED POTATO ROADMAP

The seed potato sub-committee which was formed to address the bottlenecks in seed potato value chain is in the process of developing a seed potato value chain action plan 2017-2022 (roadmap). The development of the Action plan will be informed by a number of potato publications, blueprints and roadmaps developed recently by the stakeholders in the industry e.g. National potato strategy,2016-2020, seed potato master plan , Action plans 2014, CFC potato road map , CIP roadmap (indicate the year) and KAVES processing potato marketing survey (2014). The Action plan will be crucial in guiding the transformation of the industry through improvement of seed potato production and distribution efficiency.

### POTATO CYST NEMATODE (PCN) UPDATE

PCN field assessment study which was funded by FAO through Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) has been completed. The Potato experts who are representatives from MoALF, KEPHIS, CIP, NPCK, KALRO, IITA, ICIPE, UoN and KU were part of the implementation team. The collection and analysis of the soil samples for PCN were coordinated by ICIPE and the final results will be released in May 2017 upon approval by FAO. Awareness creation and capacity building

and testing of quality planting material and promote sustainable access of affordable seed. It is expected that the potato industry will benefit from the authorization as we endeavor to improve production and access to certified seed potato.

### **POTATO STORAGE FACILITY IN AINABKOI FARMERS' COOPERATIVE**

One of the challenges faced by farmers in the potato subsector has been lack of organized and structured markets leading to potato quality deterioration, losses and high transport and transaction costs among others. Most potato farmers have no storage facilities thus experience low prices due to post-harvest glut.

Potatoes are mainly sold via informal channels such as open-air markets and stalls with little observance of marketing standards and hygiene. Middlemen equally dominate this subsector.

[Read more](#)

### **POTATO PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES**

It is estimated that 98% of seed potato used is from informal sources. There is therefore need for concerted effort towards raising the level of knowledge on production and use of certified seed potato amongst Kenyan potato growers.

The Kenya Netherlands Seed Potato Development Project in collaboration with KEPHIS and other stakeholders have developed the Potato Production and Certification guidelines. The guideline is supposed to enrich the already existing information on seed potato production. It is envisaged that the document will empower the growers on better ways of improving seed potato productivity and use...[Read more](#)

### **NATIONAL POTATO CONFERENCE ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

The National Potato Council of Kenya is organizing for the National Potato Conference to be held May this year under the tentative theme "*Enhancing technologies in potato value chains for food security and agribusiness*"

for potato growers on PCN management has been conducted at sub-County levels in 20 major potato growing Counties. The geo-referenced County maps showing infested areas will also be presented together with the results.

### **AFRICAN NIGHTSHADE FOR MANAGEMENT OF PCN!!???**

A research project has started on the characterization and management of Potato cyst nematode (PCN) in Kenya. The project is funded by BMZ (Germany) and will run for 2 years (from January 2017).

The project is led by ICIPE with a German partner from Bonn University and collaborating closely with KEPHIS, KALRO, universities and CGIAR (IITA, CIP, AVRDC). Mutual collaboration on training and awareness has been initiated with the GIZ funded project 'Promotion of nutrition-sensitive potato value chains'.

The main objectives of the project are to characterize selected populations of PCN in diverse potato growing regions in the country, identify dead end trap crops, investigate biological control options, and strengthen capacities in NARS.

A status and kick – off meeting will be held at the end of April 2017.

### **CONNECTED FARMER SOLUTION: INITIAL TRAINING**

NPCK has partnered with safaricom to develop a

The conference is expected to cover the top issues facing the potato industry, the progress made in the sector and provide networking opportunities for public private partnership. The trade fair will provide stakeholders with opportunities to display their products and services for potato production, distribution, and marketing.

The industry players invited include farmers, traders, processors, regulators, and other subsector players who will interact and make contacts for further engagements. [Read more](#)

### **PROFILLING OF POTATO FARMERS IN BUNGOMA COUNTY**

NPCK in partnership with GIZ through Promotion of Nutrition-Sensitive Potato Value Chains in East Africa Project is currently profiling potato farmers in Bungoma County. Upon completion of the project, farmers will have increased access to high quality seed potato, access market information and will be able to supply potato to market outlets directly.

To facilitate the above, farmer's details including names, farmer group, phone number, acreage under potato, seed type, variety grown, target market and GPS coordinates are being captured in the system.

### **TRAINING ON SEED POTATO PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY 3RD TO 9TH JUNE 2017**

The course is intended for public and private agricultural professionals working in potato seed potato development, production and supply as well as in related fields. [Read more](#)

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farm level inventory management system dubbed 'Connected farmer Solution' that will help profile, communicate, Purchase, record the purchase and make payment via MPESA. The platform will also link farmers to markets and vice versa, track the movement of produce from farms to market outlets, provide and track inputs stock items, Provide knowledge portal for farmers to query on seed information. The CF deployment training was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 with 10 farmer coordinators from Meru, Nakuru and Nyandarua in attendance. Upon fully deployment of the system in all Potato producing counties, the system will decrease the cost and risk of transacting with small holder farmers, support informed decision making using real-time data from the farms.

### **NPCK APOLOGIES**

NPCK would like to apologize for failure to release February 2017 Newsletter. This was occasioned by the need to shut down the website and newsletter engine for purposes of maintenance and upgrading. Thank you for continued support and patience.

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