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NPCK JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

NPCK boosts the initiative on marketing linkages

In 2016, NPCK piloted a participatory and structured approach of potato marketing in Molo and Meru counties. NPCK successfully linked a number of farmer groups from the two Counties to supply Shangi and Jelly varieties to market outlets in Nairobi that specializes in processing of chips. Direct linkage reduced transaction cost, enabling the farmers to get an extra Ksh4 per Kg of potatoes sold at the farm gate. The market outlet benefitted from consistent supply of good quality potato. Weight was used as a standard unit of measure and 50 kg bags as the maximum packaging bag. The council acted as a facilitator along the value chain helping improve farmers' incomes. The Council is up scaling the initiative starting this year (2017) by mapping Nairobi, Eldoret, Nakuru, Kisumu and Isiolo market outlets in terms of variety and quality of potato they require and using this information to link farmers from different counties to the markets.

Nyandarua county potato strategy

NPCK in collaboration with County Government of Nyandarua

PAST /ONGOING / UPCOMING

The National Potato Conference and Trade fair 25th May 2017.

This is a National event covering all issues of the whole potato industry. It offers a platform for information sharing, showcasing technologies and innovation, networking and solution search for persistent sub sector challenges.

The County Potato fairs.

This initiative is aimed at bringing the potato trade fairs closer to farmers and stakeholders in the Counties.

- Nyandarua potato fair 3rd March

has been reviewing the Nyandarua County Potato Strategy to align it with The National Potato Strategy (2016-2020) and vision 2030. The Strategy to be launched on 3rd March 2017, is crucial in guiding the development of the potato value chain in the County. It is envisaged that the strategy will equally guide potato stakeholders and development partners in implementing initiatives that will see the transformation of the potato value chain in the County.

Seed potato sub-committee meeting

The seed potato sub-committee which was formed to address the bottlenecks in seed potato value chain, held its first sub-committee meeting on 20th January 2017. The sub-committee comprises of representatives from KEPHIS, KALRO, MoALF, Agrico EA, Syngenta, Nyandarua/ Elgeyo Marakwet County, CIP, Agri-experience, AGRA/ Grow Africa, GIZ and NPCK. During the meeting members formed two working group that will develop a seed potato roadmap and a private accreditation for seed potato certification business plan respectively. The sub-committee also agreed to engage a consultant conduct a study that will interrogate and evaluate different approaches of introducing different types of starter materials (invitro/ tissue culture, minitubers and tubers) and local multiplication and provide economically and phytosanitary feasible recommendations for businesses that will allow production and supply of seed potato.

Potato training committee meeting

2017

- North Rift Potato Conference to cover Bomet, Nakuru and Narok
25th August 2017
- Eastern Region Potato fair to cover, Meru, Laikipia, Nyeri 29th November 2017

*The release of the 3rd Potato Variety catalogue
31st march 2017.*

POTATO VARIETY CATALOGUE



**National Potato
Council of Kenya**

This is an initiative aimed at enhancing awareness about the released varieties and helping create linkages between the seed

The training committee which is comprised of AFA, State department of agriculture, County government, KEPHIS, GIZ, IFDC, SNV, KALRO,PCPB, UON,CIP, and NPCK had the first meeting on 18th January, 2017 at NPCK. The committee was formed following the concerns raised by stakeholders on the content and approaches used in training potato farmers and the qualification of the trainers. . During the meeting, working groups were formed to undertake two tasks; 1) to collect, collate and synthesize training materials from different sources and harmonizes them for a standardized product by end of February, 2017, and 2) develop mechanism for quality control of the materials, trainers' qualification and identify appropriate approaches for training. The working groups are expected to submit their findings by mid-march 2017.

Kisima farm field day

Kisima Farm Limited in collaboration with department of Agriculture Meru County hosted a small-scale farmer's field day on 26th January 2017 at Kisima Farm Agri information demonstration site. The theme of the field day was: Introduction of new potato varieties to the farming community Kisima farm partnered with one of the Dutch breeder, HZPC, to multiply their potato varieties that have been tested, released and gazetted as Kenyan varieties. They have also partnered with CIP and are equally multiplying one of the newly released variety . The new varieties that were released to the market include Panamera, Taurus, Challenger Voyager and Sagitta all being HZPC varieties and Unica being CIP variety. Tigoni, Sherekea,

growers and ware potato farmers.

Development of the 2nd issue of the Potato magazine Kenya 31st July 2017.

The Potato Magazine is a strategic initiative mainly aimed at creating awareness about the NPCK and partners' activities, and sharing information about the potato sub sector.

Online and sms based seed and ware potato portal

The online and SMS based portal developed through the support of CIP (Feed the Future-AVCD project) and other development partners is currently in the testing



stage.

The platform aims at improving market linkages between seed producers, farmers and market outlets for both seed potato and ware potato. Once operational the platform will enable



Shangi, Desiree, Dutch Robjin were also exhibited. There were field demonstrations on good production practices for potato and especially for the new varieties. Seed will be available during the March planting season. Other technologies on

demonstration sites were drip irrigation systems and grow bag technologies. The event was well attended by farmers, Seed multipliers, Agro chemical companies, Financial Institutions, insurance companies, irrigation companies, Agricultural Machinery companies. Other potato subsector stakeholders who participated include NPCK, GIZ, K-N Seed Potato Development Project, CGA, and KEPHIS.

Challenges in seed potato production

Potato sector is currently experiencing acute shortage of seed potato due to a number of challenges that include drought, phytosanitary and quarantine issues and limited number of investors in seed potato value chain. NPCK is working closely with the seed companies, MoALF, County governments KEPHIS, other relevant institutions and development partners to address the challenges and improve the seed potato business. More private companies and entrepreneurs (including youth) are encouraged to

collection, processing and dissemination of seed and ware potato technical and market information.

Maximum standard potato packaging weight

NPCK in collaboration with MoALF, AFA and County Government of potato growing Counties has been following up on the issues of maximum standard packaging for potato which was anchored in the amended AFA Act. The amendment gives the Cabinet Secretary (CS), State Department of Agriculture, power to guide on the standard weight of marketing each crop through a legal notice. NPCK and other stakeholders are expecting the gazettelement of a legal notice on maximum standard packaging weight for potato and other crops to be done soon to facilitate implementation.

invest in seed potato production using new technologies (such as aeroponics, hydroponics, cuttings and seed plots) to take advantage of the business opportunities created by this high demand for seed potato. NPCK and partners are ready to support anybody willing to invest in seed potato production and distribution.

NPCK membership

In 2016 the NPCK revised its Business Charter and introduced three membership Categories, namely, GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE, which allows different levels of engagement, entitlements and benefits from the Council. This has seen the membership and partnership grow tremendously with activities of the Council increasing and diversifying. Increased partnership with Counties and development partners has led to NPCK implementing several initiatives and events at the grassroots. The details of different membership categories are in our website. Read more

Potato cyst nematode (pcn) update

PCN baseline study which was funded by FAO through Technical cooperation program and implemented by a consortium of experts under the umbrella of NPCK is almost complete. The analysis of the soil samples collected, PCN awareness creation and capacity building for County agricultural Officers, extension officer and farmer groups leaders has been completed. The next step involves farmers training on PCN management by the County agricultural officers at the sub-counties level in 20 potato growing Counties

NPCK end year team building

NPCK held its 5th end year team build event at Sportview Hotel-Kasarani on 22nd December 2016. This activity aims at strengthening teamwork within the council and its members also boosts performance of the members of staff.



In attendance was NPCK-Chairman of the board and Director of Sereni fries who issued certificates for the staff members who participated in Standard Chartered Half-Marathon. Sereni fries co-sponsored NPCK to participate in the 2016 Marathon.

and is scheduled to start in February 2017. The report and mapping of the study findings will also be completed by March 2017.

