



NPCK JULY 2017, E-NEWSLETTER

SEED POTATO AVAILABLE FOR COMING SEASON

NPCK acknowledge and appreciates all seed potato producers for continued support by availing and sharing seed potato availability information. Since potato production requires prior planning, the Council acting as a resource center, shares this information to ever-increasing number of farmers inquiring for quality seeds. The table below summarizes the seed potato varieties currently available and their respective producers for the season that begins in September 2017.

Multiplier	Varieties
ADC Molo	Kenya Karibu, Dutch Robijn, and Shanghi
KALRO Tigoni	Shangi, Dutch Robijn, Kenya Karibu, Sherekea and Tigoni,
Syngenta E. A	Jelly and Rumba
Kisima farm	Panamera, Voyager, Dutch robijn, Asante, Taurus, Sherekea, Unica, Challenger and Sagitta
Gene biotech	Shangi
GTIL	Potato Apical stem cuttings of Shanghi, Dutch Robijn, Konjo and Unica.

SEED POTATO FARMER TRAINING USING THE FIELD AND BUSINESS SCHOOL METHODOLOGY

Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal ministry of economic cooperation and development (BMZ) is currently implementing NuSePPP which is made up of three components; Agriculture extension, Nutrition and Sector coordination. Within the Agriculture extension component, the project supports potato production by

2017 POTATO VARIETY CATALOGUE

The 2017 potato variety catalogue will be released in August. Stakeholders are requested to contact NPCK to get copies.

2017 POTATO MAGAZINE KENYA

The NPCK is in the process of developing the 2017 Potato Magazine, which is due to be released in September this year. The Annual magazine is a strategic initiative aimed at informing stakeholders about the activities of the sub-sector. It features corporate profiles of businesses in the subsector and helps share the outcome of the workshops and trade fairs organized by NPCK in 2017. Stakeholders are requested to provide articles that cover a wide range of interests in the sector including seed technologies, supportive regulations in the industry, mechanization, marketing and storage of potatoes. Advertisement space is also available. For any of this kindly contact NPCK through ekaguora@npck.org or bomondi@npck.org. The articles will be attributed to the author and their organization.

NPCK TO RUN A TELEVISION SHOW ON POTATOES "UTAMU WA VIAZI"

The NPCK is in the preliminary stages of developing a production and broadcast of a series of informative and

training farmers using the farmer field approach and business school methodology. This was after the realization that farmers are faced with a lot of challenges in potato production mainly due to insufficient knowledge on potato production. The step by step training starts with a Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted by Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization-



Tigoni as the master-trainer. A team of experts at KALRO trained ward Agricultural officers, from the counties, who in turn established farmers' field and business schools in their respective wards. The trainings are ongoing in Olkalou & Kinangop sub-counties of Nyandarua County and Mt. Elgon sub-county in Bungoma County. Currently, 475 farmers in 19 different farmer groups are undergoing hands-on long season training on good agronomic practices, farm business management and marketing. The first training is expected to end in late August whereupon 3 lead farmers

from each farmer group will graduate into farmer trainers. Each will further be expected to train 15 farmers.



The training aims to impart knowledge on good agronomic practices including seed handling, better land preparation and planting techniques, crop husbandry and integrated

educative multi-media content that will help address the challenges facing the Potato industry. The program is designed to create interactive platforms for conversations, advice, and information sharing among potato stakeholders. It will ensure farmers; potential farmers and other businesses in the industry are kept abreast of industry trends and developments aimed at transforming the industry. The Project shall include Production and airing by a National broadcaster as well as on online platforms such as twitter, Whatsapp, Facebook and radio programs to be aired by select radio stations and short audio-visual content for mobile platforms. Production of this project kicked off in July 2017 and is expected to be on air beginning the 1st Week of September. Actors and players at different levels of value chain will participate through interviews and round table discussions. Utamu wa Viazi is an online show that will inform and educate our target audience on best practices, market trends, technological developments, value additions, and stakeholder relationships. One key aim of the program is to talk to the youth and interest them to venture into potato businesses using new technologies and innovations.

POTATO SECTOR FEATURING PROMINENTLY AT THE ELDORET AGRIBUSINESS FAIR

The Eldoret Agribusiness fair will take place from the 21st - 23rd September, 2017. The Holland Pavilion that the Netherlands Embassy organized last year was a big success and this year they aim to make it even bigger, better and bolder. The Holland Pavilion showcases Dutch agricultural products & technology at the Eldoret Agribusiness fair. The pavilion will consist of 6 themed

pest management. The training will further seeks to impart knowledge on farm business management to enable farmers to better manage their farm business and improve their marketing skills with end goal being improving income made from potato-production.

SEED POTATO VALUE CHAIN: MORE VARIETIES RELEASED IN KENYA

KELHIS has released 19 additional potato varieties between 2015 and 2017 leading to total of 55 potato varieties registered in Kenya as listed in the upcoming 2017-potato variety catalogue. However, only about 40% of the varieties are adopted and multiplied locally by 6 seed potato multipliers against 13 registered seed potato producers. In line with this NPCK is working with partners to:

1. create awareness of the newly released varieties which are high yielding, suitable for processing and other utilization.
2. enhance availability and use of certified seed potato. Despite the efforts put by key players in seed potato value chain, use of certified seed still remain low at less than 2% of total seed used while farmers' seed system still dominates the subsector, contributing to about 96% of the total seed used.

However, majority of farmers are aware of the importance of using quality seed and are willing to pay premium price for it. NPCK is therefore encouraging existing companies and more private companies to take advantage of this business opportunity created by high demand for quality seed potato.

clusters (Dairy, Potatoes, Horticulture, Technology & Innovation, Food court, and Matchmaking).

The potato sector will again be well represented this year. Two acres of potatoes have been planted to facilitate showcasing on mechanical harvesting using Dutch technology. Moreover, various demonstration plots have been planted with different potato varieties. In addition, water storage tanks will be built, drone technology and integrated pest management products will be demonstrated. An interactive program will be drafted, taking visitors on a tour over the Holland pavilion and the demonstration plots. The Holland pavilion will include a seminar tent with the capacity of over 200 people. Partaking companies will be able to give seminars here about their products or services to a large crowd. The seminar time schedule will be incorporated in the program.

Matchmaking is an essential part of a fair. Therefore, a separate tent has been designed specifically for this purpose. This restricted area will be used to close deals, give interviews or meet government officials.

Food security and food safety for all requires building a strong supply chain from farm to fork. To demonstrate this, the food court will host a number of companies displaying and selling end-products. Michelin star chefs will use these products to engage in a real cook-off while explaining about healthy and safe food consumption.

For further information, please follow the link below or write an email to [NAI-](#)

TRANSFORMING FARMER GROUPS INTO AGRI-BUSINESS UNITS

Potato farming in Kenya still remains the domain of smallholder farmers who need to work in groups to enjoy economies of scale and tap into value chain specific-opportunities by leveraging on collective action. The challenge of disorganized farmers, poorly managed farmer groups, and weak farmer-actors interactions have been the biggest impediments to collective bargaining for better prices (inputs costs, services provision costs and ware potato prices) and as such, farmers continue with the vicious cycle of low yield and low profitability.

NPCK is spearheading an integrated farmer-actor linkage initiative that will see groups collectively procure inputs/services and sell produce collectively as a business unit. Various groups such as Green silver potato cooperative, New Molo cooperative amongst others are being capacity built to procure and sell collectively to structured markets; whereas inputs and service providers are being engaged to serve these groups with products tailored to requirements/conditions of the potato value chain.

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LNV@minbuza.nl <http://www.agroberichtenbuitenland.nl/kenia/eldoret-agribusiness-fair-2017/>

POTATO MARKET GLUT

The month of July 2017 ushered in mass potato harvest in the country. This abundance is a sharp contrast to the previous four months where there was a prolonged potato scarcity. The glut and scarcity seasons are attributed to erratic weather patterns and the fact that potato farming in Kenya is mainly rain dependent. This results in majority of farmers planting on the onset of the rains and harvesting at more or less the same time. Prices have tumbled down to about Ksh.14.00/kg from a high of Ksh.70.00/kg in May 2017. NPCK together with its partners are encouraging farmers to adopt off-season farming and embrace potato storage for good prices and sustained supply to the markets.

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