



APICAL CUTTINGS -A NEW TECHNOLOGY IN SEED POTATO PRODUCTION

Integrating apical cuttings into seed systems reduces time to which high quality seed potato is available to farmers, while increasing efficiency of seed production compared to current practices. Apical cuttings are produced from tissue culture plantlets in the screen house, rather than minituber, and after rooting, are planted in the field.



Commercial production of apical cuttings in the screen house on left and Field crop planted from apical cuttings 2.5 months after transplanting

Each cutting produces 7 to 10, and up to 15+, tubers which are multiplied for one more season or two, then the harvest is sold as seed. Starting from a single tissue culture plantlet, seed production through cuttings surpasses that through minituber from aeroponics and sand hydroponics by 3- and 11-fold, respectively, and reduces time by one season. While the technology is not new, using apical cuttings in seed systems has just begun in Kenya. The International Potato Center (CIP) is collaborating with private sector partners to adapt apical cuttings in Kenya. While the production of cuttings is on its

UPCOMING/ONGOING EVENTS

SUSTAINABLE UP SCALING END-OF-PROJECT WORKSHOP ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 AT AIRC FROM 9.00 AM-1.00 PM

One of the challenges facing the potato industry is huge shortage of certified seed potato in Kenya, which has remained a major bottleneck in the development of the sub-sector. In line with this, the NPCK and Radboud University from The Netherlands collaborated through a project called: 'Effectiveness of Networks in Seed Potato Sector Development in sub-Saharan Africa: A Pilot Study on Agro-based Clustering for Sustainable up scaling in Low to Middle Income Countries' to evaluate the existing seed platforms. Key stakeholders in Potato sub-sector were interviewed during the months of March-April 2017, to identify challenges faced in the course of performing their businesses and identify possible solutions in order to help develop further the seed potato value chain and the sub-sector. To present the survey results and findings to the potato stakeholders, NPCK has organized the end-of-project workshop to be held on **15th Sept 2017 at the Agricultural Information Resource Center (AIRC)**. The workshop will also be used to discuss how existing seed potato platforms can be best strengthened.

way to being established, the key step to integrating cuttings into seed systems relies on developing market demand among seed multipliers and farmers for cuttings.[Read more](#)

APPROVED CHEMICALS FOR POTATO PRODUCTION

The presence in the market of counterfeit seeds, pesticides, herbicides and other agrochemicals endangers the life and health of the consumers and farmers while increasing chances of economic losses in farming. Most of the potato farmers and stakeholders are not aware of the chemicals that have been approved by Pest Control Products Board (PCPB) for use in potato production in Kenya. To help solve this problem, Potato Council has partnered with PCPB on awareness creation and will be availing this information through NPCK website and other communication channels. To access the list of approved chemicals please click on the following link: <http://www.pcpb.or.ke/cropproductsviewform.php>. Go to the search dialogue box, type the word potato. This will filter only chemicals approved and registered for potato production.

NPCK LINKAGES WITH OTHER PARTNERS

NPCK has been working with Public and private organizations towards promoting initiatives, policies, and program in the Potato value chain to enhance the growth of the subsector. NPCK is partnering with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) through the Agricultural Sector Board. Areas of the partnership include; 1) Identification of potato subsector issues that require lobbying and attention of the National and County governments, 2) Development of Medium Term plan III and 3) Review of Agricultural Sector Development Strategy with the aim of enhancing Agriculture sector growth and promoting sustainable agribusiness. KEPSA has also been holding County consultative forums to enhance private sector involvement in development and implementation of a draft National Policy on Enhancement of County Governments Own Source Revenue and the County Governments

BARAKA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FIELD DAY ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Baraka Agricultural College in Molo has organized open/field day to bring farmers and key players together. This has been going on over the years and it provides farmers and agricultural students with opportunities to learn on innovations and technologies in the agricultural field. It is also a good platform to pass knowledge and vital information to the public on agricultural related matters.

THE ELDORET AGRIBUSINESS FAIR FROM THE 21ST - 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2017

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 clusters (Dairy, Potatoes, Horticulture, Technology & Innovation, Food court, and Matchmaking) and the potato sector will again be well represented this year. For further information, please follow the link below or write an email to NAI-LNV@minbuza.nl.

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

NUTRITION SENSITIVE POTATO PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (NUSEPPP)

(Revenue Raising Process) (Draft) Bill that will regulate County Licenses and taxation on agricultural products. NPCK has also been working with the recently launched Kenya Horticultural Council (KHC), a merger between Kenya flower Council and Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya, to introduce traceability system in the subsector. The focus will be on a customized traceability system for local potato markets which will later be upgraded for export markets. This is aimed at enhancing the quality of marketed potato and at the same time promoting integrity and transparency of the farmers and traders.

UPDATED SEED POTATO AVAILABLE FOR COMING SEASON

The table below provides a summary of the seed potato varieties currently available and their respective producers for the season that begins in September 2017. Since certified seeds are limited, NPCK encourages potato farmers to make their orders early and this can be done by calling the respective companies directly or through NPCK.

Multiplier	Varieties
ADC Molo	Kenya Karibu, Dutch Robijn, and Shangi
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 Shangi, Dutch Robijn, Konjo and Unica.
Agrico E.A	Markies, Manitou and Destiny
Stockman Rozen Kenya LTD	Potato Apical stem cuttings of Shangi, Unica, Kojo, Dutch Robijn, Kenya Mpya, Asante and Sherekea. Mini tubers of Unica, Dutch Robijn and Konjo

Agri – Nutrition Training of Trainers Training

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



The nutrition component seeks to improve nutrient intake at the households by improving the knowledge on nutrition among the target community. [Read more](#)

CALL FOR ARTICLES FOR THE 2ND ISSUE OF THE POTATO MAGAZINE KENYA

NPCK is in the process of developing the Second Issue of the Potato Magazine, which will be ready for distribution by end of September 2017. The magazine covers summary reports of the National and County Potato Conferences, corporate profiles of businesses in the subsector, industry

STRENGTHENING SEED SYSTEMS FOR THE POTATO VALUE CHAIN IN KENYA

As part of Feed the Future Kenya Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) project, the International Potato Center (CIP) and partners are working to address perennial challenges of limited accessibility to quality seed potato among farmers. The project is targeting four counties: Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, Uasin Gishu and Meru which are part of Feed the Future Kenya zones of influence.



The photos show a farmer in Meru standing in a plot with a good potato crop grown from quality seed potato purchased from a local seed multiplier (left) and a poor potato crop grown from seed of unknown origin sourced from local markets (right).

The aim is to build seed systems that contribute to achieving the target of potato farmers earning a gross margin of US\$1,132/ha. This entails a two-

news and events, research and development and other issues related to potato production, marketing, processing, and consumption. As a key stakeholder in the Potato Industry, we believe that the Magazine will provide a good opportunity to highlight your organization's Achievement and News. The same can be used to provide advisory notes to the specific actors in the industry. It is in this regards that we are requesting you to provide a small write-up on the above topics and may be accompanied by high-resolution photos. Space allocated will be one page, A4 Size. The articles will be attributed to the writer(s) and the Institution. If interested, please contact us through bomondi@npck.org or ekaguora@npck.org.

PUM NETHERLANDS SUPPORT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESS

The Dutch government provides support to encourage business cooperation between Kenya and the Netherlands. PUM has been active in Kenya since 1989. Requests for support have been most numerous, mainly from the sectors Farming & Dairy Processing, Food & Beverages Production, Agri - & Horticulture and Business Support. Locally we have established partnerships with technical and financial institutes. [Read more](#)

THE SITUATION OF THE POTATO MARKETS

The potato market continues to have a high supply with prices maintaining an average of Ksh. 15.00 a Kg, a price that has been witnessed in the last two months. There was a relatively higher supply in the last two weeks of July. However, the week leading to and after the polls saw a

step approach.[Read more](#)

YOUTH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DYNAMICS IN POTATO FARMING

There is no denial that farming as a profession has rarely been regarded as a prestigious job. It is no surprise that most youths express a desire to leave rural farms for "Good jobs" in urban cities. This happens due to having a limited understanding of the opportunities and dynamism possible in farming today. For example, with the rapid population growth and increased rural-to-urban migration the demand for potatoes to make urban delicacies is only set to rise higher. This is evidenced by the new phenomena's of chips like "karai" and chips "mwitu". There are other opportunities that are untapped such as the high demand for ready-cut frozen chips which is currently served with importation while a number of processing companies are operating at 50% of their capacity. The high demand for seed potato and the new technologies available for rapid seed multiplication also provide business opportunities for youth. The youth are presented with a great opportunity to meet these demands using innovative approaches and technologies, which the other demographic segments may find challenges in adopting. Robust infrastructure such as ICT connectivity, cold storage & processing are some of the initiatives that the youth can venture in the potato sub-sector.

RELEASE OF THE POTATO VARIETY CATALOGUE 2017

The third issue of the potato variety catalogue is now out and NPCK is in the process of distributing them. The 2017 edition has 19 new potato varieties that were released after the 2015 edition. It also has 7 additional seed Potato producers. It describes potato varieties in terms of use, tuber features, maturity period, yields, disease and pest resistance. Hard copies can be collected at NPCK offices or access the soft copy [here](#)

temporary spike in prices to a high of Ksh.22.00 per Kg as most value-chain players such as farmers, transporters and market outlets had either significantly reduced or totally put on hold their respective activities during the period leading to low supplies. [Read more](#)

NEW POTATO VARIETIES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BY KEPHIS

"The main objective of the awareness campaign was to make North Rift Region of Kenya as the Next Potato Business Frontier"

Widely regarded as the second staple important food and nutrition crop in Kenya, potato is grown largely by small scale farmers using recycled seed often diseased leading to very low yields. Insufficient availability of certified seed, declining soil fertility and poor agronomic practices have been associated with reduced yields. Variety release and registration is the prerequisite availing high performing crop variety that are key in fighting food and nutrition insecurity worldwide and specifically Kenya. The next and most challenging, yet critical is public awareness and participation by all stakeholders in the entire potato value chain. Up to 2012, Kenyan breeders had managed to release 15 potato varieties; mostly for French Fries (chips) and table. Dutch Robjijn was the only crisping variety. [Read more](#)

